

## **Fravol and Thermwood Join Forces in the US Edge Bander Market**

Fravol s.r.l., located in Peraga Di Vigonza, Italy, just outside Venice, is one of the most successful manufacturers of edge processing machines in the world. They built their first glue based edge machine in 1963, which they believe was the first automatic edge banding machine ever offered. Since then they have expanded their offering to include virtually any equipment you might want for edge processing of panels.

Despite the success, Fravol remains a family owned business. They operated from a single facility until 2000, when they expanded to three separate facilities from which they operate today. Fravol credits their success to four factors.

First, they use advanced technology and numerous patented features to provide superior performance but have been able to keep operation of the systems simple and easy. They also cite superior structural integrity stemming from their belief that the basic structural backbone of the machine is of paramount importance to everything the machine does. A third key factor is flexibility or the ability of each machine to not only handle a variety of edge processing tasks but also the ability to quickly switch between these tasks with minimal effort and downtime. Finally they are proud of the fact that their systems offer higher speeds in each market area from manual machines to their Rapid high production lines.

Much like Fravol, Thermwood has been the leader in CNC router technology for over thirty years being the first company to ever offer a CNC router for sale. Thermwood offers a wide variety of CNC routers addressing numerous markets including woodworking, plastics, aerospace and defense. Thermwood has become renowned for its dedication to training, support and service and now they are bringing this dedication to the edge processing machine market by partnering with Fravol in the US market.

“If you think about it, this is a perfect partnership”, says Thermwood’s CEO, Ken Susnjara. “Anyone processing sheet stock on a CNC router needs edge banding equipment and anyone that uses edge banding equipment will also likely benefit from a CNC router”. “It offers one stop shopping and one organization to handle service and support for both major pieces of equipment, it just makes sense.”

Fravol edge banding machines will be sold through the same distribution and dealer network that currently sells Thermwood CNC routers. Thermwood’s Technical Service Division, who currently services their CNC routers will also service and support the Fravol machines. You can service both pieces of equipment with a single service call. Thermwood personnel have already gone through extensive training on Fravol’s entire line of products at their Italian facilities.

Today, Fravol offers a wide range of automatic, single side edge processing machines along with a wide selection of options designed for small to large shops. Fravol edge banders are heavy duty machines engineered to perform in the most hostile environments. They can process thin tape, 3mm PVC, HPL, aluminum and solid wood strips up to 16mm thick, perfectly suited for all edge processing applications. Fravol also offers semi-automatic edgebanders and trimming machines for edging round or curved parts. Custom machines can be ordered to meet exact requirements for manufacturing.