

Ambic Manufacturing: Self-sufficiency with solar investment for furniture manufacturer in the UK



Ambic Manufacturing

Based in the North-East of England, Ambic manufacture bespoke furniture for global customers in a multitude of industries, including leisure, retail, marine, pharma, and more. Its manufacturing centre in County Durham uses state-of-the-art CNC machines to turn Computer Aided Designs into precision-made furniture and fittings.



Challenges

- Due to price increases, Ambic's energy costs were quickly becoming unsustainable as an energy-intensive manufacturer. The company therefore wanted to generate its own power by investing in solar panels for the roof of its Durham factory.
- After consulting broker Anglo Scottish, Ambic decided that by increasing the size of its investment, the business would be able to become fully self-sufficient. However, the cost of the project was now outside its budget, so the company needed to find the ideal financing partner for the project.

Solution

- Anglo Scottish gathered all financials and determined that SFS would provide the best solution. SFS were able to finance a new roof-mounted Solar PV system for the factory which covers 33,000 square feet. The total amount financed totaled just under £193k.
- SFS spread the cost over a seven-year term which included a two-month milestone payment facility for the supplier. The agreement was structured so that the energy cost savings from the solar panels would cover almost the whole cost of the investment.

Benefits

- 496 solar panels were installed, allowing Ambic to generate 160,000 kWh a year. Ambic is expected to save £1.94m over 25 years, eventually becoming fully self-sufficient with 100% renewable energy.
- The company has been able to keep electricity costs below prior levels all whilst servicing the new asset debt.
- Thanks to financing from SFS, Ambic has been able to deploy capital elsewhere in the business to support further growth.

“I was initially concerned about using financing – I’ve always preferred to stay within the means of the business. But this experience has opened my eyes in terms of using financing positively for growth, and I’m now recommending this route to others. The numbers don’t lie! Charlotte Enright at Anglo Scottish & SFS looked at what we needed and created a bespoke solution for us which met our needs entirely.”

Liam Hunt, Managing Director,
Ambic Manufacturing