

TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES: THE PANELS PLUS AND FRANA COLLABORATION

Steel Wall Panels • Custom Solutions • Ongoing Support
Long-Term Partnership • Showcase Facility • Equipment Flexibility

THEIR CHALLENGE:

Frana faced significant challenges in their operations and needed specialized equipment to meet their evolving demands. This necessity led to the beginning of their business relationship with Panels Plus in 2001 when Panels Plus was just starting to make wall panel equipment. Frana had initially purchased equipment that was built prior to Panels Plus owning the company and needed help with some service parts. After several years of equipment support and service work, Frana purchased its first Panels Plus machine in 2009 - a Multi-tool Sheathing Bridge. As Frana's projects evolved, so did their equipment needs. This ongoing evolution presented a new opportunity for both organizations to break into prefab steel wall panels.



ABOUT THE CLIENT

Industry:
General Contracting

Location:
Hopkins, Minn.

Among the largest general contractors in Minnesota, Frana Companies builds walls only for its own use. The company integrates its wall plant directly into its building process to produce the highest quality wood-frame construction possible - on budget and on time, saving their clients labor hours and money.

www.frana.com

OUR SOLUTION:

Frana had a new project requiring the fabrication of prefab steel wall panels. Frana Plant Manager Darrel Debele and members of his team came to Panels Plus with their ideas and machine requirements. The two companies collaborated to develop a **custom steel wall panel line** consisting of a framer, squaring table and sheather. “If we think of something we bring it to them. They came up with a machine concept and built it. Soon, we had our first steel stud framing line, which we’re still using today,” Debele stated. It was the creation of the steel stud machine that got Panels Plus into the steel market. While the original steel machines share similarities with the ones they sell today, Panels Plus has continued to focus on innovation and has made continuous improvements throughout the years.

THE RESULTS:

Frana has purchased a variety of Panels Plus equipment over the years, including both wood and steel Framing Stations, the first Dual Beam Sheathing Station, Squaring Stations, a Floor Cassette Station, Component Tables, Panel Lifts, and custom Power Conveyors. As their projects and needs have changed, Panels Plus has made modifications and upgrades to Frana’s equipment.

Frana typically has two production lines running at a time, and switches equipment in and out depending on what projects they’re currently working on. The relationship between Frana and Panels Plus is rooted in trust and mutual development. Recognizing the exceptional performance and innovation of Panels Plus equipment, Frana's plant proudly serves as a showroom for Panels Plus. This allows visitors from around the world and across the U.S. to witness firsthand how Panels Plus equipment and production lines operate, showcasing the superior quality and efficiency of our machinery in a real-world setting.



“All the equipment we use to build our walls is Panels Plus, from our component table to the end of the line. We don’t use anything else. They put out a great product and are very good to work with. You won’t be disappointed.”

Darrel Debele, Plant Manager
Frana Companies

EXPERIENCE THE PANELS PLUS ADVANTAGE!

Transform your production capabilities with Panels Plus equipment, trusted by hundreds of customers for unmatched efficiency and reliability. Discover the difference our innovative solutions can make for your operations! Visit our website at panplus.com, call us at 866.726.7587, or email us at sales@panplus.com to learn more.