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The entire content of this publication is advertorial based. To place an advertorial or an advert, please call 01562 756960.
Pfeiffer Vacuum introduces new multi-stage Roots pumps ACP 90

With their unique design, these pumps are robust and can withstand frequent pump downs. Highly valuable materials render the pumps more resistant to light corrosive gases. ACP 90 is ideal when pumping large amount of condensable gases like in drying applications, high humidity environments or large insulating volume pumping.

As Jean-Philippe Briton, Product Manager at Pfeiffer Vacuum, explains, “We are particularly proud of the built-in intelligence that allows for high pumping speed at high pressure, which is important when pumping large volumes. With a very low power consumption of 2kW at atmospheric pressure the ACP 90 is also an energy efficient solution for this type of use.” In addition, the pump also fulfills CE and UL/CSA standards. Find more information about ACP 90 here: https://t1p.de/pfeiffer-vacuum-ACP90-en

High efficiency pumps for Aalborg District Heating, DK

The best pumps for the purpose!

These are some of the words formulated by Thomas Andreasen at Aalborg District Heating when questioning why DESMI centrifugal pumps were selected by Aalborg District Heating for the new pumping station.

DESMI was selected due to the following parameters:

- High efficiency
- Good price
- Compliance with the noise level required

At the pumping station, Stripsborg Bygade, in Nørresundby, Northern Jutland, DESMI’s new DESMI centrifugal pumps are installed to supply district heating for a part of this area (7,800 residents).

On the basis of the different parameters, DESMI was selected due to the Total Cost of Ownership. “The efficiency of the pumps is high, as well as the performance is really good,” says Thomas Andreasen.

The pumps are perfect for the low temperatures at which this district heating pumping station is operating. The circulation of the 60°C hot water is ensured by these pumps, which is low temperature level within the district heating business and, which, among other things, is achieved by recirculating the return flow of cold water within the system.

www.desmi.com

Ecological cleaning brand wins Queen’s Award

Professional ecological cleaning specialist Delphis Eco has been awarded The Queen’s Award for Enterprise for Sustainable Development.

Her Majesty The Queen personally approves the winners, recognising and celebrating the ecological cleaning excellence Delphis Eco has achieved over the last ten years.

The perfect green alternative to cleaning, Delphis Eco is formulated to be kind to the environment without compromising on quality. It is loved by professionals and approved by the planet – known for its unparalleled performance by the heroes that put them to the test every day. Derived with renewable plant-based ingredients, Delphis Eco is the ultimate eco-friendly range that’s biodegradable, toxin-free, vegan, has never been tested on animals and a certified B Corp. This means, when cleaning it’s safe for the user, the people and the environment.

Not only that but Delphis Eco is packaged in 100% post-consumer recycled (PCR) and recyclable plastic from the nation’s old milk bottles meaning by using Delphis Eco products, your purchase will be contributing to a circular economy, reducing Britain’s carbon footprint, and taking plastic waste out of the landfill and the ocean – a win-win!

Today, the brand boasts the largest range of EU Ecolabel products providing over 100 professional products for palaces, hotels and restaurants. A new refillable range will be available soon for use throughout the entire home. Products include surface sanitisers and cleaners, as well as bathroom, kitchen and floor products.

Find Delphis Eco products in Waitrose, Ocado, Robert Dyes or Amazon, or visit: www.delphiseco.com to purchase directly.

www.ecophysics.com

Eco Physics nCLD "FaceLift" boxed solutions

The one- and two-channel chemiluminescence based NOx analyzers of the nCLD "FaceLift" box (solution analyzers) detect NO, NO2 and NOX at concentrations ranging from 5 ppm to 5000 ppm with minimal detection limits of 0.4 ppb to 0.5 ppb. They hereby focus on two main application areas, Ambient Air (AL, <50ppm) and Emission/Process (EL, <5000ppm, EL S <50000ppm) monitoring. The one-channel nCLD AL, EL and EL S feature an external pump, while the two-channel nCLD AL2 and EL2 include an internal pump. The nCLD "FaceLift" boxed solutions consist of live, fixed and preconfigured analyzers. The nCLD AL (Ambient Level) and EL S/L include a standard NOX/NOx measurement, with an optional NO2 add-on, while AL2 and EL2 in clude, due to the two-channel setup, a standard NO2 detection. Additionally, all nCLD models are capable of a remote power down/up including a failsafe feature. nCLD AL2 and EL2 are TVU approved, qualified according to ISO EN 14211 and 15267-1-3.
Snickers Workwear trousers: More than fit for purpose

Snickers Workwear’s trouser families are suited to any kind of work on site. Delivering maximum functionality, comfort, protection and mobility, they’re the products of choice among discerning professional tradesmen and women. For them, sustainable, street-smart, body-mapping clothing are key parts of their product choices.

Hi-tech fabrics, functionality and fit are the hallmarks of these market-leading products. The AllroundWork trousers are ready for any kind of work in any trade. FlexiWork trousers deliver superior freedom of movement. While LiteWork trousers keep you cool, dry and ventilated. ProtecWork protective wear for hazardous environments and certified High-Vis trousers when personal visibility on site is a priority.

Snickers Workwear Trousers also deliver certified protection with the patented KneeGuard System for greater flexibility, comfort and durability. It’s what makes them the optimal choice for craftsmen and women who need to get every job done comfortably and sustainably on site.

Getting information on the Snickers Workwear trouser families is easy. You can call the Snickers Helpline on 01484 854788, checkout the website at: www.snickersworkwear.co.uk or email: sales@hultaforsgroup.co.uk

Editor Recommends

Say goodbye to leaky wastes with the Epson Basin Mate!

Epson, who are part of TYDE, are proud to announce the launch of their all-new Leak-Free basin waste seal kit called the Basin Mate.

Epson have been manufacturing high quality sanitaryware spares since 1961 and are committed to supplying market leading products to the plumbing industry. As a UK manufacturer they have complete control from design through to production and are always focused on offering the best customer service to their customers. The Epson range of wastes is comprehensive and offers the best choice when it comes to quality and style.

Paul Weddle, the Business Unit Director for TYDE, says, “The Basin Mate is a perfect solution to avoiding leaking wastes! During our product development process, we thought about ways in which we can make plumbing easier for our customers. Being easy and quick to fit, and supplied with everything you will need to make your wastes leak free, the Basin Mate meets that requirement.”

EPSON is part of TYDE, a Thomas Dudley business. You can visit the new TYDE website at: www.thomasdudley.co.uk/tyde

PET recycling label innovation

CL Label, the world’s largest converter of pressure-sensitive and extruded film materials for decorative, functional and information labels, has unveiled a new generation of their EcoStream® labels that support the recycling of PET bottles at a very high quality level. They are made from floating low-density polyolefin material that separates very easily from the heavier PET flakes in the sink/float process step at the sorter and recycler – which results in the yield of clean PET flakes that can be recycled back into new bottles, closing the loop.

“The official endorsement by both the European PET Bottle Platform (EPBP) and the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) in the United States underpins the performance of the label in the recycling process and the compatibility with existing recycling streams and technology,” says Reinhard Streit, Vice President and Managing Director Food & Beverage Europe at CCL.

The EcoStream® SP (Shear Performance) clear and opaque white pressure sensitive label is a further development of the existing EcoStream version, that has been successfully supplied to the international beverage market for many years. Freshly blown and immediately labelled bottles can induce folds or bubbles on regular labels. EcoStream® SP pressure sensitive labels are developed to keep perfect labelling through flexible properties, in particular suitable on post-shrink PET bottles.

For more information, contact us at: beverage@cclind.com

For Industry Update, see us on pages 14-16
**New modular retractable barrier system launched by seton**

A new retractable barrier system, named EasyExtend, has been launched into the market, offering unique features and benefits for use in industrial and outdoor spaces.

Developed by the health and safety solutions provider Seton, the new and rugged unit is designed to cordon off areas in warehouses, factories, distribution centres and construction sites.

It can span 10 metres – further than most other retractable barriers on the market – meaning a more efficient use of resources. It can be used with standard traffic cones, with its dedicated post and base system, or can be fixed directly onto walls or other surfaces.

The EasyExtend also uniquely stores all the components of the barrier inside the base, making it ideal for rapid setup in the event of a hazard, as well as being quick and easy to transport and store, it could make all the difference when dealing with a sudden or temporary hazard.

“Retractable barriers must be as easy to use as possible, to make sure that staff are happy to use them whenever they may be needed. This is an ethos that we continue to develop our barriers around,”

For more about the Seton EasyExtend retractable barrier, visit: www.seton.co.uk/easyextend

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**The Supply Chain & Logistics Expo Review – Top Exhibitors**

The Supply Chain & Logistics Expo took place at the Arena MK, Milton Keynes on 10 March 2022.

Over 1,300 senior supply chain & logistics management figures – from key sectors such as logistics, manufacturing, food, transport, health, tech, construction and retail – gathered at this event to keep up-to-date with the latest innovations, best practice and new technology solutions.

Visitors were able to understand the exponential growth in technology to re-imagine interactions with customers and consumers, improve processes in their stores and their business, and optimise their supply chain from product development to post-sale customer service.

Key topics included: Brexit, Blockchain, Demand Planning, Software and IT, Business Intelligence and Analytics, Sales and Operations Planning, Warehouse Management, Sustainability, Procurement, Inventory Planning, Freight Forwarding, Forecasting and Demand Planning, Cold Chain, RFID, Supply Chain Optimisation, E-Procurement, Sustainable Procurement, Internet of Things & Quality Management.

The same barrier can cordon between fixed objects or walls, rather than needing the posts. Special EasyExtend brackets hold the tape cassette, while a separate receiver clip holds the tape end. Both can be fixed permanently or magnetically to walls, racking, store checkpoints or even vans.

The design means a single barrier set can create cordons in different locations, without businesses needing to buy several versions of the same product. The EasyExtend is available with tapes in two colour sets – red and white or black and yellow.

Alan Hinton, product innovation manager at Seton, said, “We’ve created a strong and durable barrier that gets around the problem of many facilities needing to buy several versions of the same product.

“The market-leading 10 metre length and unique modular design of EasyExtend means that, as well as being quick and easy to transport and store, it can be used in a wide variety of settings. From tape combinations to traffic cones and walls, its versatility will be extremely useful for businesses.

“The fact that the barrier posts dismantle and fit easily into the base units, which can’t be possible with any other product on the market, means that they can be stacked and stored on shelves or neatly in the back of a van.”

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**FLAGS Software**

E stablished in back in 1989, FLAGS Software revolutionised the quality inspection process on a lapsed production line. 30 years on, FLAGS Software is still developing quality management software that’s helping leading manufacturers such as Aston Martin, Jaguar Land Rover, Princess Yachts, Bentley and Bentley streamline their quality inspection processes – improving production output, enhancing efficiency and giving integrated visibility across several operations.

FLAGS can check any production operation to ensure it is done to sufficient quality. We provide a smart quality control system within a smart factory. FLAGS integrates with other software to create efficient, user-friendly quality inspection, meaning issues can be tackled at up to a tenth of the time it takes using traditional methods.

While FLAGS Software is based on people using touchscreens, 5G and augmented reality will offer huge opportunities in the future. Integrating FLAGS into wearable devices that can be accessed by voice command means managers and employees can work hands-free and inspect parts much more efficiently.

This commitment to technical innovation and helping manufacturers become more digitised led the business winning the Digital Engineering/ Technology Award at the Midlands Awards 2022. A great achievement!

Be smart, adopt Industry 4.0 practices and visit: www.flagssoftware.com

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**European Springs & Pressings Ltd**

European Springs & Pressings Ltd are leading experts in spring manufacturing and high speed press technology, providing a full design and manufacturing service for bespoke and standard pressings, winestocks, coil and gas springs.

Established in 1948, with three UK manufacturing sites, a standard product range of 12,000+ items and a dynamic balance of cutting edge facilities, experienced engineers and thoughtful customer service, we are one of Europe’s leading spring and stamped component suppliers.

We understand that no two jobs are the same; similar products often require the use of different materials, treatments, variable lifetimes, functioning in a variety of environments. This is why European Springs & Pressings invests in the latest technology and qualified technicians to ensure that we design and produce the very best bespoke stampings, springs and wire forms.

A custom-tailored manufacturing process and in-house design service – with CAD/CAM software and systems – means we can help clients realise a cadre of prototype ideas, individually cut using precision lasers for R&D testing or put into full production. Our fully-equipped tool room can design and build any production tooling needed, securing competitive pricing, consistent quality & dependable supply.

Our products are used in major industrial environments all over the world, so whether a client needs a conventional compression, tension, die, plunger or torsion spring, or wants the most obscure spring clip or wire form imaginable, we are able to produce exactly what they are looking for.

T +44 (0)208 663 3800
info.bec@europeansprings.com
www.europeansprings.com

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**Reduce operational downtime with wiser device management from Waizu**

Waizu, the UK’s leading mobile device analytics platform, is committed to helping retail and supply chain businesses improve productivity and maximise efficiency through better mobile device management with the launch of its new Virtual Smart Cabinet dashboard.

Mobile devices are essential to the smooth operation of any business, especially within the retail and supply chain sectors. However, manually issuing shared devices, tracking device status and ensuring all devices are returned at the end of the shift can be an incredibly time-consuming task.

Understanding the importance of effective management of mobile devices, Waizu is helping businesses transform their operations, and its Virtual Smart Cabinet is the latest feature to join its ground-breaking platform.

The new feature allows operations teams to see user insights in real-time, ensuring they can easily see who has which device, how it is being used, and whether it has been returned at the end of the day. If not returned, its location will be shown on the Device Finder tool, while any devices missing can be immediately located and those devices that are returned will be automatically logged out.

The new feature is available to all current Waizu users, and is included in all retail and supply chain sectors.

For more information on the benefits of implementing Waizu, visit: www.getwaizu.com

To get in touch or book a demo:
T 0333 5770 512
sales@getwaizu.com
www.getwaizu.com

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**Handling & Storage Update**

**New modular retractable barrier system launched by seton**

A new retractable barrier system, named EasyExtend, has been launched into the market, offering unique features and benefits for use in industrial and outdoor spaces.

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The EasyExtend also uniquely stores all the components of the barrier inside the base, making it ideal for rapid setup in the event of a hazard, as well as being quick and easy to transport and store, it could make all the difference when dealing with a sudden or temporary hazard.

“To take a location to cordon off a particular area, which could make all the difference when dealing with a sudden or temporary hazard. This is an ethos that we continue to develop our barriers around.”

For more about the Seton EasyExtend retractable barrier, visit: www.seton.co.uk/easyextend
In this issue of Industry Update, we have selected Worldwide Logistics Group UK as our Logistics Service Provider Company of the Year.

Founded in 1998, Worldwide Logistics Co. is a US-based third-party logistics service provider, and due to its success, the company has been able to develop several other sites across the world.

In 2018, the Worldwide Logistics Group opened its London office to enhance its logistics services across Europe where it specialises in E-commerce, warehousing and fulfilment. With the robust services of the US parent company, the office offers full service, end-to-end logistics solutions for major industries in Europe and around the globe.

Glenn Hayes joined together with Worldwide Logistics Group to head up its UK offices as the Managing Director. Headquartered in Dagenham, the other UK offices are based in Birmingham, Billington, London, and Scunthorpe. WWL Group UK started off with a bigger mission in mind which was to service customers who were active in doing reworks and remedial.

“It was about adding value to the supply chain, and making sure waste wasn’t ending up in landfill. There is a huge amount of waste in the logistics industry, and intrinsically because of the growth of E-commerce, its only getting worse. So effectively, we set up UK WWL Ltd in 2018 to service this need and since then we have grown dramatically. We now do huge amounts of 3PL and freight forwarding, so our mission statement has slightly changed from where we started to where we are now, but it still formulates a large part of what we do,” said Glenn.

Worldwide Logistics Group UK is the fastest growing third-party logistics (3PL) service provider in London. While the market has been challenging, especially over the past year, the company has been very successful in navigating its way through it. Technology is the driving force behind countless industries and logistics is no different. Moreover, the company uses its own in-house developed Boom service, which allows consumers to easily book returns while allowing sellers to control returns costs and track quality.

As specialists in logistics and 3PL, the biggest competitive advantage Worldwide Logistics Group UK offer is its ability to be able to integrate with many different sales platforms. “We can seamlessly integrate various services and features into our customers’ websites and still be big enough to be able to scale their business. We have found ourselves in a small niche where we can help many clients on the fact that we suffer a return to remedial service and offer a full scope of services across UK and Europe,” explained Glenn.

Summer 2021 was a record period for the business which saw it expand its footprint and add new warehouses to the portfolio. While 2022 has been slightly behind forecast due to factors including inflation and lower demand, this is typical of the E-commerce at present. Despite this, the company’s agility has allowed it to adapt and create a fully functioning remedial, returns, and reworks centre in the Midlands, where it has opened a Brexit focused road freight team in Birmingham, and opened a warehouse in East Midlands.

Worldwide Logistics Group UK has also opened a site in Poland, which boasts 125,000ft², and includes 10 dock doors, a large yard, 6T floor loading, and a 24/7 365 operation. The warehouse will be used for rework and remedial services such as refurbishment, relabelling, repacking, reprocessing, spare parts management and more. Its warehousing activities include Amazon fulfilment and drop shipping, and its pick pack and dispatch services include seller fulfilled prime, fulfilment by merchant, double scan verification on every order, and integration with E-commerce platform.

Worldwide Logistics Group UK has empowered its clients by rapidly deploying services to take them from bricks and mortar stores only, to the fully integrated online pick pack and delivery stores, with late cut-offs and next day delivery across multiple sectors. The company is one of very few 3PLs that offer a returns and remedial service not only in the UK, but across the EU.

As Worldwide Logistics Group UK look to the future, the aim of the company is to consolidate its position in the logistics market. In 2023 it will then look to expand in the UK and Europe once again to offer clients more solutions. Worldwide Logistics Group UK is also keen to expand by taking on new sites in India and Africa while increasing its customer base.
Rising fuel crisis could spark flame for electric utility vehicle demand

Soaring fuel prices which have rippled through the UK in recent months has resulted in a significant blow to businesses and organisations throughout the nation.

With prices reaching record breaking levels, the need to source alternative, cheaper options has been a high priority for those with a requirement for utility vehicles to support their operations according to Bradshaw Electric Vehicles – who say they have been inundated with enquiries from businesses & organisations searching for alternatives to traditionally powered vehicles that won’t burn a significant hole in their pockets.

As of the end of May, petrol was 173.2p per litre, with diesel priced at 183.1p per litre – a steep rise when in the past six months alone prices for both have soared by 19% and 21% respectively, with concerns that this trend is not set to slow down over the coming months.

This is a staggering hike when compared to the price of charging an electric vehicle – making the cost of charging one of Bradshaw’s Goupil electric vehicles, which cater for last mile distribution, waste management and local authority requirements, significantly cheaper over the long term than running a traditionally powered utility vehicle.

With the average cost of filling up a standard vehicle last week exceeding £100 for the first time ever, the upward inflationary pressure placed on fleet operators is becoming unsustainable.

According to Ramsy Labassi, Marketing Manager at Bradshaw, the business, which has been the UK’s leading supplier of industrial electric vehicles since 1976, believes that rising oil prices will only service to accelerate the shift to electric utility vehicles as the running costs of traditionally powered vehicles is quickly becoming wholly unsustainable – something that has been regularly reiterated in recent enquiries, especially by SMEs.

Ramsy said, “Demand for electric vehicles has been steadily climbing, even before petrol and diesel prices began to skyrocket. The race to net-zero, more LEZs being introduced in towns and cities as well as the petrol and diesel sale ban already got the ball rolling with regards to electric vehicle uptake.

“With the added expenditure of rising fuel costs, which may not subside for some time, the move to electric not only provides potential users with the prospect of improving their environmental footprint, but in turn lowering their vehicle operating costs as well.

“The most commonly cited factors behind holding back on electric include perceived lack of range, the lack of readily available charging points and cost, however with fuel costs rising considerably, the perks of making the transition from traditionally powered utility vehicles to electric far outweigh the purported downsides.

“Despite the current rise in electricity costs, recharging an electric utility vehicle still remains more cost-effective than fuelling its petrol or diesel counterpart, offering significant savings for utility vehicle operators over the long term.

“The cheaper price of running electric vehicles may therefore encourage more businesses and organisations to make the switch sooner than originally planned – which is a significant positive as it will simultaneously contribute to cutting emissions and bring the country closer to achieving its net zero target by 2050.”

Contact
T 01780 782621
sales@bradshawev.com
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THE NEW BRADSHAW T800 TOW TRACTOR

Towing just got easier with the new Bradshaw T800 with improved ride, handling, comfort and maintenance.

Fully electric, the T800 8-tonne tow tractor delivers efficient towing performance for all your factory handling solutions.
Handling & Storage Update

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DCR Inspection Systems

DCR is home to the UK’s largest fleet of drain inspection cameras for hire. We also have drain cleaning and repair equipment for hire, with every item on our fleet – along with everything else a drainage professional could ever need – available to purchase in our drainage superstore. Our team of experienced engineers can also repair and service all models of drain camera.

We began trading in 2007 – repairing and servicing electrical drainage equipment – and quickly became known for the quality of our work and exceptional service. Identifying a gap in the market, we reinvested profits back into the company: purchasing drain cameras and making them available for hire. This allowed our clients to take advantage of this technology, undertaking more advanced, profitable work without high up-front costs.

Devoted to providing our customers with an exceptional service, we help them access the equipment they need to complete jobs quickly and to the highest standard. Doing so consistently, we have established ourselves as a leading provider to the drainage industry. We’ve continued to reinvest in the company, adding new items to our hire fleet and developing products such as the innovative ManUp Key, a seal breaker for releasing seized access covers.

Contact
T +44 (0)1443 841540
hire@draincamerarepairs.co.uk
www.draincamerarepairs.co.uk
PPMA Total Show 2022 set to provide a platform for innovation

PPMA Total Show 2022, the UK’s largest processing and packaging machinery, robotics and industrial vision event, is returning to the NEC Birmingham this autumn, and will take place from 27 to 29 September. The three day event will provide the opportunity for innovation and live demonstrations of production machinery, as well as networking, expert knowledge and information share as well as presenting an environment for visitors seeking new solutions to enhance business performance.

Comprising over 350 exhibitor stands, representing 2,000 brands and incorporating major exhibition brands Pakex and Interphex, visitors to Hall 15 will have unparalleled access to the most comprehensive collection of industry-leading production machinery and smart manufacturing equipment all under one roof.

Showing the very latest in production-efficient technology, robotic and vision systems combined with state-of-the-art materials, containers and packaging design, the event caters for visitors from a wide range of sectors, including the food and beverage, pharmaceutical, retail, automotive, packaging, and waste sectors.

The PPMA Total Show 2022 will also play host to the PPMA Group Awards. Celebrating the best in machinery innovation, smart manufacturing and business acumen, the awards will be presented to winning and highly recommended companies during the final day of the show.

PPMA Total Show 2022 is free to attend and visitor registration is now open. To pre-register your interest and receive your FREE visitor entry pass, go to: www.ppmareshows.co.uk or visit: www.ppma.co.uk for more information.

Service & Calibration Solutions

SSC (UK) Ltd are looking forward to exhibiting at the 2022 PPMA Total Show from 27th to 29th September.

We will be exhibiting the CBO Combo Unit which integrates the Table CBOS Checkweigher with the highly renowned Cassel Multi-Frequency Metal Detector for even those difficult products requiring 100% detection. This high precision meets high speed, which is the perfect solution for your inspection needs. The unit is designed and manufactured to the highest engineering standards with reliability and longevity for use in tough hostile environments. A range of belt sizes and reject devices are available to suit customer’s specific needs.

You can also view an X-ray machine. Undetectable foreign bodies in food, pharmaceuticals or other non-food products represent a big problem. Many foreign bodies cannot be detected with a single metal detector. Because of this Cassel offers X-ray inspection systems as the perfect solution. This way Cassel preserves your product quality and provides reliable protection of your brand. All Metals can be easily detected. Telfon, Stone, Wires down to 0.2 mm.

Why not visit us on Stand A30 where our team will be happy to discuss your specific needs and provide information on our full range of products and services.

Service & Calibration Solutions

Contact
T 0161 222 6365
sales@cssukltd.com
https://cssukltd.com

Marking 25 years of excellence

For a quarter of a century, Rotech have been providing innovative marking and coding solutions to manufacturers and producers within the packaging industry, not just in the UK but worldwide.

As part of our birthday celebrations, we will be exhibiting at this year’s PPMA Show with a new approach to showcasing both our range of feeding systems and printers, as well as a fresh look and feel to the stand.

On-line, off-line, every time

Part of what makes Rotech unique in the coding and marking arena is our ability to cater to both on-line and off-line applications, for both start-ups and international brands. Our combined 150 years of industry knowledge allows us to fully address the customers unique pain points and present them with a cost-effective solution that fits the exact needs.

Our Stand A31 will be split into two, with one-side highlighting our British-made feeding systems, designed for handling and coding a range of packaging in its flat form, and the other presenting our range of compact printing technologies, ideal for easy integration into existing lines, with minimal disruption.

Both our on-line and off-line equipment consistently produce an excellent and perfect product – a perfectly printed date code, batch number, QR code or even full product information – plenty of live samples will be available to view at the stand. We hope to see you there.

For any further information on Rotech, or any one of our solutions, visit our website at: www.rotechmachines.com

Complete Leasing Solutions

Supporting UK business for over 15 years, Complete Leasing provides flexible & tailored finance solutions. Our dedicated team has a wealth of industry experience and will ensure a seamless, efficient experience.

Complete’s comprehensive network of Funding Partners and Own Book resources includes Finance Lease, Hire Purchase, Business Loans and Cash Flow Injection Solutions. Available to all companies, from infant businesses right through to international corporations.

Finding the perfect relationship is essential in your business. As a service driven organisation, our success is measured by delivering the peak outcome for you and all of our customers.

With the ever-fluctuating economy our funders’ landing appetite remains healthy. Many businesses investing in new equipment will benefit from the Chancellor’s 130% Super Tax Deduction.

Our customers choose a complete finance solution for the benefits to their businesses:

- Finance lease payments are 100% allowable against Pre Tax Profits
- Hire Purchase agreements benefit from 130% Super Tax Deduction until the end of March 2023.
- Valuable cash remains in the business for future growth
- Flexible underwriting
- No-upper landing limit
- Flexible terms from 12 to 60 months.

Find us on Stand K19. Contact: Sarah Milnes M 07803 328313 sm@completeleasing.co.uk

All-Fill International Ltd

All-Fill International Ltd is a world leading supplier of Auger based powder and granule filling machines for food, pharmaceuticals and chemical/erosion sectors. Its manufacturing operations have embraced the latest advancements in nutrition, technology and services including design, manufacture and after-sales support.

The company has been established for nearly 40 years and is one of the largest producers of auger-based filling equipment in the World. The extensive range of its products can be seen on its website at: www.allfill.co.uk

Good design, quality components, precision engineering and years of experience are the hallmarks of a great product. This winning combination gives All-Fill its technical edge, confirmed by a formidable growing list of “famous chip” customers. Its wealth of experience and commitment to innovative engineering and quality make All-Fill the definitive source for powder or granule filling solutions.

In addition to its range of auger-based filling machinery, All-Fill is able to offer turnkey packaging line solutions.

The World’s Leading One Stop Shop for Collaborative Applications

The OnRobot food-grade Soft Gripper is able to pick a wide array of irregular shapes and delicate items in food and beverage, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals production, as well as manufacturing or packaging.

Soft Gripper

Explore new automation possibilities with certified food-grade soft gripper

The OnRobot food-grade Soft Gripper is able to pick a wide array of irregular shapes and delicate objects with flexible, silicon-sealed grippers

Safety handle fragile and delicate objects for higher production quality and reduced waste

No external air supply means no dust, no noise, no complexity, and no additional costs

For more information, visit our site at: www.onrobot.com or contact us at: north-europe@onrobot.com

Industry Update is sponsored by Excelerate Ltd – see them on page 11
**Bespoke materials handling solutions**

CJ Waterhouse Company Ltd provides the design, manufacture and installation of a variety of bespoke materials handling solutions including: material storage & discharge, automated weighing, material elevation & dosing, pneumatic and mechanical conveying, screening & separation, packing & palletisation and automation/processing solutions.

Our equipment ranges from individual standalone machines to full turn-key installations incorporating mechanical, electrical and software solutions.

We have extensive experience working with a wide variety of raw materials from fine powders & pellets to viscous oils and supply to numerous manufacturing industries such as: Food & Beverage Chemicals Pet/Animal Feeds Aggregates Rubber & Plastics Recycling & Waste

We are showcasing at this year’s PPMA Total Show where we shall be unveiling our Smart Cart AGV System, the automated guided vehicle micro ingredient batch weighing and bagging solution.

Visit us on Stand E42 to find out more about our services.

**Harford MES: Collect and turn data into actionable information**

Harford Control is a market-leading manufacturing execution system (MES) provider with over 45 years of experience in food and beverage, FMCG, cosmetics and healthcare manufacturing.

The Harford system is built to scale across your entire factory, from goods-in to dispatch. With Harford's MES solution, all production-related information is available within a single system. All collected data is analysed, prioritised & distributed to networked PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones, in real time, so your operators can make adjustments immediately.

As an end-to-end factory floor management system, Harford MES provides the options of:
- Weight Control (Average Quantity Law)
- Paperless Quality Control & Quality Assurance
- Low efficiency & QE
- Automated coding & labelling compliance
- Waste Control
- Live Reporting
- Vision Inspection
- Automated Short Interval Control
- Laboratory Analysis

All options can be modular or fully integrated.

We will showcase our leading edge developments and client stories at the PPMA Total Show. Come to Stand C82 to see how we help our clients to focus on continuous improvement and retain their competitive advantage.

Interested in what we can do to drive your manufacturing performance? Please send an email to: info@harfordcontrol.com or call +44 (0)1225 764461.

**Penmann to showcase air handling expertise**

Penmann Climatic Systems is a leading provider of bespoke air handling and cooling technology solutions. The company’s clients are amongst the UK’s most significant and well-respected national brands.

Penmann has 25 years’ unique experience of Displacement Air Handling technology which is at least 5 times more effective than conventional mixing systems at removing and diluting potential internal contaminants in a production area, resulting in considerable benefits. The correct distribution of air also reduces energy and CO2 usage, something that Food Producers are placing at the top of their ‘shopping lists’. In addition, Penmann’s technical excellence has saved costs for many manufacturers by upgrading existing mixing systems to avoid hefty investment on new plant.

Food manufacturers who rely on rapid cooling solutions for palletised products will be able to view the viable alternative to blast chilling and see a live demonstration on stand. The Clauer Cooling Cell system forms a tight seal around product therefore ensuring all the air and energy goes directly into cooling product.

Talk to the Penmann team on Stand F101. Contact: John Kirwin, Sales & Marketing Director, Penmann Climatic Systems T 01331 202 7300 www.penmann.com

**Landfill Alternatives**

Landfill Alternatives has over 26 years of experience in the waste management industry. During this time we have established ourselves as a leading supplier of Vertical & Horizontal Bellies, Waste Compactors, and dry waste recycling equipment.

We specialise in designing bespoke solutions for a wide range of businesses. We’ve worked with corner shops through to large multinational retailers.

Our market leading machinery can process metal, cardboard, paper, foam, abattoir skins, film and rigid plastics, wood, and general waste.

We can tailor a waste handling system to efficiently keep your business running smoothly. This enables your business to minimise waste sent to landfill and generate recycling rebates.

Systems can be stand-alone, or part of a large ‘turnkey’ system using conveyors, bin tippers, and dust/extraction systems. Come and chat to us at the PPMA show at Stand A93 to discover what equipment is right for your business, or check out our waste configurator at: www.landfallalternatives.co.uk

Contact: T 01295 816733 info@landfallalternatives.co.uk www.landfallalternatives.co.uk

**Industrial and clean area lifting and handling solutions from Palamatic**

Palamatic boasts over 35 years of experience in materials and powder handling, placing it at the cutting edge of lifting and handling solutions for all manufacturing industries.

As a leading expert in handling solutions, Palamatic offers an extensive range of equipment, which includes vacuum tube lifting systems, support gantries, automatic sack opening machinery and bespoke handling systems for the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. In addition to this, Palamatic also keeps spare parts in stock for standard systems.

This excellent product range is supported by an active service.

Find us on Stand E22. T +44 (0)3226 452054 sales@palamatic.com www.palamatic.com

**IntegratedAIR**

IntegratedAIR is showcasing its new range of BlueClean ® stand-alone filter units and full turnkey solutions offered by its Filtration division. IntegratedAIR Filtration’s expertise in both the design and manufacture of dust extraction filter units and systems means that your solution will exceed legislative standards and provide you with a bespoke system that optimises your dust control requirements.

The company prides itself on its customer-focused service, which includes carrying out LEV C88H testing in line with HSG 258 and offering spares and servicing for its own as well as other branded dust extraction filter units.

Since 2002, IntegratedAIR Systems has been delivering high-quality air conveyance systems to manufacturing industries worldwide. Continuing success has enabled it to expand to four sites in the UK with the recent development of a Filtration and Services division. Make an integratedAIR Systems your dust extraction partner and it will do the rest. Visit Stand H44 to find out more.

Find us at PPMA on Stand H44. T 0161 488 4992 sales@integratedair.co.uk www.integratedair.co.uk

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Belgium based, REM-B Hydraulics has developed self-contained, remote-controlled hydraulics powerpacks for connecting and releasing 1,000 tonne, 85m high, offshore wind turbine bases during quayside lifting onto a pontoon, for leading international steel construction company, Smulders. Based on a cordless, Enerpac XC-Series hydraulic pump, the hydraulic shackle release powerpack is a safer alternative to dangling long lengths of hydraulic hoses connected to a quayside pump.

Lifting 85m high fabricated turbine bases from the quayside on to a barge for shipping offshore uses shackles to attach the turbine base to a three-point lifting frame and crane. Engaging and releasing the shackles is done using a double acting valve arrangement powered by quayside pump connected by long hoses. Smulders was looking for a simpler and safer method of engaging and releasing the shackles without the need for long hoses.

Attached to each leg of the lifting frame, the REM-B Hydraulics’ system removes the requirement for long hoses by using a battery-powered, Enerpac XC pump to operate a bi-directional valve connected to a cylinder that moves the pin connecting the shackle. The entire system is contained in a compact metal case with an external aerial linking each unit to a wireless controller. For increased safety, the shackle pins are activated sequentially.

Weighing 9.9kg, the Enerpac XC-Series hydraulic pump is equipped with an efficient electric motor powered by an industrial grade 28-volt, Lithium-Ion battery, delivering exceptional speed and run time. It is an ideal pump solution for remote outdoor locations.

“The remote controlled powerpack is the ideal solution for lifting and positioning offshore structures, thanks to the power and portability of the Enerpac XC pump,” says Sam Briels, Enerpac product specialist, REM-B Hydraulics. “It simplifies the use of hydraulic shackles by removing the need for long hoses as well as improving lift safety.”

For more information on the Enerpac XC Pump, visit: www.enerpac.com
For more information on REM-B Hydraulics, visit: www.rem-b.com
Leading the way in recyclable pump technology

The first Quantex pump was invented by Quantex Founder, Dr Paul Pankhurst, to create a less expensive, more accurate alternative to a peristaltic pump. Several years of R&D and customer collaborations, led to the successful development of several off-the-shelf, recyclable pumps with varying flow-rate ranges. In June 2021, Quantex was acquired by PSG, an operating company of Dover Corporation and now sits alongside several other pump and flow measurement brands.

Quantex headquarters is located in Hammersmith, London, UK, with a dedicated manufacturing plant in High Wycombe. Through PSG’s acquisition, Quantex is now a part of PSG Dover; providing Quantex with clean room manufacturing facilities in Duisburg, Germany, where Quantex is supported by fellow PSG pump brand, Quattroflow.

“Quantex is the leading provider of recyclable pump technology, where, instead of the pump being a part of the fixed equipment, it is attached directly to the liquid packaging – similar to the way a tap is already connected to a bag in box of wine. But instead of pressing the tap and allowing liquid to dribble out using gravity, the pump is clipped into a motor drive in the fixed equipment and the product is dispensed accurately, at a range of precision flow rates suitable for all kinds of liquids. When the product supply is finished, you simply replace the bag and pump with a new bag and pump,” stated Gillian Harding-Moore, Director – Marketing.

Quantex’s system is extremely hygienic and requires no costly cleaning or maintenance. The Quantex pumps also maintain vacuum capability which equips them with the ability to handle high viscosities such as mayonnaise, hair conditioner, or glue, and can evacuate the bag by 98%.

*The pumps can also reverse cycle which is widely used for cleaning the nozzle at the end of each dispense by sucking the product back into the pump. Another very exciting capability is its in-pump dilution option, where it can pump high-rise concentrates, and accurately mix them with water at the point of dispense. This takes water out of the distribution channel, saving the customer both money and carbon emissions from shipping their products around the world.” added Gillian.

With the drive to save single-use plastic waste, the wealth of benefits of using Quantex pumps has been recognised by UK and European supermarkets, who have been attempting to trial refill stations, where consumers bring their reusable bottles to refill in the store instead of using single use pre-packaged goods. Dispensing liquids has been proven to be too expensive and labour intensive for shop-floor staff.

“Quantex technology provides the key enabler for scaling up refill in supermarkets, with a low maintenance, low cost and flexible solution that can be standardised for dispensing virtually any fluid. Quantex is working with several refill equipment manufacturers, who are designing their next generation of dispensers around the Quantex system.” Gillian continued, “Several global brands and retailers are excited by the early prototypes that allows product replenishment to be 75% faster, with no cleaning or maintenance, and no drips that cause dangerous slip hazards in supermarket aisles.

The aim is to provide a better refill experience for consumers and therefore, encourage more refill adoption. The first machines are planned to be in European supermarkets trials from October this year, with a roll-out scheme planned for 2023. It is an exciting market to be in, as it is just the beginning of a big change to the way we shop, and Quantex is sitting at the heart of the movement.”

As the company looks ahead, in addition to Refill, Quantex is moving into the Biopharma market, and aligning with other Dover brands; Quattroflow®, em-tec, Malcolm, and DCPX. Gillian added, “The alignment will strengthen our PSG offering, providing pumps, flow measurement solutions and connectors that serve cell and gene therapy and bioprocessing needs from early process development through to upstream and downstream applications.”

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Packaging Supplier Company of the Month

High performance wrapping solutions

In recent news, Guy explained one of the company’s latest products that has just launched. “We recently launched a range of recycled perforated and solid stretch films, containing a genuine, traceable source of post-consumer plastic waste. This not only eliminates the new packaging taxation, but also contributes towards sustainability of operations. These films provide amazing performance compared to anything else currently on the market and can reduce plastic usage by up to 70% while lowering costs to wrap by over 50%. Alongside this we have made improvements to its efficiency as perforated films allow goods to cook in half the time and dispel moisture in transit, meaning no condensation and zero damages to packaging.”

Innovative products and a team that is truly passionate about all things pallet wrap, the company serves a large customer base across the UK and the world.

“We supply both perforated (breathable) and solid stretch films. We work in close partnership with an array of industries to help them achieve great results with regards to cost, efficiency, plastic reduction and much more. As part of our service, we provide initial audits on end-of-line packaging which enables us to identify key areas for improvement,” said Guy Kitchener, Sales & Marketing Manager.

Over the years, Excelerate Ltd has been developing its technologies and materials in order to be at the forefront of innovation for many industries including manufacturing, logistics, horticulture, and warehousing. “We virtually work with any company that dispatches, its products on pallets, or uses stretch films at any point throughout their operation.” stated Guy.

Innovative products and a team that is truly passionate about all things pallet wrap, the company serves a large customer base across the UK and the world.

“As a response to the UK Government’s Plastic Packaging Tax that came into effect April 1 2022, Excelerate Ltd has created a solution that is packaging tax exempt called Goliath PCW. Boosting a 30% stretch using 50% less film, Goliath PCW is their strongest most sustainable stretch film to date. Marked as the simplest way to reduce your wrapping costs and plastic volumes, the product is also 100% recyclable and can form part of circular economies within a multitude of industries. Available in hand, machine, standard, and power prestretch, it is made with superlative materials designed to tackle any given task. With business thriving, we asked Guy how the company is accommodating such growth and what plans it had for the future. He answered, “We are rapidly growing our employee headcount to deal with the extra demand for our specialist products, which will enable us to service more areas and industries. Short-term we plan to expand on our market-leading innovations and product range; however, long-term, we are potentially moving into new facilities, which will allow us to run training courses, in-depth wrapping demonstrations and much more from our headquarters.”

If you’re interested in learning more about Excelerate Ltd and Goliath PCW, see below.

www.quantex-arc.com
www.excelerateltd.com
Mitigating arc flash events in process heating applications

An arc flash is an electrical explosion that occurs when there is a short circuit in a system, which can be caused by a build-up of current or conductive dust. If the voltage is high enough, and if there is a path to ground or a lower voltage, the resistance of the air is overcome and results in an arc. There are three main strategies for minimizing the effects of arc flashes, including increasing the distance from the potential source of an event, reducing the available fault current, and decreasing the duration of the event. All strategies can be combined to ensure maximum safety, but this is not practical when considering overall project cost. That said, the duration of the event is the most visible influence to reduce damage and has the largest impact on the total amount of energy released.

There are two key approaches to compare: arc-resistant cabinets and arc mitigation technologies. Arc-resistant cabinets aim to reduce exposure to arc events by encasing the system in a metal-clad cabinet with a venting system. The heated gas and pressure is released through a duct, reducing the energy that could potentially explode. However, a drawback lies in the fact that the cabinet must be closed for the arc-resistant cabinet to work, as many arc events occur during maintenance, when the doors are open.

Arc mitigation technologies also reduce damage to equipment, as it can function even when the doors are open and maintenance is being performed. For example, in the Watlow POWERSAFE® thermal system, sensors can be placed within the thermal controller, SCR node single contact or node, which are protected by a breaker. When the sensor senses an arc, such event in any compartment, the breaker shuts down the loop to limit damage caused by the arc.

As medium voltage process heaters become more popular, they must be designed with safety in mind. Arc flash mitigation technologies represent the best approach here, as they decrease the duration of arc flash events and hence the energy released, helping to minimize the risk and damage involved.

www.watlow.com

Heating equipment manufacturer celebrates 100 year anniversary

Industrial heating technology manufacturer Watlow, which specializes in electric components for complete thermal systems, has reached its 100 year anniversary milestone. The company, which was founded in 1922 in Missouri, USA, is now a global electric heating specialist with over 1,400 employees working across locations in North America, Asia and Europe.

Watlow began manufacturing electric heating elements for the shoe industry, before widening its product offering in the 1930s to introduce electric immersion heaters to replace steam pipes and fire-hazardous gases. Then, in the 1980s, Watlow expanded its global reach with the opening of sales offices in Italy, France, the UK and Taiwan.

Since its founding in 1922, the company has developed into a highly regarded industry heating technology manufacturer, holding more than 1,400 patents and employing over 4,300 people working in nine manufacturing facilities and five technology centers across three continents. Additionally, Watlow’s services cover 178 countries.

The 2010s became the most productive and significant period of the company’s journey so far. Within just eight years, Watlow introduced ten new products including the FAT process controller with touch-screen technology, OPTIMA® heat exchanger and the range of FLUIDIT® in-line heaters. Now, the company serves any application that may use industrial process heating such as semiconductor processing, energy generation and medical and food service equipment.

Contact
www.watlow.com

Watlow signs agreement to acquire Eurotherm from Schneider Electric

Watlow, a designer and manufacturer of complete industrial electric heating systems, is pleased to announce that it has signed an agreement to acquire Eurotherm® from Schneider Electric, the global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Eurotherm is a premier global provider of temperature, power and process control, measurement and data management equipment, systems, software, and services for global industrial markets. The company’s headquarters are in Worthing, UK, with core manufacturing operations in Lędziny, Poland, and a headcount of about 650 people worldwide.

“Watlow is excited to invest in this innovative product portfolio and professional team,” said Rob Gilmore, Watlow’s CEO (pictured). “Combining Eurotherm’s complimentary controls technologies with Watlow’s focus on thermal systems, our shared engineer-to-engineer sales models and our focus on common channels, will allow Watlow and Eurotherm to better serve all of our respective customers. We are impressed with Eurotherm’s heritage in the controls industry and strong reputation for innovation and quality, so we are looking forward to welcoming the Eurotherm team to Watlow.”

Gilmore continued, “Watlow is investing aggressively right now, including development of our operations in Europe and Asia to ensure we can support and respond to our customers wherever they need us. This acquisition will help us expand our presence in Europe and extend our electronics and controls capabilities globally.”

www.watlow.com

TMR 12WI Series
Ultra compact 12 Watt DC/DC converters (SIP-8) for Industrial applications

- Ultra compact 12 Watt converter in SIP-8 metal casing
- Highest power density of 4.73W/cm²
- Wide 4:1 input voltage ranges
- 10:1 isolation voltage of 1,600 VDC
- High efficiency (up to 90%) for low thermal loss
- Operating temperature range -40°C to +85°C
- Fully regulated outputs
- Remote On/Off control
- Surface mount design (see recommended PCB layout)
- 3 year product warranty

The TMR 12WI series is a new family of isolated 12W DC/DC converter modules with regulated output, featuring wide 4:1 input voltage ranges. The product offers a very high power density of 4.73W/cm² in an ultra-compact SIP-8 metal package occupying only 2.0cm² (0.3 square inch) of board space.

An excellent efficiency of up to 90% allows for an extended operating temperature range of -40° to +65°C without derating under natural convection conditions.

Contact: Florian Haas
T +49 43 311 45 11
F +49 43 311 45 45
thaas@tracopower.com
www.tracopower.com

Quiet fans making noise in the industry

One of the most common requirements for fans is low noise, selecting the correct bearing in the fan is key to minimizing noise levels. The low cost choice is usually sleeve bearing, which initially should offer low noise levels. However, after some time of operation, due to the nature of the bearing, the fan will become gradually noisier.

At a higher price is Ball bearing, this bearing is preferred for high end applications requiring faster speeds, higher airflow, longer life expectancy and the freedom to mount in all orientations without the risk of premature failure. Ball bearing is however not renowned as the lowest noise option. If low noise is the target there are alternative bearings available.

One example is Sunon patented Megline bearing, a near-frictionless bearing system. One of the key features of this is the use of a magnetic plate to remove the contact between the impeller and the bearing wall. This sleeve bearing offers life expectancy closer to a Ball bearing at a cost closer to sleeve. If located in a harsh environment, then added levels of protection should be considered for the fans. These can start from simple IP22 to fully enclosed IP68 rated fans.

Sunon can also offer environment specific protection, such as IP67 salt fog for marine applications. If the correct level of protection is not considered, then the life expectancy of the fan will be compromised. If there is concern regarding fan failure, most are now available with additional wires for Tacho Feedback or Locked Rotor Detection which can alert to any issues.

www.snel.co.uk
springs, technologies, customer service and technical manufacturing. It is this experience that has ensured for over 70 years, European Springs & Pressings Ltd have the UK’s widest range of springs including compressions springs, tension springs, torsion springs and gas springs. Manufacturing processes, and have enjoyed building our profile at exhibitions and across print and social media outlets. At European Springs & Pressings Ltd we understand that the needs of our clients vary from job to job, therefore we endeavour to work with them to overcome all their manufacturing challenges. No two jobs are the same; similar products often require the use of different materials, treatments, variable tolerances or specific heat resistance. This is why we invest in the latest technology, qualified toolmakers and engineers to ensure that we design and produce the very best bespoke stampings, springs and wire forms,” stated Liam Bland, Marketing Manager.

Springs & Pressings European Springs & Pressings Ltd have the UK’s widest range of springs including compressions springs, tension springs, torsion springs and gas springs. Manufacturing out of its dynamic spring facility based in London, the company supports a vast range of customers in the automotive, telecommunications, aerospace and defence, hydraulics, domestic appliances, nuclear, electrical switch gear (lighting) and controls, scientific medical and pharmaceutical industries.

For over 70 years, European Springs & Pressings Ltd have been at the forefront of industrial machinery manufacturing. It is this experience that has ensured its market leading position, offering the highest quality springs, technologies, customer service and technical expertise.

After facing certain restrictions and difficulties during COVID-19, Liam explained how over the past 12 months the company has begun to return back to normal. “Last summer we had just started getting back on the road again, as we were finally able to attend exhibitions and visit clients again. It felt great to finally be meeting our industry clients and colleagues again. Although we had adapted well during lockdown, adapting and adapting our work processes to maintain our business connections and continue to meet customer needs, it was brilliant to meet up and trade in person.”

UK manufacturing is going from strength to strength and we are very much benefiting from this when it comes to achieving budget. In business terms, the last 12 months have been healthy, as the industry has bounced back with force. Even with the ongoing issues involving material shortages and supply chains, there has been a noticeable hunger in manufacturing to reclaim lost ground and get manufacturing back on track.”

As proud members of the Institute of Spring Technology and the Institute of Sheet Metal Engineering to which both support its registration with BSI to ISO9001, European Springs & Pressings Ltd is consistently developing new ways to innovate and adapt its product and service offering based on the needs of its customer and the demands of the industries to which it serves. One noticeable service available is the company’s ability to offer a custom-tailored manufacturing process and in-house design service using CAD and CAM software and systems. Liam expanded, “This offering ensures that we can help our clients realise a range of prototype ideas, individually cut using precision lasers for R&D testing or put into full production. Our fully-equipped tool room can design and build any production tooling needed, assuring competitive pricing, consistent quality and dependable supply.”

The company has a dedicated team of reliable engineers that work with you to ensure the right product is chosen at the most economic price. After initial engagement, European Springs & Pressings Ltd will help design a product that is fit for function achieving all technical and quality requirements. These aspects also take into account the replicability of manufacture including tolerances, the product life, the ease of production assembly and the most economic method of manufacture. “One thing we can offer: our clients is the assurance that we understand their requirements and will deliver on our promises. Whereas stock suppliers and manufacturers with less capability might offer less than ideal options, or farm the order out to another company, our engineers work with the client to assess their needs and supply the solution that best suits them,” said Liam.

Amid the ever-changing industrial industry, investing both in its machinery and its people has and always will continue to be at the forefront of the company’s focus. Liam described some recent developments within the company. “Over the last year, we have bolstered our capability with the addition of a number of machines, including a Bruderer BSTA 410-110B2 high speed precision press which increases our production capability and a Brother JS laser cutter which has enabled us to improve on both our capability and capacity when laser cutting. We have also purchased a number of Wafios coilers and a further FMU 4 to strengthen our wire production.”

Of course, what is a company without its employees and European Springs and Pressings Ltd believe its staff is its greatest resource which is why it is currently looking to add to its ever-growing base of customer service experts and experienced engineers. “Whether we are employing experienced engineers looking for a new challenge or offering eager apprentices and trainees the chance to start their careers in manufacturing, we see ourselves as a career for life employer and are proud to offer a lifetime home for many workers, or a first step into the industry for others,” added Liam.

Delivering a high-quality and consistent service, European Springs & Pressings Ltd’s products offer a solution that has been tried and tested for many years. However, there is still much more to come as Liam explained. “In the short to mid-term we are going to be investing a number of new Multislide machines to enhance our offering on the pressings/stampings side of the business. Depending on this, we will continue our investment policy in plant personnel and equipment. We are also engaged in a joint program with our sister group of companies in the UK to further extend our offering across heavy springs, gas springs and industrial furniture such as locks, latches, and sides.”

Contact
T 0208 663 1800
info.bec@europeansprings.com
www.europeansprings.com
UNISIG Deep Hole Drilling Systems: Perfection is never an accident

UNISIG produces deep hole drilling machines that are used around the world by nearly every industry imaginable – and at UNISIG, striving for perfection has never been an accident. To secure long-term success, the company decided to further invest in machining its own precision parts rather than subcontracting components, as some of the most critical parts they produced have tolerances and complexity that cannot be made by most machine shops.

To machine their own parts while continuing to grow and develop new products, UNISIG embarked on a new approach to machining which would allow for industry-leading CNC machine tool accuracy and performance to be coupled with new technology that would ultimately eliminate manual intervention in machining that prevails in many shops.

“The deliberate connection between engineering, design, and machining improves our product. Our ability to rely on very high accuracy and productivity from our internal machining capacity allows UNISIG to provide more advanced solutions and value to its customers,” quoted Anthony Fettig, CEO of UNISIG.

Automated machining was the goal, which required a change in thinking by the team’s engineers, programmers, and machinists. To harness this new direction, UNISIG put in the time and energy to secure the best manufacturing resources available, including several Okuma machine tools.

To begin, UNISIG devised a plan to combine modular fixturing, offline tool setup, and full simulation of the machine, workpiece, and tools to provide a platform of innovation within their machine shop. The team’s intent was to radically improve spindle uptime and exploit the full potential of automated CNC machining, even when the batch size would be only one part.

The first step of the UNISIG strategy was to move away from classic CNC boring mills and adopt the higher productivity potential of CNC horizontal machining centres with twin pallets. After consulting with credible industry sources and leveraging their internal team’s knowledge, the MB-10000H horizontal machining centre from Okuma was selected for medium-sized, high-accuracy part machining.

One of the most important factors in this capital investment was the need to trust the machine accuracy enough to program from its centre of rotation and let the machine run without stopping and manually verifying the machining process many times during the cycle. The Okuma MB-10000H installation was a success and reinforced UNISIG’s wisdom to focus on automated machining – and the benefits were so extraordinary that UNISIG continued to look to additional Okuma solutions to bring its strategic vision to life.

UNISIG’s next target was large-part machining. Previously, to hold the finished machine tolerances, extensive hand scraping was necessary which added a lot of time and expense to produce these machines. UNISIG established a set of machining accuracy parameters that would eliminate much of this handwork to achieve tolerances.

Working directly with the local distributor, Morris Midwest, UNISIG was able to engage with Okuma America and Okuma Corporation’s technical leadership to tailor the specification of an Okuma MCR-ASCII 35x10 double column machine for the exacting geometry and overall volumetric accuracy needed.

The collective Okuma team ensured the MCR-ASCII machine tool specifications were defined and perfect for UNISIG’s application. A quick-change fixture system was developed by UNISIG to allow two parts up to 3m (10ft) long to be machined simultaneously and removed for setup offline. The results after installation were very impressive, allowing lights-out automatic machining of parts previously not possible for UNISIG to manufacture.

With two machines from Okuma running and performing to expectations, one more opportunity identified for upgrade resulted in the new MA-12500 machine. The OSP Control common to these three Okuma machines was a big value to the programming and simulation group at UNISIG. “This baseline trust in Okuma is what allows UNISIG to excel at advanced manufacturing,” said Mr Fetting.

In addition to offline tool presetting and modular workholding on all machines, UNISIG uses a variety of Okuma’s Partners in THINC suppliers including: Mastercam, Vericut® and Renishaw. Using a layered approach to technology and understanding the benefits of eliminating the gaps between engineering, design, and manufacturing, UNISIG has differentiated itself as a machine tool builder. The company’s long history of achievement is one Okuma and Morris Midwest are proud to be a part of – especially in helping UNISIG achieve their goal of capitalising on the full potential of automated machining.

UNISIG is exhibiting at the AMB show in Stuttgart, Germany, 13 - 17.09.2022, Hall 9, Stand C11.

Contact
T +49 7125 9687590
www.unisig.com
Our industry-leading customers around the world rely on UNISIG® deep hole drilling technologies for powerful, intuitive capabilities. We engineer our machines to handle a complete range of applications, and support them with our high level of expertise and service.

**Standard Gundrilling Machines:** Job Shops & Production Drilling

![UNISIG Machines](images)

**Production Deep Hole Drilling and Automation:** Modular Machines for Production Drilling

UNISIG is exhibiting at the AMB show in Stuttgart, Germany, 13 - 17.09.2022, Hall 9, Stand C11. For more information, please visit our website: [www.unisig.com](http://www.unisig.com)

**Machines • Tools • Automation**

UNISIG machines, engineered and manufactured in the USA
Medical Shops achieve surgical precision with deep hole drilling automation

For over 40 years, we’ve helped our customers achieve success in deep hole drilling, providing them with the machines, automation and support they need to be competitive and profitable.

We have found that the initial energy we and our customers spend at the beginning of a quoting process pays off throughout the entire project, from inception to installation. We take a systemised approach not only during this critical phase but also throughout the entire sales process. This ensures there are no surprises and that our customers know exactly what they can expect when starting discussions with UNISIG about their gundrilling and deep hole drilling needs.

This is our approach at UNISIG:

1. We listen to our customers, ask questions and understand what they need.
2. We first identify a standard solution from our product line that can be applied at the lowest cost and shortest delivery possible.
3. If a commodity solution isn’t available, we consider a customised solution and we stand behind it.
4. If a commodity solution is readily available, we recommend that rather than upsell a machine the customer doesn’t need.

For our customers, this approach provides them a reliable, standard machine that can be used for many years and that has the built-in flexibility for easy re-tooling to adapt to future needs. For us, initially working within the boundaries of our catalogue cultivates new ideas that can then be applied to improve our standard products as well as help us direct future research and development budgets.

1. We first identify a standard solution from our product line that can be applied at the lowest cost and shortest delivery possible.

At UNISIG, our product development mindset is to customise solutions from our experience in many different industries, make them automation ready and embed application flexibility wherever possible. We invest millions of dollars annually in our product line and related spare parts, giving us a strong starting point for new applications. Our standard product line encompasses much more than machines, including standard automation, workholding, accessories and tooling that we can offer as part of the solution.

Once we have identified a standard machine as a starting point, our engineers seek out smart, practical ways to meet the customer’s application needs. The goal is to innovate within the machine’s operation, add functionality or automation, as opposed to engineering a completely special solution without first exhausting opportunities to solve problems with standard products.

For our customers, this approach provides them a valuable solution that can be used for many years and that has the built-in flexibility for easy re-tooling to adapt to future needs. For us, initially working within the boundaries of our catalogue cultivates new ideas that can then be applied to improve our standard products as well as help us direct future research and development budgets.

One of the key reasons our customers are confident moving forward with a UNISIG machine is that they know we will stand behind it and that we have substantial capabilities to ensure it always exceeds their production expectations. We approach these special projects with the mindset that a custom machine will be used for decades in production, which is why we provide the same documentation and long-term technical support for all our machines whether standard or custom.

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Medical Shops achieve surgical precision with deep hole drilling automation

Medically speaking, cutting people open is dangerous. Today, physicians get around this problem by using modern surgical instruments to perform minimally invasive procedures, which make major operations into simple outpatient appointments. But to accomplish these feats of surgical science, manufacturers in the medical industry have to drill small-diameter holes through the entire length of slightly larger instruments. Thin part walls, intricate features, bright finish quality and concentricity requirements, and extreme depth-to-diameter (D:D) ratios make these parts a challenge in production.

A typical laparoscopic surgical instrument is designed to direct tools, cameras and other devices into the body through the instrument using a guide wire. And to ensure smooth, reliable and accurate performance during procedures, highly precise hole concentricity is required at D:D ratios well above 100:1, a challenge even for dedicated deep hole drilling equipment.

With these challenges, it’s no surprise that many manufacturers try to skip the deep hole drilling process altogether by far-out working the tooling and components. But going to outside suppliers brings its own problems. Pre-drilled blanks are often expensive and difficult to drill into the machine body on one set, defeating the whole purpose of using automation-ready Swiss-style machines. Meanwhile, camouflaged bar stock allows shops to continue using their bar feeders, but it’s very expensive — and the hole quality and O.D.:I.D. concentricity rarely meet the needs of medical manufacturers anyway.

To overcome these challenges, medical manufacturers are turning to dedicated deep hole drilling equipment to finish instruments started on the Swiss-style machines. With an experienced gundrill operator, careful setup and a bit of finesse, the hole quality can be excellent, and it allows the Swiss-style machines to remain fully automated. The only remaining problem is part handling and transfer which introduces significant risks when the accuracy requirements are so high, and if the part has to be flipped to drill, it introduces more setup operations and more risk of human error.

What medical manufacturers need is a truly end-to-end automated process that allows for an efficient single-piece workflow for surgical instruments — and so deep hole drilling OEMs, such as UNISIG, have engineered all the technology required to meet this goal. The result is a complete system that offers easily automatable, on-demand deep hole drilling processes for the most demanding surgical instrument applications: the UN6E-2i.

As a twin-spindle machine with two independent drilling axes, the UN6E-2i inherently has the capabilities manufacturers expect from a high-performance deep hole drilling machine. Counter-rotation, specialised workholding and superior alignment and precision allow shops to confidently hold concentricity tolerances and minimise mismatches, even at the extreme D:D ratios common in the medical industry. In addition, the UNISIG Smart Control Interface simplifies operation, while an innovative flow-based coolant system automatically reacts to pressure changes for effective chip evacuation and high process security.

What allows the UN6E-2i to truly shine as a part of the surgical instrument production process, however, is the in-machine automation. After the front spindle drills the first hole, a robot takes it out of the spindle, puts the hole onto the second spindle, and loads another fresh blank into the first spindle. The robot’s perfect repeatability ensures the highest hole quality — and the only human labour required for the process is loading bar stock into the Swiss-style machines, preparing the blanks for the UN6E-2i’s robot and sending the finished parts on for post-processing.

The UN6E-2i’s capabilities also give manufacturers significant production flexibility. Two holes with two different diameters could be simultaneously drilled in a single part, or two parts could be in process simultaneously to allow operators or robots to load and unload the machine without stopping. Alternatively, this twin-spindle configuration can be used to drill halfway from a part from one end and with the first spindle and allow the second spindle to finish the hole from the opposite end.

UNISIG is exhibiting at the AMB show in Stuttgart, Germany, 13 – 17.09.2022, Hall 5, Stand C11.

Contact
www.unisig.com
Leakage testing of medical-pharmaceutical vials by laser drilling ensures highest quality standards for medical companies

Innovative solutions are needed to quickly and cost-effectively check the required hygiene and quality standards in order to ensure access to high-quality, safe medical and pharmaceutical equipment in the future. Various essential quality and stability tests are already carried out during the manufacturing and processing of products such as syringe cylinders, vaccine vials or infusion and transfusion bags. Thus, the control mechanisms used have to reliably detect even the smallest variation and damage in the material, to exclude contamination in the context of the application.

Therefore, GFH GmbH offers manufacturers of medical and pharmaceutical products a laser-based solution. A cost- and time-saving opportunity is offered to validate this quality test, which works particularly flexibly and gently on materials by drilling high-precision leak holes of just 5μm to 50μm diameter into individual specimens of a production line. While the hole sizes can be kept very accurately, no cracks or pressures will arise around the drilling site.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, the demand especially for so-called ‘leakage drilling’ in Syringe cylinders increases rapidly. During manufacturing, these deliberately selected samples are intended to exclude defects in the material of the vials and cylinders, for example to prevent subsequent contamination of the transfusion or leakage during usage. Increasing demand for such control procedures is due not least to global vaccination campaigns and the associated increased demand for flawless medical and pharmaceutical products. Manufacturers therefore need reliable methods that can carry out random quality checks with high precision in a time- and cost-saving way. For this reason, the ultrafast laser pulses that hit the material prevent tensions and cracks in it by means of so-called ‘cold ablation’. On the other hand, there are no limits to the variety of materials used in laser processing. This enables even hard-to-machine materials such as glass or special medical plastics to be processed with high precision.

Micro-drilling without additional material stress
For the aforementioned process application of the leakage holes, the laser beam is positioned on the workpiece via two mirrors, with a scanner. As only small minors need to be moved through these optical axes, highly dynamic and flexible processing is possible. The laser beam is therefore focused on an extremely small area and thus drill holes with a minimum diameter (lower limit 5μm) can be made. In addition, laser processing does not result in tool wear which is why the processing can be repeated at any time. Post-processing is also no longer required for laser micro-machining. “With this technology, the manufacturer benefits from the micrometer-precise adjustment of the drill and the almost unrestricted flexibility of the laser,” Reitberger adds. The medical-pharmaceutical glass containers usually have a wall thickness of only one millimeter. Depending on customer requirements, the high-precision percussion holes have a diameter of 5μm to 50μm. With a tolerance of just ±2.5μm, the drill holes are characterised by an extreme precision that would hardly be possible with conventional mechanical drilling methods. Based on the high-precision measurement methods by optical microscopes used at GFH, a test protocol is created for each individual hole after laser processing, which guarantees that every hole is certified and validated in a high accuracy.

Laser processing saves several settings
Besides processing, the products must also be precisely labelled or marked for further certification and tracking, particularly in the medical and pharmaceutical sector. In conventional machining processes this usually requires several plants, as the workpiece is clamped several times on different processing machines. However, this is different for laser processing. The use of this modern machining method eliminates several clamping operations at once, since drilling and labelling can be carried out in a single operation. Combining these two processing steps significantly saves time and costs.

The long-standing know-how in laser micro-machining and in the construction of series-production machines enables GFH to manufacture or procure these particularly demanding products for manufacturers in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sector in its own precision production. In addition, the company can even develop its own laser system according to the specific requirements on request. “If the customer has a specific wish to purchase such a machine, the suitable GFH series model is selected together with him and equipped with modular hardware and software solutions for the specific application,” explains Reitberger. All GFH series machines are equipped with an ultrashort pulse laser from well-known manufacturers. In addition, GFH can offer customised solutions. As part of this consultation, the technicians also provide information about possible special solutions as well as other machining processes that can be implemented in the systems – from laser cutting to laser ablation to laser tumming. “We are pleased that we have already been able to help many well-known manufacturers secure their supply chains with the help of our established drilling process for special requests that arise at short notice, such as leakage drilling. Thus, drilling leakage holes with the ultrashort pulse laser in syringe barrels has become a permanent feature in our precision manufacturing,” Reitberger concludes.

www.gfh-gmbH.de
Women in utilities

At Lanes Group, one of our most important principles is making sure that all staff members are welcomed and treated fairly and equally, and that nobody joining our team is ever made to face additional barriers as a result of their identity. As such, we consider it a top priority to ensure that women engineers and other female staff members are given every chance to succeed here.

We employ a large number of women in various roles across our entire organisation, from field-based engineering roles through to office-based administrative positions. Gender is no barrier to a long and successful career at Lanes, and our female staff speak positively of the supportive environment and equal opportunities they have received in their time with us.

No matter what kind of role you are seeking at Lanes as a female candidate, you will be valued as an equal member of the team. You will also have ample opportunity to build your skills and take on leadership roles at the UK's largest privately-owned specialist drainage and wastewater contractor.

You can find out more about the work we do to support women engineers and female staff in our workplace on our website. You can also browse our full range of job opportunities today to start your professional journey with Lanes Group.

https://careers.lanesgroup.com/

Recycling UK Limited

Recycling UK is one of the largest independent recycling companies/traders in the United Kingdom.

From its head office at Tarporley, Cheshire, and associate processing plants throughout the UK & Ireland, it can cover most recycling needs. It also has office/joint ventures in Mumbai, India, and Waterford, Ireland.

It is a trader of all grades of waste paper & plastic in the form of bulk loose, baled, or palletised material, surplus or damaged reels & redundant stock of paper and plastic packaging and supply material to customers in the UK, Europe, India and throughout Asia.

Its wholly owned subsidiary DWP Ltd processes over 1,500 tonnes per week at a dedicated plant at Oswestry situated on the England/Welsh border with material collected by various means within a 150 mile radius.

It also collects material throughout the UK and Ireland using trailers for delivery to Oswestry or to one of our associate processing plants.

Please contact our commercial team on +44 (0)1829 732471 or email: commercial@rukgroup.com or visit: www.rukgroup.com

ACI Group achieves UK first with Social Value Quality Mark

ACI Group, a leading distributor working with some of the largest global food, pharma, industrial and road businesses, has become the UK’s first distributor to achieve the esteemed Social Value Quality Mark (SVQM) – an award that aims to cultivate and recognise the highest known standards in values-led business.

To mark its journey towards a sustainable business model, the Berkshire-based company has announced recently that it will redefine what sustainability means under its distributor as a service model.

As part of a series of pledges for the SVQM, ACI Group aims to positively disrupt the market by taking pivotal steps to demonstrate its commitment to both people and the planet.

“We are passionate about service and sustainability in the supply chain – and we want to start making a difference in our customer supply chain today,” comments Karsten Smet, Director at ACI Group. “Consumers want demonstrable proof of sustainability claims from the brands they purchase from, they want to understand where their products have originated and how they are made. At ACI Group, we want to help our customers and suppliers ensure that any sustainability claim is measured from the outset.”

For further information about the Social Value Quality Mark, please visit: www.socialvaluequalitymark.com

To find out more about ACI Group and its activities, visit: www.acigroup.biz

Industry Update is sponsored by Excelerate Ltd – see them on page 11
Delivering low carbon solutions with modular technology

EnviroChemie has recently signed a contract with Abbey Ecosse Ltd to design and build an Anaerobic Digestion system at the Forss Business and Energy Park in Scotland. The plant will treat waste products from whisky distilling, producing biogas, which will be converted to bioenergy, to be utilised in the site’s ‘decentralised smart energy network’. The plant is part of the Ecosse North Coast Energy Network (ENCEN) project working alongside other green technologies to produce low carbon heat and power for the business park.

EnviroChemie has established a reputation for energy and resource efficient technologies for water and wastewater treatment and recycling, specialising in developing and implementing sustainable customised solutions in different industries.

We offer a holistic range of ‘Made in Germany’ branded products and services based on biological, membrane filtration and chemical-physical processes, whose pedigree relies on its long list of research achievements and patents. EnviroChemie adopts a partnership approach in which client specialised needs and characteristics form the basis for individual design, planning, engineering, building and commissioning of treatment plants.

Plant solutions for water treatment and resource recycling or biogas production save valuable resources and energy. We continuously develop the technology lines for physical-chemical, biological and membrane technology water treatment, created in our own research department. Customer-specific solutions can be tested in our own technology centre or in pilot plants.

EnviroChemie is a member of the EnviroWater Group, a network of companies with specialists in the solution of a broad range of requirements for sustainable water treatment.

The EnviroChemie solution for ENCEN incorporates established anaerobic technology with innovative membrane separation. This will convert a high proportion of the organic waste to biogas, and produce a high-quality water for discharge, both reducing the sites carbon footprint and minimising the environmental impact.

The solution will be delivered in a modular format, with the majority of the technology being built offshore. This will mean a quicker installation and commissioning phase but also allow for repeatability of the solution at other locations.

The project is being developed under the Scottish Governments Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) and will contribute to the region’s pathway to ‘Net Zero’ carbon emissions.

Neil Robertson of Abbey Ecosse said, “We selected the EnviroChemie technology solution after an extensive technology assessment by Ricardo Energy and Environment based on the options available in the market at this scale. Working in partnership with EnviroChemie has produced a highly innovative solution to achieve our net zero requirements.”

The EnviroChemie WaterExpert™ digital platform will also be incorporated, as part of the ongoing plant operation.

The WaterExpert™ app offers an easy and convenient way to help monitor and optimise plant operation. Using a smartphone, tablet or desktop computer, you can get a remote overview of the status of the entire plant with:

- Real-time data monitoring, including trend graphs and performance analysis
- Remote monitoring (optional)

This means you can minimise the amount of work required on site, reduce costs and even optimise operation to make it more efficient.

To use your water resources more efficiently, seek practical advice from our advanced water treatment specialists.

For more information, please contact Lester Young at: lester.young@envirochemie.uk

Or visit our website at: www.envirochemie.co.uk

Using Water & Resources sustainably

Water Recycling • Re-use • Biogas Production

With customized plant solutions & services

- Saving resources & energy
- Reducing operating cost
- Optimizing CO₂ and water footprint

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Germany (Headquarters) • Great Britain • Maghreb
Middle East • Norway • Poland • Russia • Sweden • Switzerland
Industrial compressed air brand, Worthington Creyssensac, has launched the new ‘Class Zero’ oil-free compressors for the UK & Ireland markets. Certified to be 100% free of any traces of oil or other contaminants, the new OF 20-75V range has been designed for use in pharmaceutical, biotechnology and chemical sectors, where production of air quality to the ISO 8573.1:2010 class is essential to maintain high standards of manufacturing.

As there is no lubrication in the compression cycle of the machine, this new generation of compressors replaces previous oil-injected machines, that rely on downstream filtration to achieve the required high levels of air purity. As well as further enhancing product safety, oil-free technology enables pharmaceutical and chemical producers to save time and money by dispensing with monitoring, cleaning, and maintenance of oil filters, the removal of which will help to achieve lower operating costs.

With climbing production energy costs in mind, Worthington Creyssensac implemented variable speed drive (VSD) compressors in its new oil-free models to help offset the rising costs. A VSD compressor matches the power consumption to the air demand, especially when the production process is not constant, varying its speed and thus reducing the energy consumption during low usage periods to maintain outlet pressure to ±0.1 Bar. By selecting a VSD compressor, the manufacturers can meet their fluctuating air demand profile, reducing overall energy consumption by as much as 35%.

Learn more here: www.worthington-creyssensac.com/en-uk/products/oil-free-compressors/of-range

Highly sensitive Arsine sensor

With the AsH3/C-1 and the AsH3/M-1 MEMBRAPOR presents two extremely highly sensitive sensors, which allow the highly toxic gas Arsine to be measured in the ppb range.

Despite its past as a component in chemical weapons, Arsine is now a common technical product in the semiconductor industry. Arsine is used as a doping gas on a large scale and in significant quantities in the context of thermal doping of silicon in the diffusion process and in ion implantation. To ensure safety, all processes need to be controlled and monitored with electrochemical Arsine sensors.

Contact www.membrapor.ch/arsine-sensor

Interface Force Measurements: Force, torque and pressure measurement

Interface Force Measurements has been supporting UK industry with the highest quality force, torque and pressure sensors for more than 25 years. You can benefit from our experience whenever you contact us about your next measurement application, experience gained helping designers and engineers across multiple industrial sectors.

We’ll use our experience and product knowledge to help you select the best sensors for your application from our wide range of sensors from some of the world’s best sensor manufacturers, including:

- Interface Inc – single, dual, 3 and 6 axis load cells and torque transducers
- AMT – 6 and 9 axis load cells and force plates
- GPS – pressure and temperature sensors for oil/gas, aerospace, automotive food/beverage and general industry
- DOM – miniature pressure sensors for automotive R&D
- XSensor – pressure mapping systems for bed/mattress, seating, automotive R&D, tire testing applications and impact testing for seats, airbags, helmet and protective equipment

We can also help with your data collection needs with our range of amplifiers, displays and software what will work with our and other manufacturers’ sensors.

So, if you have a force, torque or pressure measurement challenge that you’d like our help with, please contact us.

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www.interfaceforce.co.uk

Arise Technology Limited

www.esi-tec.com

Compatible with Hydrogen based environments
Pass tested to ISO11114-4:2017
Superior Silicon on Sapphire sensing technology
Made from specialist titanium alloy and stainless steel material
The world leader in force measurement

Interface Force Measurement Solutions (Interface) is a UK company specialising in the supply and distribution of high-quality sensors and associated electronics and displays for a wide variety of industries. Working previously with clients such as Airbus, BAE Systems, and Formula One Teams, we spoke with Tony Rolle, Business Development & Pressure Mapping Specialist, who explained some of the companies well known products.

“Our product portfolio is applicable to many industries. For instance, we are well known for our high-quality pressure mapping systems that are used by many of our automotive and motorsport customers. Our sensors deliver highly accurate, repeatable measurements and many of our load cells are used by calibration houses as calibration reference devices. Our high-quality, yet competitively priced 3 and 6 axis load cells are used for many R&D, renewable energy and robotic applications.”

Reflecting on last year, Interface has faced much adversity from COVID-19. Fortunately, its sturdy business model and reliable service has enabled the company to pick up the pace and continue projects that were left postponed. “Training conditions have been tough, but business levels picked up strongly towards the end of the year. I think we came out it stronger than we could have reasonably expected.”

In terms of recent developments, Tony continued, “We’ve taken some time to review our business model, how we operate on a day-to-day basis. We are responsive to our customer’s needs and being able to offer a high-quality product with strong product knowledge at a competitive price with the best possible lead times is our number one priority.”

2021 also welcomed the launch of the G-Series Load Cells. The range comprises of miniature and small sensors for industrial applications, with capacities starting from just 4.5N Newton up to 200kN with metric threads. “These are high-performance devices but aimed at more cost-conscious applications. This is a new market for us, but we are seeing increasing interest. We are launching an e-commerce website for the G-Series in the next couple of weeks. Competitive pricing and availability from stock will be key to this new venture’s success,” stated Tony.

In the future, Interface is keen to continue its growth trajectory for 2022. He asked Tony how he felt receiving the award and what their plans are going forward, he answered, “We work hard for our customers to offer the best measurement solutions. The recognition is greatly appreciated. Long term, we are strengthening our position with our customers in our more traditional markets of aerospace, automotive, motorsport, Universities and alternative energy research. We are also working on new, wireless force and vibration sensors for remote monitoring in systems such as luggage carousels. One more area we are pushing for growth is with Kinexon’s pressure mapping systems, particularly in the Hi-speed systems designed for high-speed impact or crash testing and tire foot-print research. These systems are capable of capturing data up to 2,500 frames per second. The tire sensor can be driven over at speeds of up to 140kph. I believe this is a unique capability we can bring to the industry.”

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Test & Measurement Update

The world leader in force measurement

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An in-depth look at the skills gap troubling the industry

Manufacturing is a highly professional industry that requires its workers to earn particular qualifications, leading to the current skills gap shortage troubling the sector. Recruiting skilled engineers and other production team members is a constant issue to fill all the current vacancies, but there are ways to fix this.

What is the manufacturing skills gap?

The manufacturing industry plays a prominent role in the UK’s economy. With over 270 thousand businesses in the manufacturing sector across the UK, it’s recognised as one of the most significant contributors to the UK economy.

Any business needs to adapt to thrive & evolve, including STEM industries. By implementing intelligent technologies such as big data, Cloud computing and Industrial IoT, managers can more accurately optimise their work processes & identify those areas that need improvement.

The skills gap is partially due to the rapid advances in smart technologies and automation that are helping increase the efficiency of the industry. However, whilst investing in these new technologies is a great idea, many people do not have the experience or qualifications to use them.

Unfortunately, there are many working positions unfilled across manufacturing and other STEM sectors. These vacancies are known as the skills gap. The manufacturing skills gap is not just a buzzword for low employment numbers; it is, in fact, a complex reality that many spring manufacturers face as there are more open positions than applicants to fill them.

Workforce shortage will be an essential factor in deciding the future of the manufacturing industry. In order to prosper, the sector must embrace the initiatives already in place to attract skilled people to enjoy a profitable career in STEM.

Scholarships, bursaries, and apprenticeships are all fantastic ways of increasing this awareness and are growing in addressing the skills gap successfully. In addition, male and female postgraduate students can apply for funding opportunities that will help them explore a career in manufacturing or any other sector under STEM.

Brunel University in London offers a mentoring programme called Women in Engineering and Computing (or WIEC) that encourages and supports female graduates and undergraduates to begin a fulfilling career in manufacturing.

The UK is home to many prestigious universities well known for innovation, research and creativity. This has created a reputation for top-ranked UK universities globally and has been providing STEM education in many forms for centuries. In addition, this positive relationship between these institutions and manufacturing companies has created a supportive network for job hunting or apprenticeship applications that makes it much easier for employers to find people to fill their skills gaps.

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Industry Update is sponsored by UNISIG – see them on pages 14-16

Springs Update

Upskilling your team

One short term solution to the skills gap problem is to upskill your current workforce. Re-training and developing new skills is an excellent way to grow your existing team and address those areas with gaps. Additionally, focusing on automating easier processes will free up those team members to address the more complex parts of your business.

Another practical method for filling skills gaps with upskilling is implementing personal development plans (or PDPs). These help companies set goals for each employee and encourage their development as they learn the skills required.

By upskilling your team to your new equipment and procedures, companies are building well-rounded, multi-skilled workforces capable of filling those missing positions and increasing their businesses’ overall efficiency.

Investing in young people

At European Springs, we believe that investing in new engineers supports us and benefits the industry as a whole. In addition, by increasing awareness of the advantages of STEM careers to students through various existing programs and apprenticeship schemes, the talent pool will be increased dramatically.

Continuing to promote our excellent apprenticeships is crucial to us as a company. We offer incredible schemes that follow the mechanical manufacturing apprenticeship framework and award BTCE Level 3 certificates in Engineering operations and maintenance.

Filling the skills gap

The way manufacturing companies react to this labour shortage will be an essential factor in deciding the future of the manufacturing industry. In order to prosper, the sector must embrace the initiatives already in place to attract skilled people to enjoy a profitable career in STEM.

Scholarships, bursaries, and apprenticeships are all fantastic ways of increasing this awareness and are growing in addressing the skills gap successfully. In addition, male and female postgraduate students can apply for funding opportunities that will help them explore a career in manufacturing or any other sector under STEM.

Brunel University in London offers a mentoring programme called Women in Engineering and Computing (or WIEC) that encourages and supports female graduates and undergraduates to begin a fulfilling career in manufacturing.

The UK is home to many prestigious universities well known for innovation, research and creativity. This has created a reputation for top-ranked UK universities globally and has been providing STEM education in many forms for centuries. In addition, this positive relationship between these institutions and manufacturing companies has created a supportive network for job hunting or apprenticeship applications that makes it much easier for employers to find people to fill their skills gaps.

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