

Best Practice



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Commitment to Excellence

Autolift Ltd. releases an air operated version of its ever popular 1.5 Tonne Transmission Jack



"Autolift Ltd specialises in the design and manufacture of commercial vehicle pit jacks, jacking systems and jacking beams. Our equipment is ideally suited for the workshop maintaining HGV's, Trucks and PSV vehicles. As one of the major UK suppliers of pit jacks, we have established an unrivalled reputation, providing safe, efficient and cost-effective lifting solutions to all truck, bus and coach garages - we offer jacks with lifting capacities from 13 tonnes through to 40 tonne models," stated David Smith, Managing Director.

Established in 1999, Autolift Ltd is British born and bred. In 2010, the company was purchased by Neil Smith and moved to its current location in Shilton near Coventry in the Midlands. Following Neil's retirement, David Smith who is Neil's son took over the running of the business to which is now part owned by David and his sister Emma.

The company has a global reach with customers from New Zealand and Madagascar and is proud to use UK suppliers to manufacture components for their range of pit jacks, free standing jacking beams, which are all assembled out of its manufacturing plant based here in the UK. Giving customers the option of either a manual or air assisted product, Autolift Ltd.'s entire range of pit and garage equipment is robust, safe and reliable providing a comprehensive solution to all vehicle lift, jacking beam and pit jack requirements. "We pride ourselves on only using UK companies for our parts then assembling them in our workshop to form the final components for the jacks. Furthermore, the power packs used on our jacks are made entirely by us to our own designs, unlike our competitors who use third party pump blocks and air pumps to power their jacks. Because of this we can keep strict control over the production and quality of what is the main component in any piece of hydraulic commercial vehicle lifting equipment," mentioned David.

From start to finish, Autolift Ltd. is consistent and professional in providing a full turnkey service of the highest standard. The company has been on the receiving end of many glowing reviews from past and current customers, "We have used Autolift for many years and we have found their product range to be excellent," "Their products are second to none. It's great to see industrial products that are manufactured here in the UK."

David commented, "The quality of our jack designs is excellent and provides years of trouble



free use and minimal on-going maintenance. For example, our cylinders use the latest in seal technology advancements and the rods are entirely submerged in oil which greatly extends their longevity before they need to be re-sealed or replaced. Compared to our competitors whose rams require re-sealing every 2-3 years and thus placing increased financial pressures and equipment downtime on their customers."



Autolift Ltd.'s vast range of jacks include single ram pit jacks, floor pit jacks, transmission jacks, spreader beams, twin ram pit jacks, as well as further accessories and spare parts. In support of these products, Autolift Ltd. also provides an after-sale service and repair of pit jacks. In the case of a pit jack being sent back to the workshop, to which Autolift Ltd. can arrange a collection by pallet courier if required, it then completes an assessment on the jack and delivers a detailed recommendation of the best solution back to the customer before any work is carried out. "Through our service and repair facility, we have links with numerous companies around the country that we can recommend to provide annual servicing and repairs on-site to lessen the downtime to customers," said David.

A latest product innovation sees a recent re-design of its new 40 Tonne Air Operated Twin Ram Commercial Pit Jack. "The new streamlined design is sleek and definitely improves



upon the bulky models usually seen for such high capacity jacks. Most importantly, the re-design was done to improve the overall performance and lifespan of the jack taking advantage of the latest advancements in seal technology and precision tooling to provide a market leading piece of garage equipment," stated David.

As with all Autolift twin ram pit jacks, the 40T model comes with a triple-layer of safety features as standard; a safety lowering valve, anti-burst valves in both cylinders and ram lock-off handles which prevent accidental lowering. They also offer Security studs, which can be fitted to all their jacks, to offer an extra layer of security to the user if requested. Each commercial pit jack is manufactured to suit all individual pit widths and specifications and come fitted with two double acting hydraulic cylinders that have a 400mm stroke.

"In May, we also released an air operated version of our very popular 1.5 Tonne Transmission Jack. Originally, we only offered a manual foot-pump version but given numerous enquiries we received we felt it sensible to recommend an alternative," stated David. The air operated hydraulic pump allows for an easy effortless lift and simple operation. Precision engineered valves allow for controlled lowering, whilst the high-quality castor wheels and side handles allows the units to be easily moved.

Recently, Autolift Ltd. has announced the hiring of the first employee under David's tenure as Managing Director as well as revealing they are in the final stages of testing a new 30 Tonne Pit Jack model that is due to be released in the next few months. David commented, "There are many changes happening but to focus on the future we hope to break into the European market further and I strongly believe we can do so as we are able to offer a fantastic and reliable product at competitive prices. We are constantly looking at ways to improve our products and are currently researching and trialling a complete overhaul to the design of our pit jack to enhance the performance even further. This is some months away yet as we are being thorough in ensuring we are able to provide the quality and reliability that our customers have come to expect from us."

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UNISIG
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ROTECH SYSTEMS

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Industry leading deep hole drilling technology



In this issue of Best Practice, we are pleased to announce UNISIG have received our Company of the Year Award.

Established in 1981, UNISIG originally was founded to provide deep hole drilling machines, accessories and related services to the US market. It soon built up a strong reputation within the industry for deep hole drilling applications and successfully began supporting customers from a multitude of industries. In 1995, a new ownership fast tracked the company and redirected its journey creating a fresh perspective. Through its strong engineering and manufacturing capabilities, UNISIG formed a resilient character to push the limits of what was possible within the industry.

Fast forward to the 21st century, UNISIG has morphed into a modern, comprehensive production line that focusses on technology, performance and the maintenance of high standards within the industry. Its machines are engineered and manufactured by people who understand machine tools and are passionate about precision and performance. As one of the largest producers of deep hole drilling machines, UNISIG is a leader in technology, innovation, support,



and service. Its capabilities serve customers from many sectors, with its machines used to help solve solutions from the simplest to the most complex of applications. Its products are available globally with installations in the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

UNISIG offer a complete deep hole drilling system solution that includes machines, tools and automation. Its engineers hold vast amounts of technical expertise that are transferred to its clients through the company's overall service. Deep hole drilling



is defined by its depth-to-diameter ratio, and typically holes greater than 10:1 is considered as deep holes. It consists of BTA drilling and gun drilling, with additional processes designed for specific tolerance objectives and is generally performed on BTA-style deep hole drilling machines. The process can be used in a plethora of materials from aluminium to super-alloys, and is capable of achieving tight diameter control, straightness, and superior surface finish into workpieces.

UNISIG products cater to many industries such as aerospace, energy, oil and gas, military and defence, automotive, hydraulics, medical, molding, and more. Its impressive drilling capabilities has set new standards within the industry for deep hole drilling machines, and its technology has been manufactured to create machines for BTA, gun drilling, counterboring/reaming, pull boring, trepanning, skiving and roller burnishing, bottle boring, bottom forming, and many more.

A product model to highlight from UNISIG is the UNE6 that comes in three models. The UNE6, UNE6-2i, and UNE6-2i with optional robotic automation. All three machines are designed so that medical manufacturers can accurately and productively gundrill components after swiss machine turning. Specifically focussing on the UNE6-2i models, they are an expansion on the UNE6 machine and come with a range of new and exciting features that open up new possibilities in medical tool drilling. The machine is perfect for the medical industry or for any companies producing medical components.

The machine allows the user to reduce dependency on cannulated materials and expand on their own capabilities. The UNE6-

2i medical gundrilling machine is designed for the challenges and dimensions faced by medical manufacturers. The machine is capable of drilling holes from 0.8-6.0mm, comes with two automation options and a two independent spindle configuration that allows manufacturers to find a solution that perfectly fits their needs.

Knowing the unique barriers manufacturers can face in making medical components, UNISIG created the UNE6-2i as a solution to these problems. With over 40 years of experience in delivering precise, intuitive deep hole drilling machines around the world, the UNE6-2i, alongside other systems available by UNISIG, has been created to enable customers to achieve greater success.

UNISIG offer many integrated solutions to the medical industry and deliver a confident complete deep hole drilling system solution. As well as optimising productivity, UNE6-2i configurations expand capabilities efficiently and ergonomically by maximising



demand consisting of robots for part loading and with international automations for loading the tools.

UNISIG offer the option for every machine to be built robot ready and its the UNE6-2i has been tremendously successful for manufacturers around the world. UNISIG can tailor each machine to the customers process to make it more impactful, and each machine is highly engineered towards specific customer specifications which then helps towards a more productive process and more spindle uptime.

Over the past 12 months, UNISIG has received an increase in orders from manufacturers within the medical industry and has also seen an increase in interest from some services that have started growing again post COVID-19. "Medical, energy and oil industries have risen, but other industries have slowed down. We are fortunate that our products cater to a vast number of industries so when one industry is not performing as well as others, we capitalise on the ones that are in demand and can cater our products to them. The past two years UNISIG has experienced our strongest progress since we began, we believe the ability to cater to an abundance of industries keeps us afloat and enables us to keep growing," stated Philipp Steimle, Managing Director.

In the future, UNISIG will be attending more events enabling them to once again interact with customers face to face. The past 18 months has welcomed meetings via Microsoft Teams which have been productive, but not always efficient for UNISIG to serve clients to its full capabilities. The company is excited to once again be able to offer customers the full experience and make the most out of being able to travel to them and for them to travel to the company's facility.

Philipp mentioned how UNISIG felt being named as our Company of the Year, "we feel honoured that our continued work in the industry is being recognised."

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production via an independent spindle that provides manufacturing flexibility from use of the operator or robot.

In simple terms, UNE6-2i is a dual spindle, independent machine that offers a single operating zone for operator loading. Sequential operations can be run on the same machines with the optional robotic automation from the rear that is available without interfering the manual set-up and operation.

UNISIG has seen a growing demand from companies within the medical sector looking for fully automated machines that are operated by robots. In response, UNISIG offers an extensive line of fully automated production cells to cope with consumer



Your solution for Stainless Steel fasteners and precision turned parts



In this issue of Best Practice, we are proud to announce that we have chosen to Recommend Precision Technology Supplies Ltd.

Precision Technology Supplies Ltd is one of Europe's leading importers and distributors of Stainless Steel fasteners and precision turned parts. The company is a stockist and distributor of Metric and Unified Stainless Steel fasteners and is a specialist stockist of Stainless Steel Micro screws and fasteners.

Precision Technology Supplies Ltd was established in 1988 and has expanded significantly over the years since its inception, offering its customers the widest range of industrial Stainless Steel fasteners and precision turned parts. Now regarded as one of the leading suppliers in both the UK and Europe, the company delivers on a global scale, offering same day shipping from stock.

"We supply to customers in a wide variety of different industry sectors and in over 90 countries all over the world. We offer the widest range of products in our field. Our quality is renowned along with our services and customer support," stated Andy Knight, Sales Director.

With a vast range of stock on offer, Precision Technology Supplies Ltd is a one-stop-shop for Stainless Steel fastenings, and delivers a fast, reliable and efficient service.



In 2015, PTS were announced as a distributor for the Bumax range of High Strength Stainless Fasteners and is now more equipped than ever to fulfil its customer's needs. With further additions such as Nordlock washers, Shoulder Screws from AMPC and the Evolution range of construction fasteners. PTS, are able to offer high quality products to a wide variety of industries.

One of the main focuses for the company, and one that Precision Technology Supplies Ltd places the utmost importance on, is its reputation for quality. Precision Technology Supplies Ltd understands the importance of ensuring that quality runs throughout its entire business and not just its products. Through this ethos, the company has continually invested in its people, to ensure it employs the right people, to provide superior market knowledge and outstanding customer service. This ethos is echoed throughout the company's operations, from its supply chain partners and



manufacturers to logistics and information technology; everything is carefully and meticulously chosen to uphold the company's stance on quality.

Precision Technology Supplies Ltd is dedicated to customer satisfaction, and invests in people and technology, to create a superior level of customer service. In addition, to ensure that its customers' needs are constantly met, Precision Technology Supplies Ltd is always self-evaluating and evolving through adding new products to its product range and expanding its offering for customers.

Another area of note is Precision Technology Supplies Ltd's services which includes inventory management, plating, path locking and screw modification.

Precision Technology Supplies Ltd holds 30 years of experience in managing customer production lines on-site to ensure 'just-in-time' delivery. The company offers a selection of variations for Direct Line Feed management, which can be tailored to suit individual needs.

In terms of its plating service, Precision Technology Supplies Ltd has the abilities to plate standard and special screws in most materials. The most popular of these is the company's 'Touch-Dry' Chemi-Black process, which is frequently used by an increasing number of customers in high-tech industries. This is also known as 'Black Oxide', which features a thin finish, that does not affect any dimensional tolerances, the company also provides a variety of other finishes such as Gold, Nickel, Silver and Zinc (Rohs Compliant).



Regarding its screw modification services, Precision Technology Supplies Ltd is able to offer a modification service for its customers, from 1.6mm diameter to customer drawings and precise specifications. This can often provide a far more cost-effective and efficient solution than manufacturing, especially where smaller quantities are required.

As for the company's future plans, Precision Technology Supplies Ltd's main aim is to continue building upon its solid foundation of quality and its reputation of providing excellent services, at competitive prices. The company will also be looking to expand both its premises and increase its staffing level to accommodate its rapid, and growing demand.

In closing, we spoke once more to Andy, he stated, "The best way to see how good we are, is to try us!"

If you would like to find out any more information on the company, or to speak to them directly, please see the details below.

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Intelligent designs, effective results



Clean Air Environmental was founded by Father and Son duo, Mark Ashby (Son) and Bob Ashby (Father) in June 2017. Based in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, the company has seen steady and significant growth and has just celebrated its 5th year anniversary.

Clean Air Environmental specialises in the engineering of industrial ventilation systems and provides a comprehensive service consisting of consultancy, design, supply, installation, and commissioning of industrial ventilation systems and services. The systems are engineered to integrate seamlessly into a facility and is predominantly designed for use in Industrial Manufacturing (Automotive, Aerospace, food manufacturing etc.), universities, colleges and schools. Offering intelligent designs and creating effective results,



Clean Air Environmental's systems enhance air quality, providing healthier clean air for students, workers and operatives.

The company was built from the Directors joint experience of 60 years' in concept design, contract management and installations of the highest quality systems worldwide, and Clean Air Environmental was formed to serve the UK. The company is extremely committed to quality and as such, imports equipment from all over Europe and the UK, to ensure successful solutions are achieved every time.

As an independent company, Clean Air Environmental is not bound to one manufacturer, which equips them with the agility to design ventilation systems, based on their client's requirements, instead of providing a standard catalogue



product. Furthermore, the company has built a strong reputation and is well-known in the industry for innovation, concept design and consultancy.

"Our services are solutions led rather than product led, so we can design the best ventilation systems that will meet our client's exact needs, rather than specifying from one catalogue and making the solution fit the product range," mentioned Mark Ashby, Director.

One key area of importance for the company is health and safety, and Clean Air Environmental places meticulous attention to detail in the design and site installations, ensuring that the company only use the best products, equipment and installation engineers. This is a strong focus for Clean Air Environmental, who operate by the ethos that 'Only the best is good enough.'

"I have worked within the industry for over 30 years and have a wealth of experience in providing effective solutions for my customers. We believe workers health and safety should always come first and our designed solutions will ensure we always protect people first followed by the environment," added Mark.

From initial concept to conclusion, Clean Air Environmental is always focussed on complete customer satisfaction, providing innovative clean air solutions that meet the changing needs of its customers, with the ultimate goal of maximising production efficiency, improving the workplace environment and reducing the overall environmental impact.

With customer satisfaction being placed at the forefront of its operations, Clean Air Environmental ensures its solutions both meet its customers' exacting requirements and also exceeds their expectations. The company achieves this by using the latest technologies, to create intelligent solutions that provide a whole host of user benefits, to enhance the workplace and meet or exceed legislative standards for both dust control and collection.

Reflecting on recent developments for the company, Clean Air Environmental responded effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic, and worked throughout the pandemic to assist its customers, with many of them being deemed as an essential service. Mark expanded, "We worked right

through the pandemic to support our existing customers to ensure they could continue with their operations, we continue to put our customers' requirements at the centre of our business plan."

Another notable change for the company has been the sad loss of Bob Ashby, who passed away in 2021. Determined to carry and push the company further, through the Directors joint vision, Bob's son Mark continues to run the business. Mark added, "Sadly Bob passed away last year, but I continue to drive the company forward with the same ethos we agreed upon when we started; quality of service and solutions for our customers." He continued, "The company will continue to follow organic growth strategy and grow slowly in a controlled and well managed manner, to ensure customer experience remains excellent."

If you would like to find out any further information on Clean Air Environmental, or to get in touch with the company directly, please see the details featured below:
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Impact sucks your waste away: Automated waste packaging removal solution

With each passing year, the volume of waste plastic film, bags, cling pallet wrap, paper, and other flexible packaging materials, used by large ecommerce companies, fulfilment groups, supermarkets, mega warehouses, and distribution facilities, continues to rise. As consumer habits move away from the high street and towards online shopping and returns, this is only going to continue and contribute to a huge logistical challenge to manage unwanted flexible materials.

In-house waste disposal is becoming increasingly important and more reliable and effective solutions for removing, transporting, and recycling waste, are essential.

In many instances, the simple waste bin or cage is still widely used in these facilities to allow operators to dispose of unwanted mixed packaging during their daily duty. These are then manually moved to central waste collection points or compactors.

Impact Air System's solutions for large ecommerce and fulfilment giants are engineered to allow the operators to hand feed unwanted flexible material such as adhesive tape backing, garment bags, pallet wrapping, tissue paper or other similar waste products directly into a dedicated local suction point, located near the workstation. No more bins clogging up the work area or wasted time walking to and from central compactors or waste cages. No more slip or



trip hazards when waste collects on the floor, significantly reducing labour costs and time. There is also the added benefit of better recycling rates of this material if sorted at the source and bulk compacted or baled, resulting in a significant reduction in handling and transportation costs and treatment fees at the waste site.

Think vacuum cleaner, just on a much larger scale and integrated into the building's structure.

Waste is collected from the source of generation, transported through a ductwork system at a high level, freeing up valuable floor space. A fan provides the suction, moving material at high speeds to a central recycling area for compacting or baling.

Systems can be designed to collect material from multiple workstations simultaneously and transport it long distances to a convenient point, even move the waste to the outside of the building.

Each system can be built bespoke to each packing/unpacking scenario depending on the number of workstations, material quantity and space within the facility. Impact Air Systems works within a wide range of industry sectors, providing air-based technologies to improve productivity, increase recycling rates, reduce manpower, and save money, all whilst fulfilling environmental responsibilities.

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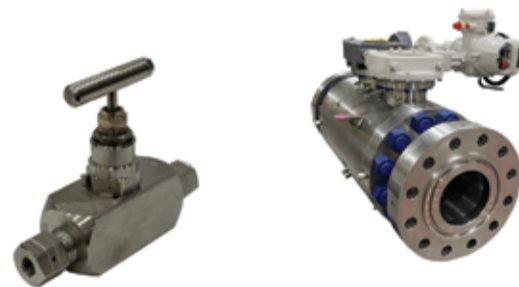
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UNISIG machines, engineered and manufactured in the USA

UNISIG
DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS

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.

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



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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Working directly with the local distributor, Morris Midwest, UNISIG was able to engage with Okuma

“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 Fetting, CEO of UNISIG.

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

Automated machining was the goal, which required a change in



America and Okuma Corporation’s technical leadership to tailor the specification of an Okuma MCR-A5CII 35x10 double column machine for the exacting geometry and overall volumetric accuracy needed.

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.

The collective Okuma team ensured the MCR-A5CII 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 3 m (10 ft) long to be machined simultaneously

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Interface Force Measurements have been supporting UK Industry with the highest quality force, torque and pressure sensors for more than 25 years.

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"We have a strong reputation for supplying devices that are reliable, accurate and offer repeatable measurements over a long period of time. Not only are our sensors high quality, but we also look to supply high quality sensors that include high calibration grades. Many of our customers are calibration service providers, so we also supply calibration companies with specifically designed load cells as calibration grade devices," stated Tony Rokins, Business and Development Manager.



Their qualified team have the experience and product knowledge to help you select the best sensors for your application. Interface Force Measurements can distribute the widest range of single-axis and multi-axis load cells, reaction or rotary torque transducers and pressure sensors, from some of the world's best sensor manufacturers, including:

- ▲ **Interface Inc:** Single, dual, 3 axis and 6 axis load cells, reaction and rotary torque transducers
- ▲ **AMTI:** Six-axis load cells and force plates
- ▲ **GP50:** Pressure and temperature sensors for oil/ gas, aerospace, automotive food/beverage and general industry
- ▲ **DDM:** Miniature pressure sensors for automotive R&D
- ▲ **XSensor:** Pressure mapping systems for bed/ mattress, seating, automotive R&D and static or dynamic tire testing applications and high-speed impact testing for seats, airbags, helmet and protective sports equipment.

Furthermore, the company also offer wired, wireless, single and multi-channel amplifiers, electronics, displays and software to help with your data collection needs that will work perfectly with their own or other manufacturer's sensors.

In April 2022, the company launched a brand new E-commerce website where customers can now order load buttons, in-line load cells and mini s-beam load cells. The Interface G-series has all the quality, reliability and performance you'd expect from a force transducer bearing the Interface name, but at very competitive prices. This E-commerce solution offers its G-Series load cells on short lead times with next business day delivery for all smaller orders. "We have invested lots of stock to support this and are excited to see the outcome," stated Tony. Launched around 12 months ago, the G-Series is popular amongst anyone requiring a small form force sensor offering accuracy, repeatability and interface quality.

In closing, we asked Tony what the company had planned for the future, he answered. "Additional products will be added to our E-commerce website, and we are also looking to expand into the airport services sector and by that we mean we have developed solutions for preventative maintenance and monitoring of luggage handling systems etc. We will also be looking to

re-promote our XSensor pressure mapping systems that are designed for product designers and safety testing engineers to see, record and evaluate the distribution of force from high speed impacts on safety equipment."

If you have a force, torque or pressure measurement challenge that you'd like help with, get in touch below:
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Machinery

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With over 34 years of experience supplying the machine knives industry, CAMB Machine Knives was established in the UK in 1989 and aimed to provide consistently high quality knives and service to a broad range of industry sectors. Based on these guiding principals, CAMB Machine Knives has flourished and grown throughout Europe, USA in 25 countries worldwide establishing a reputation for high quality products and service.

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For decades, well-known clients from all over the world have come to rely on LAUDA measuring instruments, which bring together precision, reliability, and longevity, along with extensive experience in sales and service to provide the very best levels of product support.

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Manage your assets with RFID



Major operations involve hundreds or thousands of different assets and it's easy for valuable equipment to be misplaced or lost. Taking inventory of your assets is a time-consuming and sometimes inaccurate process. That's where RFID Asset Management comes in. With all of your assets monitored by RFID tags and readers, you can know exactly what equipment you have. That information helps prevent losses and helps you make informed business decisions. But the benefits don't stop there.

With RFID, you can track not only the location of the asset, but also its condition. RFID tags enable you to instantly see when equipment was last inspected and when it's due another inspection or to be replaced. This reduces downtime because you can repair or replace important equipment at the right time. It also streamlines your maintenance process.

You can also track the movement of assets, so you get alerts when a piece of equipment has left its designated area. People can also be tagged with RFID wristbands, which can be vital when moving heavy equipment, to improve safety by ensuring each worker is out of the way.

RFID Asset Management is a solid investment for any business that has a lot of valuable assets to track. Benefits of RFID Asset Management include:

- ▲ Gaining real-time visibility of your assets
- ▲ Saving time over manual stocktakes
- ▲ The ability to locate assets using RFID
- ▲ Tracking the movement of assets
- ▲ Improving maintenance
- ▲ Improving compliance

If you have valuable fixed assets and are having trouble keeping track of them, an RFID asset management solution can not only save you time with manual tracking, but also save you money by reducing lost assets and improving maintenance.

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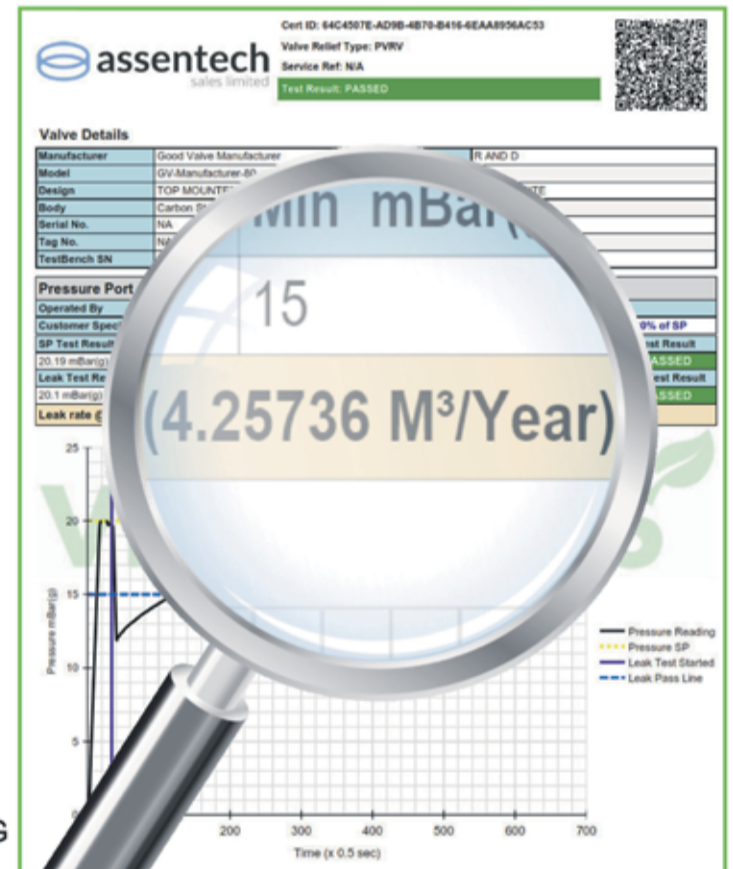
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Demonstrating Best Practice and evidencing your duty of care in Storage Tank Vent Management



We are lucky to live in a time where most hazardous or dangerous industrial processes operate within a legislative framework where best practice is available and most often based on learning from incidents and accidents.

Tank storage of volatile, toxic or flammable liquids is no different and has the benefit of International Standards API2000 and ISO28300.

The average bulk liquid storage tank costs in excess of £1m by the time it has been built and installed. The contents of the tank often contain hazardous, flammable or expensive media. It is therefore imperative that quality breather vents are installed on the top of a fixed roof atmospheric and low pressure storage tank. Their primary role is to minimise fugitive emissions and tank corrosion. Use of best practice to procure and maintain breather vents that meet the International Standards (API2000 and ISO28300) will protect your workforce, your facility, your profits and our environment.



for calibration or leak rate when new or periodically throughout its life. The consequences of this oversight mostly manifest in assets that leak harmful vapours into the atmosphere that are often invisible, as well as assets that are incorrectly set/calibrated that will not protect the tank from exceeding its design limits.

Excessive odours are tolerated because it has never been any different. Unfortunately, many readers will have heard reports of catastrophic failure of a storage tanks or fires get into the news often with reports of injuries or fatalities that lead to criminal prosecutions of company directors. With recent focus on clean air and the impact on human health and the environment, there has never been such an important time to understand and evidence your due diligence and duty of care.

Having served this industry for over 25 years, we have often heard that our offer for new tank breather vents has been refused on the basis that it was higher than a lower cost proposal from another supplier. The reply we get when advising the buyer that the cost difference was down to testing a design integrity to meet international standards is always that they purchased equipment that was 'fit for purpose.'

This lack of knowledge in the industry is a shameful consequence of suppliers cutting corners to reduce manufacturing costs to win business rather than supply

Can you evidence best practice for procurement and management of aging assets?

Is your breather vent safe and compliant? Does your breather vent leak? Does your breather vent meet the set point? Could you be held accountable in a litigation claim? What harm could you be doing to your workforce, environment, facility and your profits?

Ensure tank storage breather vents are tested and maintained according to the International Standards (API2000/ISO28300). Evidence and prove your innocence with understanding the risks and evidencing Best Practice.

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Cell ID: ED45220-834-443-828-11831-HEATB
Valve Test Type: P-Tyre
Service Ref: RAD_VS_GDDE_VALVE / Pre-Service
TEST RESULT: PASSED

Valve Details

Manufacturer	Quality Driven Organization	Customer	R AND D
Model	8000000	Customer ID	
Design	TOP MOUNTED	Site	R AND D SITE
Body	Carbon Steel	Case Ref	
Order No.	400000	Date	26/12/2021 20:40
Tag No.	TA0000000	Test Location	
TestBatch No.	100000	Inspector	Scott Eric

Pressure Port

Inspected By	NEEDY LUGGERS	Tested to additional NPL	
Customer Specified Set Point (SP)	20 mbarDCV	ISO28300 & API2000 and Leak Rate @90% of SP	
SP Test Result	2% of SP	Max-Min. Normality	SP Test Result
NO 2721M mbarDCV	15%	42.5 to 97.5	PASSED
Leak Test Result	4% of SP	Min. mbarDCV	Leak Test Result
48.03872 mbarDCV @ 14% of SP	75%	17.5	PASSED
Leak rate @90% is 0.0197 CFM (0.3 CCM), (4.8888 M3/Year)			



Compliant breather vents should be purchased with an individual and traceable Test Report aligned to the test protocol of the International Standards, which will evidence leak testing on both vacuum and pressure points, set point/calibration checks to evidence full functionality and performance. Breather vents are critical safety equipment and should be maintained as part of an aging plant management program with periodic documented checks for individual leak rate and calibration.

Most people are shocked to find that 9 out of 10 tank breather vents are not tested



quality equipment that keep employees and neighbours safe, your facility compliant, reliable and profitable.

We have case study evidence that demonstrates the reduction of GWP emissions from 160 tonnes per annum down to 158kg from one single vent. The Environment Agency has moved ahead with rules to force operators to follow best practice by issuing Regulation 61 Notices on tank farm operators.

It is your Corporate Social Responsibility to know and evidence the real facts on your breather vent functionality.

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- 2) API2000/ISO 28300 Test Report
- 3) Management of Aging Plant.

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Newland Magnetics Europe now supply a range of rare earth metals

In this issue of Best Practice, we have chosen to recommend Newland Magnetics Europe for its high-quality customer service and resounding technical expertise in delivering complete magnetic components to the industry.

Newland Magnetics Europe is part of the Ningbo Newland Magnetics Group that has been manufacturing Sintered NdFeB magnets and magnetic assemblies for over 12 years. Since its establishment, Newland Magnetics continues to receive an annual turnover of more than €30 million and is ISO9001:2015 and TS16949:2016 accredited. With a production capacity of 1,000 tons per year, the company is fast becoming one of the largest producers of high-quality NdFeB magnets in China.



Newland Magnetics Europe provides material data, technical, design assistance and sampling to assist with client applications. Once in production, the company can also provide a range of stocking options including consignment stocking from its location in France or with the client's facility. Having a European office and warehouse allows the company to offer reliable delivery services, high-quality customer services within European time zones.

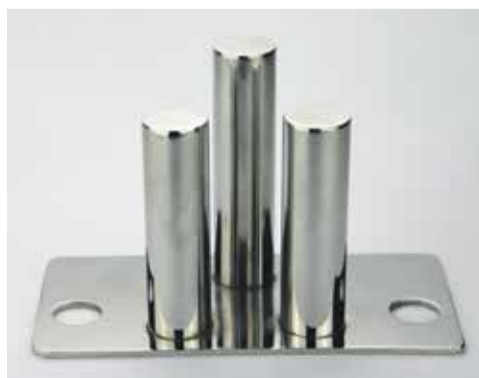
"Newland Magnetics Europe is not a distributor. We are the European subsidiary of Ningbo Newland Magnet Corporation Ltd, which gives us access to a number of magnetic specialists allowing us to provide technical data design assistance and pricing much quicker than our competitors. We operate out of our warehouse located in Cognac, France, which enables us to maintain stock in Europe. We can hold consignment



stock in our facility or at the customers location working to agreed call off schedules. Newland Magnetics Europe can supply clients with a wide range of materials including Sintered and Bonded NdFeB magnets, NdFeB Powder, AlNiCo, SmCo and hard ferrite magnets, as well as complete magnetic components assembled in our own factory in Ningbo, which allows us to control the quality of the assembly from magnet production to finished part. Our goal is to build a strong and lasting relationship as our customers reference supplier, whilst offering a premium customer service," stated Forbes Crisell, Managing Director.

Its parent company has been working with a number of organisations to constantly find new innovative products. Recently, it has worked with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has enabled Newland Magnetics Europe to begin supplying a range of rare earth metals with a very high purity of up to 4N. "The materials we can supply include Neodymium, Samarium, Aluminium Scandium and Dysprosium. The materials are supplied in ingots or powder form and in a range of packaging to enable easy integration into your production process," said Forbes.

Neodymium magnets (NdFeB) have a high strength and are one of the strongest magnets in the world. Even tiny Neodymium magnets can be effective due to its high strength. This capability makes it very versatile, however, most recently Newland Magnetics Europe has seen the cost of the raw material for NdFeB magnets increase at a fast rate, jumping to over 30% since the



Magnetics Europe is beginning to navigate its way out of such unprecedented times. "After a challenging year we are seeing business return to normal, the requirement for magnetic material is continuing to grow, driven by the increasing demand for electric/hybrid vehicles and the government's commitment to green energy. Also consumer demand for white goods, audio products etc is also pushing the demand for magnetic components." Newland Magnetics Europe is well experienced within the Renewable Energy market already as it manufactures and supplies a large range of quality Neodymium magnets, which are best suited for wind turbines. This invaluable knowledge combined with its employee's expertise enables the company to continue searching for new ways to best serve the industry with its solutions designed to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

The return of trade shows has been warmly received by many businesses and attendees alike. The opportunity to meet and connect with prospective customers and fellow industry professionals has been sorely missed and Newland Magnetics Europe is excited to get back amongst the mix. "We are finally planning to attend trade shows as we see them as an excellent way of meeting existing and potential new customers. In May 2022, we will be at CWIEME held in Berlin and are looking at other trade shows in the UK and Europe. We will update our website with the details of the additional exhibitions early next year," stated Forbes.

For more information, see below:
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beginning of October. Forbes explained, "To help our customers manage this increase in cost we have worked with our engineers to try and find ways to use lower grades of NdFeB where possible and we have also looked at using alternative materials such as samarium cobalt. Our factory also controls the manufacturing process to ensure any waste material is recycled back into production. They are also recycling magnets from obsolete assemblies such as hard drives and motors to reuse the magnetic elements in their new production process."

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt by many businesses all over the world. However, with restrictions slowly easing Newland



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The logo for FHOSS ILLUMINATED SMART WALKWAYS. It features the word 'FHOSS' in a large, white, sans-serif font. To its right is a stylized graphic of three vertical bars in green, yellow, and orange. Further right, the words 'ILLUMINATED' and 'SMART WALKWAYS' are stacked in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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Three Hauraton drainage systems installed at Margem Green Energy Biomass Plant

The Margem Green Energy Biomass Plant is a 40MW electricity power station utilising chipped wood waste as fuel otherwise destined for landfill. When fully operational the project will use around 300,000 tonnes of waste wood from nearby regions.

The plant is located on land off Harbour Way (A4241), near Margam in South Wales, in an area designated for commercial and industrial development. Built on a 3.98 hectares site



the buildings are surrounded by a 6209m² (66,834ft²) concreted yard plus asphalt access roads and car park.



Hauraton supplied three types of channel to meet the rigorous specifications for surface drainage of the main concreted yard surrounding the plant, weighbridges and car park.

Three sizes of RECYFIX[®] HICAP[®] high capacity channels were installed in the yard. 3 metres of HICAP[®] 1000, 303 metres of HICAP[®] 2000 and 255 metre of HICAP[®] 3000. The total water capacity of the HICAP[®] channels was just over 20,390 litres. By installing this system, the channel runs were kept to a minimum so saving on installation costs and future maintenance.

Factory fitted with 14mm slotted ductile iron inlets, the channels comply with a loading Class of F900 so can easily take the weight of a HGV fully laden with wood chips. Importantly, once

installed the complete system is highly resilient to the twisting forces imposed by the laden vehicles.

42 metres of FASERFIX[®] SUPER 150 channels with Class F900 ductile iron 20mm gratings were installed around the two weighbridges. The FASERFIX[®] channel component is made from the company's Fibre Reinforced Concrete with galvanised steel angle housings moulded into the top edges of the channel during production. This specification is highly resistant to extreme loads and constant dynamic forces and was found to be ideal for the weighbridge application.

The FASERFIX[®] gratings are secured by SIDE-LOCK[®] patented boltless system. The system allows gratings to be installed and later, removed quickly. Once a grating is positioned over the channel, foot pressure is simply applied. A loud click is then heard which confirms it is securely locked onto the channel. The grating is removed using a large screwdriver inserted into a discreet leverage point. This feature is particularly useful where channels need to be cleaned out at regularly.

Finally, 39 metres of RECYFIX[®] PRO 100 Type 75mm factory fitted with FIBRETEC[®] heel-safe gratings were installed in the car park. The FIBRETEC[®] grating, moulded from a fibre strengthened Polyamide (PA-GF) and allows loadings up to Class C250 (BSEN 1433)

All the RECYFIX[®] channel components specified for the project are made from 100% recycled Polypropylene (PP) derived from post consumer and post industrial sources.



Hauraton Project Manager, Cat Jones comments about the project, "We are pleased to have worked closely with the contractor, Interserve, on this large project. Working on a call of schedule with precise delivery dates we managed to ensure delivery's arrived on the specified dates. On site project management was essential to ensure the smooth running of this project"

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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.



The EasyExtend also uniquely stores all the components of the barrier inside the base, making it ideal for rapid and easy setup in the event of a hazard, as well as being possible to store in stacks with little space.

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 barrier can be used in three different ways.

The modular post and base system gives the choice of using single or dual-level tapes, allowing the user to create a more imposing boundary if they choose to. Once erected, the base portion features an integrated weight for stability. For extra sturdiness in harsh weather or on uneven surfaces, the user can then fill the base with an extra 12 litres of water or sand. An adapter can also fix the tape cassette, or clip tape ends, to the top of any standard traffic cone. This lets cones be used in place of posts, if needed, such as around large vehicles.

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 checkouts 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.

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

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Rotech Systems manufactures shaft encoders, speed relays and vibration sensors for monitoring and measuring the speed, position and direction of rotating shafts. Supplying the global market place, Rotech is well-known for its high quality, high reliability and high durability equipment, boasting an unrivalled reputation across the world.

Thanks to the equipment's tough, strong and heavy-duty construction, users benefit from years of maintenance free operation, even in the harshest industrial environments such as quarries and mines. With simple, quick installation, this equipment is found frequently in the bulk handling and processing industries, protecting conveyors, elevators, screws, crushers, mixers, and much more.



The heavy-duty sensors are installed on the end of the shaft or belt being monitored. They send an electrical signal proportional to the speed of the shaft/belt to a control unit.

The alarm level of the control unit is set to just below the normal running speed of the shaft. Should the shaft/belt slow down to below this set level, the control unit can be connected to give an audible or visual alarm to the operator, and/or shut down preceding items of plant.

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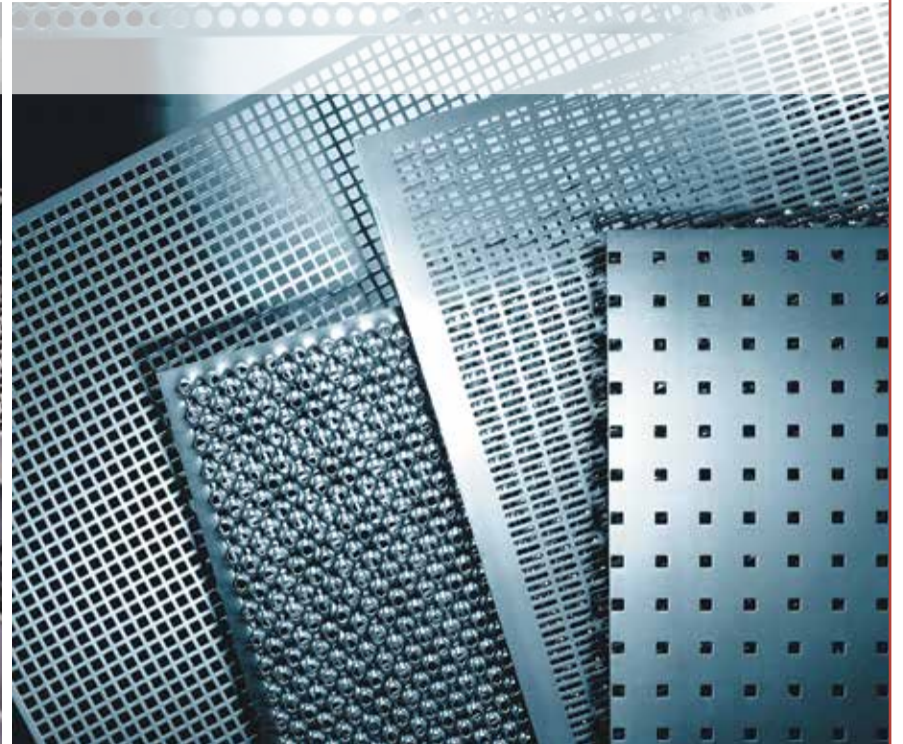
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One particular area of Industrial Processing is dealing with waste water. The water industry presents a number of unique challenges in the use of perforated products.

A key consideration here is the aggressive nature of the water towards the materials being used. RMIG has vast experience in servicing the waste water industry, and produces high flow, burr-free perforated waste water screens, offering accurate screen tolerances and effective separation.

Another area of Industrial Processing is medical and pharmaceutical, where RMIG's perforated materials are able to give firm tolerances during their manufacture, and are well suited for use in sterile environments.

RMIG's perforated products also have numerous uses in the petrochemical sector, from industry specific applications such as filtration, to oil and gas exploration, as well as more general applications such as walkways in processing plants.

Additionally, RMIG works with biomass drying applications. The demand for alternative sources of sustainable and renewable energy is always growing.

RMIG's Bridge Slot sheets are the most effective way of drying woodchip to an optimum moisture content, ensuring boilers operate efficiently to benefit farming and agriculture.

Bridge Slot

The RMIG Bridge Slot sheets play an essential role when it comes to the design and manufacture of biomass drying floors. The combination of sheet thickness and opening size allows RMIG's sheets to be used either as a suspended floor in wood chip drying containers and trailers, or as drive-on drying floors in outdoor buildings.

The bridge slot opening size determines the products that can be dried, which range from fine oilseed rape through to larger grains and cereals, as well as logs and wood chip drying.

Food Processing

RMIG's Food Processing market sector meets the high levels of hygiene demanded by the food processing industry. Perforated screens are also strong with important thermal capabilities, making them useful for a wide range of food processing applications. RMIG's tailor made perforated solutions are ideal for cleaning, heating and steaming in food production environments. Whether it's baking trays, cereal cleaning or ingredient conveyors, all of RMIG's perforated materials can be customised for each application.

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Big benefits from small parts picking in pallet racking

BITO

STORAGE SYSTEMS

Edward Hutchison, Managing Director of BITO Storage Systems, explains how using pallet racking for small parts storage turns this ubiquitous storage product into a flexible order picking solution.

While constant innovation generates a stream of new intralogistics solutions, 'classic' pallet racking remains the most commonly used storage system. Its relatively low investment costs and flexibility – whether through changing rack configuration, retrofitting special purpose modules or adding extra bays – have made it an indispensable framework for storage and order picking systems.

Of course, many operations use pallet racking as the basis for straightforward storage and retrieval of full pallets, either to fulfil customer orders or as a bulk store for replenishment. But the trend toward shorter product life cycles is increasing SKU numbers. The drive to minimise stock levels for each SKU and improve picking process efficiency to speed up order fulfilment, combined with demands for Just-in-Time



delivery and online retail, is generating a greater need for small parts storage.

This is where the adaptability of pallet racking comes to the fore because small parts picking can be easily integrated within pallet racks. One option is to create small parts pick locations on the reachable ground level, with upper storage levels serving as a buffer store for replenishment. Small parts storage containers will help to store and organise small goods and C-parts – making them available for quick and easy picking.

This will result in a reasonably efficient picking process but ground floor locations within a pallet rack will, of course, be limited. Solutions are therefore required to maximise the available space to create a pick face with sufficient locations for the required SKUs, and enough stock to ensure availability during picks.

Flow shelves can be easily installed into pallet racking to increase the number of pick locations and volume of SKUs located on the ground level pick face. Goods are easily accessible from the front of the racking – the rollers on the flow shelves allow bins and containers containing small items to be picked roll smoothly to the front of the shelf – which makes picking easy. A full container of parts will roll to the operator

each time the empty one at the front removed.

Standard shelving is another option to create flexible small item pick faces within pallet racking. There are several solutions: the first incorporates static shelving at right angles to the racking, with space in between each run to facilitate picking. An alternative option is pull-out mobile shelving that maximises the available space under the racking – though movement of shelving has a negative impact on pick time. A third solution involves static shelving parallel to racking, which makes front items easy to pick. Shelving dividers can be fitted.

Inclined supply shelving within a pallet racking bay will make items clearly visible for picking. Cardboard cartons or plastic bins can be used, though the later option enables preparation in advance at the goods-in area by filling the plastic bin with the items to be picked.

Plastic bins and containers will keep goods protected throughout the intralogistics process and during transport to ensure the quality of products are delivered to the customer in prime condition. It is worth seeking out storage system suppliers that in addition to offering racking, shelving and in flow lanes, also provide a container range comprising a variety of sizes with and a broad choice of accessories. Such a supplier will be able to design the optimum system to fit a given space, maximise the potential for small parts picking and, ultimately, improve fulfilment.

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Bradshaw EV release two industry leading electric vehicles

Established in 1976, Bradshaw Electric Vehicles (Bradshaw) have been manufacturing and distributing electric vehicles, producing some of the safest, most robust and versatile products. As the UK's largest manufacturer of electric vehicles for industry, Bradshaw specialises in delivering electric transport solutions that help reduce costs and improve efficiency.

"Our range includes electric road vehicles, utility vehicles, people carriers, tow tractors, load carriers, walkalong tugs and bin trailers which are supplied to companies for a variety of applications including, waste movement, manufacturing and line feed, logistics and distribution, hospitals, railways



and airports. If a client has the need to transport goods, then we can supply a tailor-made vehicle to suit their requirements," stated Ramsy Labassi, Marketing Manager.

A note-worthy addition within their range is their third generation T800, the leading four-wheel, 8-tonne tow tractor on the market. Providing an endless number of capabilities, the T800 is very popular and used for baggage towing in airports and many other applications. Some T800 product features include electronic steering, enhanced suspension, a new front axle, larger wheels, new brakes, and a redesigned cab.

Ramsy commented, "We have replaced hydraulic steering with electronic power steering, the leaf spring suspension has been re-configured, and we have also added a few aesthetic changes such as a soft-touch panel and instruments on the inside of the vehicle. It comes with a range of cab options and is the most robust, reliable and durable machine we have built that uses a low maintenance AC traction motor for more power whilst reducing costs and downtime."

In other news, The Goupil G6, a 100% electrical utility vehicle is now available in the UK. The new addition expands

the Goupil family, making the G6 a credible, environmental and economical solution for the sub-3,500kg market. The Goupil G6 boasts generous payloads and volume, a novel design that incorporates unprecedented body mounting options, and an unrivalled unique cab and driving position that is the best on the market for ergonomics and comfort.

"The Goupil G6 will be an instrumental part of our growth in 2022 and will have more options added in the year. We are also excited to release the PT2500, which



is a fully electric, remote-controlled pedestrian-operated tow tractor designed for moving articulated lorry trailers up to 25 tonnes. It's an ideal partner for manufacturing and distribution applications or anyone working in logistics and distribution," said Ramsy.

Bradshaw's vast customer base has expanded immensely over the years by



the increasing investment, innovation and commitment given to producing a strong product portfolio and a trustworthy service.

Ramsy commented, "We offer a first-class service, aiming to match the right vehicles to the right job. We are the authorised dealer for Club Car and offer many other services such as leasing or hire of our vehicles. We strive to deliver the best after-sales service possible from quickly dispatching spare parts to offering on-going maintenance contracts to keep customers vehicles running smoothly."

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