

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

MORE TRANSATLANTIC PROJECTS FOR AJE



The steel sockets getting loaded into a specially converted shipping container for their long journey to Antarctica

AJ Engineering has continued its work for a client who has secured work on various projects located over 8,000 miles away.

In 2017, we told how AJ Engineering had been contracted to create a steel platform which was installed on Bird Island, South Georgia in Antarctica.

That work was carried out on behalf of BAM Nuttall who have continual work with the British Antarctic Survey on the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisations Programme.

Now, AJ Engineering has recently dispatched materials which will be used in developments to the Rothera Research Station which is the largest British Antarctic facility, is a centre for biological research and a hub for supporting deep-field and air operations.

Situated on Adelaide Island to the west of the Antarctic Peninsula the site includes the Bonner research laboratory, offices and workshops and a crushed rock runway, hangar and wharf.

The latest work for AJE has been the fabrication and delivery of 350 steel sockets which will be installed in concrete for supporting side service structures.

Lee Binks, AJE's business development representative said: "Much like when we worked on the project for Bird Island there were various steps that we had to take to ensure that what we were sending across was not contaminated with anything. Due to the unique biodiversity of the island we had to be careful how we packaged the items. All of these islands are largely untouched by the outside world and the researchers want to keep it that way."

He added: "To deliver our sockets, we made special stillages to fit inside a standard shipping container which were issued by the client and then all 350 sockets had to be plugged and decontaminated prior to putting them in the container."

AJE team involved in £1m plus bridge refurb

The team at AJE is involved in the £1.8 million refurbishment of the Craigellachie Bridge.

Led by project manager Malcolm Rennie, AJ Engineering will be working with contractor appointed by Moray Council to carry out strengthening works on the structure.

A temporary repair to the bridge was carried out in spring, after an inspection by Moray Council engineers found damage to the bearings underneath the structure.

But now, a full refurbishment of the bridge is underway and is expected to be completed in March 2020.

The works will include replacing the bridge bearings, repairs will be made to the carriageway before it gets resurfaced, handrails will be upgraded, and the footpath will be upgraded with new kerbs and resurfaced.

Traffic lights will be in operation for the duration of the works, which will see traffic reduced to one lane, but they will be taken down between 21 December 2019 and 6 January 2020.

Moray Council's Chair of Economic Development & Infrastructure, Cllr Graham Leadbitter, said the upgrading works were vital.

"Craigellachie Bridge forms an important part of a strategic route through Moray for businesses, residents and visitors. The work to the bridge is a significant piece of essential maintenance. There will be some delays during the works, but I am sure motorists will appreciate the complex nature of the project and the long-term reliability benefits that the upgrade will deliver."



Business partnership out of this world

Forres-based firm Orbex has let cameras into its working rocket factory for the first time and AJE is delighted to be working with the company.

The behind-the-scenes imagery reveals how the company is using advanced engineering techniques and materials to create the next generation of renewably-fuelled European orbital launch vehicles.

The company also revealed its new Mission Control Centre that will be used to monitor orbital rocket launches from

Scotland and other sites, as well as engine tests from its two propulsion test sites.

Graham Alexander, general manager with AJ Engineering said: "As you would expect, our work with Orbex has to remain top secret, but we are delighted to be working with them and supplying them with various items. It's great to see a business of this type setting up in Forres and bringing such a focus to the town, but it's also pleasing that they are keen to use local suppliers."

NEWCo recognised for its role in early warning flood system

The team at NEWCo has been recognised for its expertise in supporting the development of technology which could provide early warning for floods.

The technology designed by the Oban-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) was recently deployed in the Scottish Highlands.

The device, known as SIMBA (Sea Ice Mass Balance Array), was originally developed to analyse sea-ice in the Arctic regions and is now used by researchers around the world but SAMS is exploring the potential of the technology to be used closer to home.

The equipment remotely gathers data in snow accumulation zones at around 1,000m altitude, primarily measuring ground, snow and air temperature profiles, snow accumulation and melt rates and total depth. It can give readings 24 hours a day during storms and dangerous snowpack conditions when these sites are often not accessible safely by avalanche forecasters.

The deployment in Glen Feshie will test the ability of the equipment to detect and monitor snow melt, providing data that can help scientists understand the contribution of snow melt in floods and ultimately enhance flood prediction models in Scotland.

Newco's project manager, Alan Stewart, said: "This was a great project to be

involved with and it is always nice to get recognition of what we do by our customers. We made some small but bespoke brackets for SAMS and later went on to refine the holding down design for the equipment."

SAMS Head of Enterprise David Guthrie said: "In a time of rapid change in our climate, it has become increasingly important to gather accurate data and create predictive models that give agencies the earliest forecasts possible. "Thanks to this collaboration, we have an opportunity to test SIMBA in a challenging environment such as the Cairngorms, as we explore its potential for assessing flood and avalanche risk. We are also grateful to the contribution of WildLand Limited Glen Feshie Estate for allowing site access and logistical support, and Northern Engineering and Welding Company (NEWCO) Ltd for the supply of equipment and expertise."



Jumper for Joy

Staff at AJE and NEWCo are being encouraged to 'Go Festive' and wear a winter woolly to help raise funds for Save the Children for the third year in a row.

Staff are being asked to don a winter woolly or Christmas-themed garb on December 13. Over the last two years almost £200 has been raised for the charity.

General manager Graham Alexander said: "The staff do seem to enjoy getting involved in the fun of the Christmas Jumper Day. It's a chance to have some fun, show off your knitting skills, raise awareness and a wee bit of money for an important charity."



CNC Operators

We currently have vacancies for experienced CNC machine operators at our small but busy workshop in Forres, the successful candidates would ideally have the following skills.

- Programming and setting of CNC milling and turning centres
- Experienced in FANUC controls an advantage but not essential
- Must be able to work as part of a team and unsupervised when required
- Have the ability to work quickly & safely to meet production targets
- Maintaining a clean and tidy work space
- Working to set deadlines
- Be flexible and able to work overtime as and when the business requires

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: Negotiable based on experience

To apply for this position contact: cjohnston@ajengineering.co.uk