

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



GIRDERS DELIVERED

AJ Engineering’s part in a multi-million-pound project is now complete after 31 steel girders, cast in concrete were delivered to site for the client to install.

And the project which is part of the Barrhead electrification programme provided a ‘first’ for the AJE team.

The company was contracted by BAM Nuttall on behalf of Network Rail to fabricate a bridge for Nithsdale Road in East Kilbride for a project which is expected to be complete by January.

The Barrhead electrification programme was given the green light last year in a

bid to decarbonise Scotland’s railway network.

The scheme, developed by Transport Scotland and Network Rail, involves the East Kilbride and Barrhead corridors, passing through East Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire.

Kevin Smith, who led on the project said: “This has been another successful project for our team at AJE and casting the beams in concrete was a first for us, so it was great to be involved in a new way of doing something.”

He added: “The beams were fabricated at the Waterford facility. As it is a former

sawmill, it was the perfect space for the 31 steel girders which are 17.5m in length with the overall length of the bridge being 20 metres.

“We worked with a company called Murform who pre-cast the concrete here in the yard. All of the girders have now been delivered to the site in East Kilbride and have all been installed successfully.”

Murform is a family run business offering groundwork, formwork, rebar and reinforced concrete solutions to a diverse range of building sectors including commercial, residential, education, infrastructure projects and energy production.



The girders in the workshop



The girders with reinforcement steel installed



The girders encased in concrete

SOUTH POLE BECKONS AJE TEAM FOR SECOND STINT



Ross Jack in Antarctica in 2021

Two teams from AJ Engineering will be heading to Antarctica for a second time.

Last year, the company secured work at the British Antarctic Survey's (BAS) remote Rothera Research Station, where temperatures can plunge as low as -34C and a team of 12 workers were deployed.

Now eight of the team will return to continue work at the station.

A team of steel erectors will leave for Antarctica in mid-November and the cladding squad will follow them out in mid-December.

AJE is working on behalf of client BAM Nuttall who have an ongoing relationship with BAS and have secured a 10-year, £500m contract to upgrade and extend their polar research stations.

Last year, the journey to reach the destination which is 8000 miles away

took over 20 days to complete due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however, this time, the journey will be more simple and take a lot less time.

The works will involve various tasks including erecting steel and installing the cladding on the new 'Discovery Building' which will replace the current science and operations building.

Their deployment to Rothera is part of a three-year project for AJ Engineering. Ross Jack who is one of the employees returning said: "The goal of this stint is to make the building water tight and we are all looking forward to being able accomplish that. The weather was pretty good when we were out there last year, so we are hoping for more of that. We are out for longer this time, but everyone who is going has been before so we know what to expect when we are there."

TALKING POLITICS

Alan James and Graham Alexander recently attended meetings with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to talk energy.

Graham was invited by Energy Transition Zone Ltd, in partnership with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) to attend the Offshore Wind Supply Chain Summit.

The summit was opened by Sir Ian Wood, Chairman of ETZ Ltd, chaired by Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, and included a keynote address by Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland.

As well as the summit itself, Graham was invited to a roundtable discussion with 14 other supply chain companies to talk directly with Ms Sturgeon about the challenges and opportunities they face.

Alan, meanwhile, was one of 10 business leaders who got the chance to meet with John Swinney, Deputy First Minister.

The discussion centred around rising energy costs and as Alan explained, the rise in costs is an issue for all businesses.

"There was one business who said they already have costs of £100K per year and have now been quoted £400K per year for a new contract. I put the point across that AJE and NEWCo also rely heavily on electricity in our manufacturing process and our costs are increasing. I also pointed out that our suppliers like British Steel are passing on significant increases due to energy costs and normally we cannot pass that cost on as we are usually on fixed price contracts. It was interesting to hear other businesses talking about the energy crisis and what it means for them."



Nicola Sturgeon addresses the audience at the Offshore Wind Supply Chain Summit

SHETLAND SPACE CENTRE

AJ Engineering has secured work on a project which could be described as being almost out of this world.

The company is currently working with SaxaVord Spaceport to procure steel for a hangar which is planned for the site at Unst in the Shetland Islands.

In February, SaxaVord announced that construction of the UK's first vertical launch spaceport would begin in March after it received planning approval from Shetland Islands Council.

The privately-funded spaceport will consist of three launchpads at the Lamba Ness peninsula in Unst, allowing for the launch of small satellites into either polar or sun-synchronous, low-earth orbits.

AJE director Graham Alexander said: "What the hangar will be used for and what SaxaVord are doing at Unst, makes it very interesting.

"At the moment we are simply procuring the steel whilst the drawings for the

hangar are completed. It's fascinating when you read about everything that is planned for the site."

In May this year, it was reported that a planning application to demolish the existing SaxaVord Resort accommodation and build a hotel in its place could be submitted by the end of the year.

SaxaVord Spaceport CEO Frank Strang said the budget for the project is now sitting at £60 to £70 million.