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The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



The Morgan Rushworth HDPX 3006 High-Definition CNC Plasma Cutting Machine

MORE MACHINES BOOST EFFICIENCY

A £200K investment has allowed AJE to bring an important part of production in-house, saving time and improving efficiency.

The Morgan Rushworth HDPX 3006 High-Definition CNC Plasma Cutting Machine was installed at the end of October.

The new machine which is fitted with a state-of-the-art Hypertherm XPR plasma system offers quick and high quality cutting of steel up to 35mm thick and 80mm thick using standard gas cutting techniques.

The maximum size plate that AJE can now process is 6m x 3m wide.

The investment means that there is now no need to outsource the work to companies in the south of Scotland or England saving valuable time.

Alan James said: "This is another significant investment for AJE. The machine is so efficient and gives a very neat cut to any shape that is required which is downloaded direct from information provided by our drawing office. We are saving a lot of time now, meaning we are able to take on more work in other areas of the business.

"This new piece of kit compliments the new Anglemaster HD Angle Line which was installed at our Waterford site in the summer as we can now make all the plates required for the beams and other parts which we manufacture right here on site. It's also made the processes much more cost effective and labour saving for the project managers as they no longer have to factor in dealing with an external company and the time it takes to transport goods from out with the area."

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Kevin Kydd

New role will help company capitalise

A new job role at AJE has been created to help the company capitalise on its recent investments.

Kevin Kydd has joined the company as senior manufacturing operations manager.

Kevin has worked all over the world as the fabrication department manager for the global projects centre within Subsea 7 which saw him travelling and managing fabrication projects from Australia to Brazil.

But when the opportunity of this new position at AJE came up, Kevin was happy to keep his feet firmly on the ground.

“I’m from Inverness originally and what AJE has offered is a great opportunity professionally, but also means that I am home based for the first time in a long time. I have three kids aged 16, 12 and 10. In my previous job I was away for two

or three days a week and that was for a long period of time.”

Kevin who lives just outside Inverness with his wife Eleanor and children, Callum, Charlotte and Chloe, took up post at the end of October and is responsible for looking after the teams in the drawing, fabrication and project support departments and also the safe and efficient operation of the workshops.

“I saw the job advertised on LinkedIn,” explained Kevin, “it was local but also ticked all the boxes of what I have built up in my professional portfolio. AJE has a good reputation in the industry for quality and is growing and expanding, so this is an exciting opportunity.

“One of my remits is to ensure that we are capitalising on all the new investments in machinery that have been made.”

Training Programme

The AJE extensive training programme continues with eight members of staff at different stages.

Hayden Windsor (16) has joined the fabrication/welder team at Waterford after leaving Forres Academy in June.

He is one of three to have recently undertaken a four-year course, modern apprenticeship in fabrication/welding and was inspired by his dad and grandad who also did apprenticeships.

“School wasn’t really for me,” said Hayden who lives in Kintessack, “I was keen to get out of school and saw the apprenticeship opportunity advertised on social media. I didn’t really know fully what it entailed, but I researched it and thought it could be something I would enjoy. Both my dad and grandad were apprentices and had talked positively about them, so I always knew this would be something that I might do.”

Hayden started with AJE at the end of August and is enjoying his work: “I thought when I first started that I might just end up doing small jobs, but on my first day I was welding. I am treated as one of the team and I am enjoying earning some money and the learning and working.”

Also embarking on an apprenticeship is 17-year-old Calum MacPherson. He is undertaking a graduate apprentice in design and manufacturing with Robert Gordon University.

From Fochabers, he learned about AJE’s apprenticeship opportunities at a careers’ open day at the Mansfield Hotel in Elgin where he met with office manager Fiona.

“It was interesting to find out more about AJE and realise that I could study, gain experience, get paid and work on real time projects. I have always been interested and liked maths and physics so engineering seems like a logical route.”

As well as training at AJE, the company also has a relationship with Nigg Skills Academy and three others have recently completed SVQ2 and National Certificate in fabrication/welding there after undertaking an intensive 16-week course. They will now continue their modern apprenticeship in the workplace.

Office manager, Fiona Anderson, “Training and apprenticeship opportunities are ongoing all the time at AJE and we have become renowned for our fantastic apprenticeship scheme. We attract people in different ways, from our website and social media channels to attending events

in schools or that are run by partners such as DYW Moray. It’s great to meet with young people and educate them on the fantastic opportunities that are available right here in Forres.”



Hayden Windsor



Calum MacPherson

Support for Ice Skating Club

AJE has given support to Caledonia Ice Skating Club, in Elgin who held a competition last month bringing together talented skaters and showcasing the skill and dedication of the skaters and highlighting youth involvement in sports.

The thriving club is dedicated to nurturing talent and promoting the joy of ice skating.

The sponsorship from AJE help towards the event costs such as venue fees, medals, and prizes.