

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



The site for the new BASF Pharma facility

AJE SUPPORTS PHARMACY CO EXPANSION

A company working on a £1.8m warehouse for a pharmaceutical company has called on the expertise of AJE to help complete the project.

BASF Pharma (Callanish) Ltd is expanding its facility with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) which has invested up to £1.8m to create the new warehouse at Breasclete on the Isle of Lewis.

AJE has been contracted by Stornoway-based Lewis Builders to fabricate the steel and cladding and to erecting the materials for the new 550 sq m facility at the site where BASF Pharma (Callanish) Ltd occupies a factory which is owned by HIE.

Project manager James Attridge joked:

“I have almost finished a project on Shetland (See: Home run nears for huge Shetland job) and thought I might get something a bit local, instead I have been given another remote project. Joking aside, as we have said before, it’s actually what AJE excels at so I am glad to be able to get this project underway.

“At the moment, we are in the pre-construction phase and in the next few weeks will be well into the fabrication side of the project.”

He added: “We will have a team of four experienced steel erector/sheeters on Lewis to deliver the project over a four-month period January to April. The winter working will prove a challenge that we have shown we are up to on many

previous projects on remote Scottish Islands.”

The new warehouse will provide much needed storage capacity to support BASF Pharma’s growth plans.

Around 80 people are currently employed at the factory including a team of skilled experts producing highly purified omega 3s as active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Using patented processing technology and sustainable fish oil supplies, the products are used in pharmaceutical and dietary supplements, most of which are exported around the world.

As the company expands its operations, it is expected to create more jobs over the coming years.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Honour for AJE MIRO Volunteer

Lee Binks AJE's Business Development Representative has been awarded a special commemorative medal to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Lee was given the medal for his voluntary work with the Moray InShore Rescue Organisation.

The Platinum Jubilee medal, designed to thank its recipients for their public service, features a portrait of the late Queen with the Latin inscription «Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina Fid Def», which translates to «Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen, defender of the faith».

Acting as a token of the nation's thanks, the Platinum Jubilee Medals have been awarded to serving members of the Armed Forces, recipients of the George and Victoria Cross, frontline emergency service workers, prison service staff and members of the Royal Household.

Lee said: "I'm really delighted to have been gifted the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal. It's nice to be recognised for the voluntary work that we do for Findhorn and the surrounding areas. Although I spend a lot of time in London, I still play an important role in the organisation remotely and when I'm back home as well. MIROs crew's dedication to the organisation is really something special



Lee Binks with MIRO ops manager Peter Mackenzie

and to be given this medal, is really an honour."

Moray Inshore Rescue Organisation is a charity life boat service located in Findhorn and plays an important role in reaching those in danger in locations where maybe the RNLI or Coastguard cannot access in time."

So far this year, MIRO volunteers have responded to 13 emergency callouts. They responded to 29 incidents in 2021 and 25 incidents in 2020. Incidents included searches for missing persons, helping paddle boarders, wild swimmers, kayakers, kite surfers and sailors in difficulty, as well as helping members of the public and their animals cut off by the tide.

HOME RUN NEARS FOR HUGE SHETLAND JOB

A project which has seen AJE teams working on nine buildings on a site the size of 40 football pitches is nearing completion.

The company has been working on three separate projects at the Viking Wind Farm on Shetland.

The wind farm was developed as a joint venture between SSE Renewables and the Shetland community and AJE has been contracted by BAM Nuttall.

The works for the AJE team which has seen up to 20 workers being on site at any one time has involved the detailing and installation of a total of nine buildings which will be used in various ways to support the infrastructure of the windfarm.

Leading on the project has been James Attridge. He said: "Once again AJ Engineering has excelled in working in a remote location and this is possibly one of the biggest projects in terms of the size and scale that we have been involved in. Never before have we had nine buildings all being fabricated at one time over a site so big. We secured the job in May 21 and we first had boots on the ground in September. It's been a big job, but apart from a visit in November to tie up a few loose ends, the job is now largely complete."

The project which consists of 103 wind turbines is set around the central Mainland of Shetland.

"There have been some challenging conditions for the team to work in," explained James, "the main one being the weather. It's not so much that the weather has been bad, we can cope with that, it's more so that it's been so variable. We have had to be able to be adaptable and turn our hand to other work when the weather turns."

However, he added: "That said, our teams are used to this type of working. We were there over the winter months which was extremely challenging, but the team just ploughed on and made really good progress."

The wind farm is expected to be complete by 2024 and will be capable of producing enough energy to power the equivalent of almost half a million homes, including every home in Shetland. It will be the UK's largest onshore wind farm in terms of annual electricity output playing a crucial role in contributing towards the UK and Scotland's net zero targets.

ONE JOB LEADS TO ANOTHER



The cladding works at G&A Barnie's in Inverness

In April 2021, The Micron told how AJE had completed works for G&A Barnie Group in Inverness and this successful project has led to the company engaging with AJE once again on two further jobs.

Last year, G&A Barnie Group which specialises in a variety of services from mechanical and electrical installation, renewable energy and fire and security alarms had a new roof thanks to the skills of the AJ Engineering team.

G & A Barnie Group has offices at the Carsegate in the Highland capital but



New insulated panels installed at Barnie's in Elgin

the roof on one of the buildings which consisted of double skinned asbestos needed replacing.

Since then, two buildings owned by Barnies, another one at Carsegate in Inverness and another at Elgin were re-clad.

James Attridge said: "It just goes to show that one good job can lead to another. It's been an absolute pleasure working with the team again at G&A Barnie and the pictures show what a difference the new cladding has made to their buildings."