

NOVEMBER '17

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

LONG HAUL

AJ sends new platform (and instructions) to Antarctica!

AJ Engineering is on the verge of completing work for a project 8000 miles away – the furthest away we have ever been contracted.

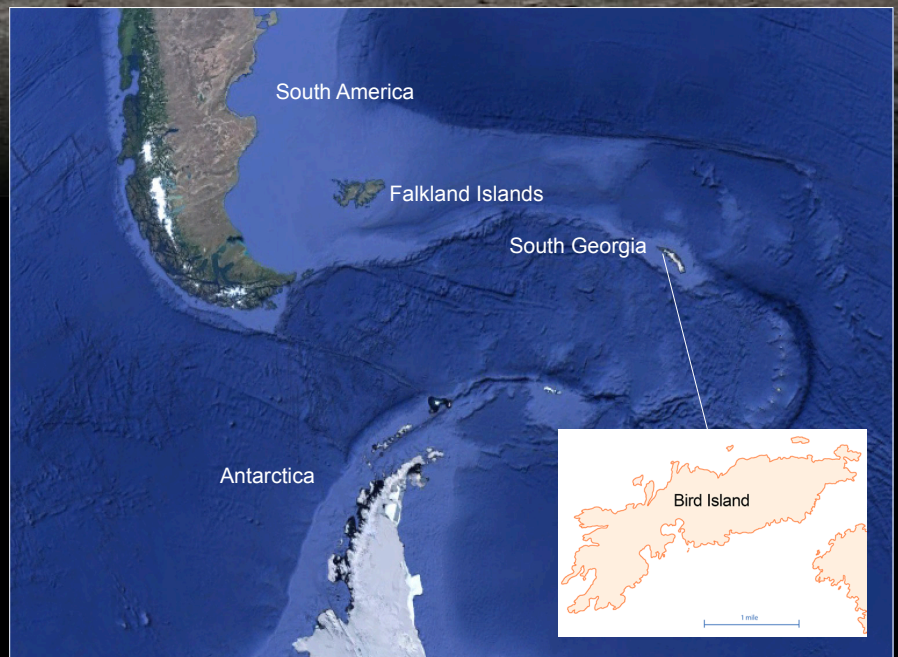
We are constructing a steel platform which will be installed on Bird Island, South Georgia in Antarctica.

The job has thrown up some challenges for the AJ team including having to carry out a mock-up of the installation in the work yard with contractors BAM Nuttall.

The new platform, which consists of 600 individual pieces, is part of the modernisation of the Bird Island Research Station.

Quality manager, Jazmin Kellas, who has been working closely with PM Allan Martin explained why the job has been a challenge: "It's been absolutely fascinating. The fact that it is 8000 miles away and is so remote is interesting enough, but due to the unique bio-diversity of the island we have had to rethink about how we package the items we are sending over there. The island has been largely untouched

See over



Bird Island is 8000 miles away from Forres and accessible only by boat.

AJ sends platform to Antarctica!

Continued

by the outside world and the researchers there understandably want to keep it that way.

"Normally we package things using polystyrene or cardboard, however both of these materials are a big no-no. Cardboard can harbour foreign objects such as seeds and the polystyrene can break off. We have had to adopt new methods to ensure that each of the 600 items arrives unscathed."

Jazmin added they also had to work with the team at BAM Nuttall to demonstrate how the sections of the platform fit together, as we are not able to be on site to help: "This is a long-term project and we can't have a team out there for six months. So instead, our installers worked with BAM Nuttall in the yard showing them how the platform fits together. There is no room for error as once it's all out there, the teams are pretty cut off."

Jazmin added: "We have also been extremely thorough about the items in the

shipment. Once the consignment leaves Forres it will take over two weeks for it to reach Bird Island predominantly by cargo ferry. If we forget to pack something, then the whole project could be held up."

Bird Island lies off the north-west tip of South Georgia in the Southern Atlantic Ocean. It is separated by a 500-metre channel, Bird Sound, from the South Georgia mainland.

It is approximately 1000km south-east of the Falkland Islands and is accessible only by ship.

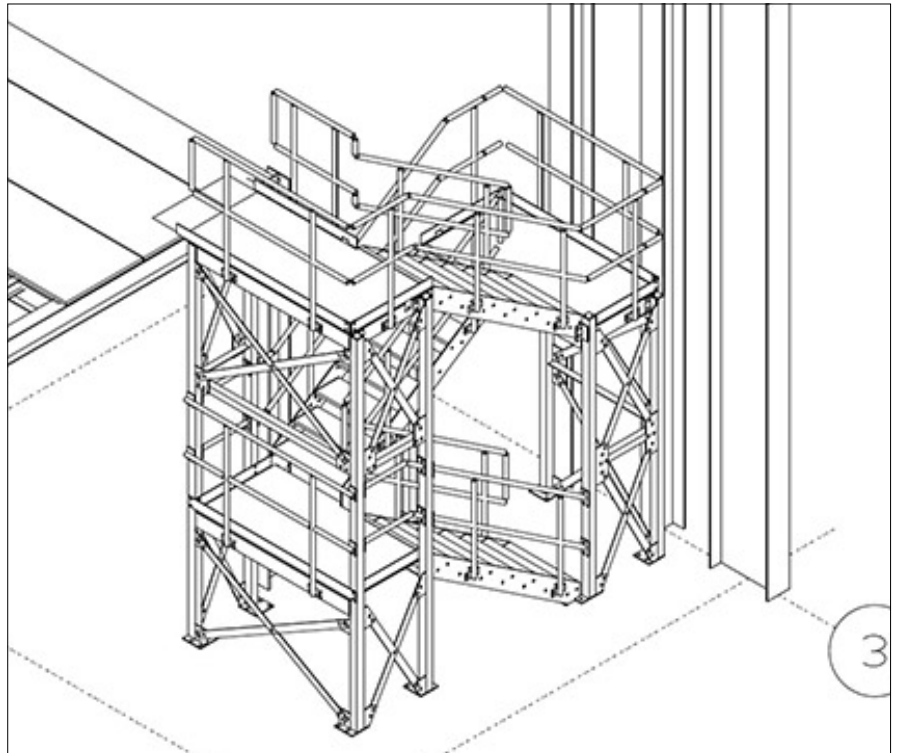
Wind-ing stairway complete at Kintyre

A new set of stairs, hand-railing and flooring are now in place following a project for CS Wind, based on the west coast of Scotland.

Contracted by Morrison Construction, AJ Engineering was tasked to fabricate and install steel access stairs, hand-railing and flooring to an existing building at the company which houses one of its production lines.

CS Wind, whose world-class manufacturing facility site is based at Machrihanish, manufacture "ready-to-install" tower solutions for the onshore and offshore wind energy market.

Project manager was Allan Martin who said: "The job was to put in new stairs, hand-railing and a mezzanine platform for CS Wind. We also provided labour for Morrison Construction. The works are now all completed successfully, and although the fabrication and installation was straightforward, the location was not so simple. Machrihanish is not an easy place to get to and supplies are limited in the area, so that added a bit of challenge. The AJ Engineering team coped admirably."



AJ celebrates Living Wage Week

AJ Engineering is celebrating Living Wage week which starts on November 5.

We are proud to be an accredited Living Wage employer. At the start of

the week a new Living Wage rate will be announced by the Living Wage Foundation.

AJ Engineering became accredited as a Living Wage employer in March

this year and has joined a movement of more than 3,500 employers who voluntarily opt-in to paying the real Living Wage.

The company has committed to the increase – independently calculated to meet the cost of living – which will be implemented within six months.

Alan James, managing director said: "We are proud to implement this increase in pay. It's a win-win for us and not only helps our employees afford to live with dignity but also helps our business by improving motivation, and retaining and attracting a quality workforce. When we joined the scheme, 95% of our staff were on a rate higher than the Living Wage, however it was important for us to bring that 5% in line with this voluntary initiative."

THERE ARE OVER 1000 ACCREDITED EMPLOYERS IN SCOTLAND, GOING FURTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT MINIMUM AND PAYING ALL STAFF THE REAL LIVING WAGE FOR THE REAL COST OF LIVING

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