

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## UNITED COMPANIES CREATE ENGINEERING POWERHOUSE

**AJE and another fabrication company have joined forces to create an engineering powerhouse.**

Staff members from AJ Engineering and Rennie Fabrication have amalgamated giving scope to take on more varied work in a wider range of sectors.

Graham Alexander, general manager of AJ Engineering explained that the addition of Malcolm Rennie and staff members would provide more opportunities: "Over the years Malcom and his team have gained a wealth of experience and have built up a strong client base for Rennie Fabrication. They have demonstrated their capabilities through producing many bespoke items over the years to meet clients' needs. We are delighted to have Malcolm working with us."

Rennie Fabrication was set up in 2002 in Rafford, however as the business expanded the firm moved to larger premises in Forres.

The client base included repeat businesses from customers in the oil and gas, marine and the distilling industries.

Malcolm Rennie who previously worked with AJE managing director Alan James at former Forres firm William Reid explained why he was making the move to AJ Engineering.

"Over the years myself and my team have worked hard to develop Rennie Fabrication. We have gone through two big expansions, however I don't feel I am able to progress the business any further without making drastic changes. A chance conversation with Graham led to an opportunity for me to join AJ Engineering. As these discussions progressed we spoke about the Rennie Fabrication staff and Graham kindly agreed to make offers of employment to all the Rennie Fabrication employees. In essence, it's going to give my staff and the AJE team the best of both worlds.

He added: "With my experience in the distillery and fish farming sectors I hope to open additional opportunities to AJE. Both sets of staff are highly skilled and the work that comes in from both clientele bases will offer the workforces more experience in a wider range of sectors."



AJE general manager Graham Alexander (left) welcomes Malcolm Rennie (right)



## AJE goes global on installs

Left: The complete TAC unit installed at Liberty Aluminium.  
Right: AJE completed the building for James Jones and is now installing the equipment that it houses.

**AJ Engineering has been chosen by contractors to handle two installations for international firms.**

The works took place on behalf of Fort William-based firm, Liberty Aluminium and James Jones & Sons of Forres and involved companies from Quebec in Canada and San Francisco in the United States.

Overseeing both projects was fabricator/welder Andy Watt who explained: "The very reason these two customers have chosen AJE for these install-only jobs is because of the high standard of workmanship that our team can provide.

"In both projects the materials were shipped over and it was down to our team to handle the installations.

"The work at Liberty Aluminium involved installing a new TAC unit on behalf of Canadian company STAS. The work is now complete, and we have received great feedback from the Liberty team. We have a very good relationship with Liberty and the six-week installation went very well. Initially there was a representative who came over from Canada and we worked closely with him. It was an interesting project – made even more interesting by the fact that everything

was done with imperial measurements so there was a lot of conversions happening."

He added: "The work at James Jones is on-going and it's great to be on site there. The project there is the installation of a new production line which represents a great expansion for James Jones. Again, everything is going well."

Earlier this year, AJE was contracted by Hardie Engineering, to fabricate and install a new steel framed building and cladding at James Jones, a timber processing facility.

## Children in Need

**AJE is taking part in the Rotary Club of Forres' annual quiz night. The event which raises money for Children in Need will take place on November 16 in the Mosset Tavern. The company hopes to enter two teams. If you'd like to take part, please let Laura in reception know.**



## G'day from down under!

AJE MD Alan James says G'day from down under! He is currently enjoying a six-week break with his wife Ainsley, travelling around Australia. Here's a wee pic of him in a slightly different setting to his office!



## AJE team expands

**AJE is now home to three new members of staff all with varied employment backgrounds.**

James Attridge has joined the firm from Morrison Construction as a project manager/estimator, but it's not the first time his path has crossed with AJE MD Alan James as he explained: "Alan actually gave me my first ever job when he was at William Reid's. I was just 18-years-old at the time."

James who starts with the company on November 5 added: "I am looking forward to starting with AJE which has a real emphasis on the people it employs. AJE has a great reputation, and as I live in Forres, it seems like the ideal opportunity."

"I am looking forward to the variety of projects that AJE get involved with and the chance to take a project from estimating right through to completion," said James.

Also joining the team is Craig Johnston whose job as a fabricator/welder has taken him overseas in the past. He joins AJE as fabrication manager from Woollard & Henry and is looking forward to working closer to home.

He said: "Woollard & Henry's main office is in Dyce so after many years of



Iain Stillwell, Craig Johnston and James Attridge being shown how to operate a CNC milling machine

travelling back and forth to Aberdeen I wanted something closer to home. I know AJE has a good reputation, so it feels like a really good fit."

Craig will oversee the workshop and machine shop production as well as oil and gas related projects.

Finally, Iain Stillwell has left behind a decade at Metalwork UK where he handled the estimating, buying, organised transport and arranged plant for sites.

He said: "My role as an estimator with AJE will be more streamlined; instead of carrying out a lot of different tasks I'm now able to concentrate on estimating. AJE handles a lot more work I'm unfamiliar with and I'm keen to learn about it and expand my knowledge."