

APRIL 2020

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ALAN JAMES MD

Dear Team

We are in extraordinary and unique times due to the Coronavirus. As a responsible group of companies, we have complied with the UK Government’s medical guidance given by the Prime Minister on the evening of Monday 23rd March and so we closed our Forres and Fort William workshops the very next morning.

We do have clients whose operations are considered essential and for that reason it is our duty to ensure they get the support they need to maintain operations. In particular I would like to thank those who provided support at Balcas during the shutdown. In the coming weeks I have no doubt further clients will ask for our support on their essential operations.

Keep safe, abide by the Government’s guidance and I look forward to us all working together soon. Fortunately, we have a significant amount of work to return to.

Warm regards, Alan



## NEWCo team answers doc’s plea

**NEWCO has helped its local hospital in the fight against Coronavirus by providing much-needed personal protection equipment.**

NEWCo general manager was contacted by the Belford Hospital in Fort William to ask for any PPE supplies and the team there was only happy to hand them on.

Neil said: “We answered a call out from the local hospital and health centres looking for any PPE. A doctor put a post on Facebook and of course, we were keen to help and immediately took our stock of FFP3 masks, reusable half face masks and filters and full-face visors to the Belford Hospital which will be used

only in extreme circumstances. In these uncertain times, we recognise the importance of communities sticking together and helping where possible.” He added: “The local businesses are all rallying round, but seeing that post was a stark reminder of what we are all facing and really drives home the reality of the situation.”

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# AJE designs and fabricates moveable structure

**A movable building has been the latest challenge for the AJE team who were tasked with designing, fabricating and will be installing the structure at a site near Dundee.**

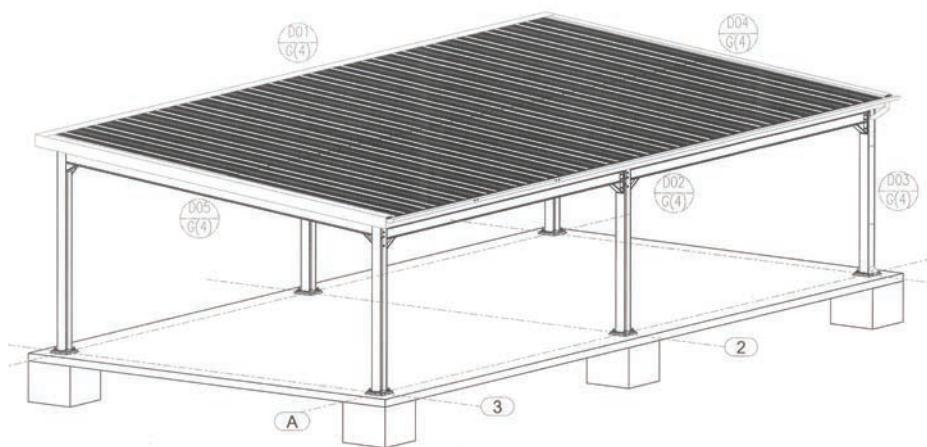
Commissioned by Corrie Construction who are working direct for SSE, AJE had to create the storage building which can be easily dismantled in case the site at Carolina Port is sold on.

The Carolina Port power stations generated Dundee's energy for much of the last century. First there was a coal-fired power station from 1908 and it was replaced by an oil-fired unit built in the mid-1960s. The rising cost of oil led to its closure in 1983 and it was later demolished. The site is now owned by SSE.

AJE managing director, Alan James explained: "It's actually quite a fascinating project and is not something we have been asked to do before.

"The site at Carolina Port is not necessarily what SSE needs, so what they have asked for is a building that can be dismantled and rebuild elsewhere should they sell Carolina Port but want to move the storage building.

"It's interesting, firstly as the site is of importance due to its history and how it developed over the years as the energy



industry changed, but from a design perspective, we had to get our thinking hats on.

"Carolina Port is at sea level, so the steelwork doesn't need to be heavy, however, if it moves to a different location, it has to be suitable. Normally we use plastic coated mild steel for the cladding to these types of buildings but for this one we have used aluminium which means that it won't rust, despite the location.

He added; "Everything is ready to go with the project. We are just waiting for the go ahead from SSE to get onto site and install the structure."

## Installation date to be confirmed

**Work at Kintore Railway Station is on a temporary hold, but the last set of stairs are away for shot blasting and specialist paint coating.**

Project manager, Craig Johnston is having regular talks with contractor BAM Nuttall, Network Rail and the paint company and whilst Network rail has taken the decision to close all its enhancement projects in Scotland, Craig is progressing the project as far as he can.

Craig said: "At the moment, all we can do, is carry on and get the stairs ready so that when everything re-opens again, we can get on site and get them installed."

He added: "I am in daily talks with the

firm handling the shot blasting and paint coating. They have had a few hurdles to get over in light of the current situation, but their communication has been great and at the moment, they are confident, they will be able to complete their part of the works on time."

The project is part of the on-going Aberdeen to Inverness Project which has been implemented by Network Rail.

The project began last June when Pat Quinn took control of the fabrication design works.

Work at Kintore can only take place during weekend nights only as the railway line is still live.



## Charity delays, but recognition will come

**A trek up Ben Nevis to raise money for Star for Harris has been postponed due to the Coronavirus.**

Twelve workers from NEWCo and two from AJ Engineering had planned to take on the challenge this month, however due to the current restrictions, the trek will take place later in the year.

Alan James had also planned to handover cheques to the three charities that the company raised money for during the 20th year celebrations, but again, this has been delayed.

Alan said: "It's a pity that the trek and our cheque handover has been delayed, but under the circumstances, we have had to postpone these things. However, we will make sure that both these great efforts, get the recognition they deserve, once normal service resumes. We have made the payments to charities, but we will celebrate the handover at another time."

A total of £5,647.00 which has been shared equally between Star For Harris, Marie Curie Moray and Diabetes Scotland (Moray branch).

