

MARCH 2025

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



DISCOVERY CLADDING WORKS DRAW TO CLOSE

A project in one of the most remote locations on earth has reached a milestone thanks in part, to a team from AJ Engineering.

Cladding is now complete on The Discovery Building which is a new world class scientific research station located in Rothera, Antarctica and operated by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

The building has been designed with a focus on sustainable and environmental design and will house both BAS' science and operations teams. Work began on constructing the building in 2019 and with the milestone cladding now in place, it is expected that the building will be handed over later this year.

AJ Engineering has been involved in the project on behalf of BAM Nuttall for the last five years and each winter has been sending teams on the arduous journey, where they spend months working in the tough climate where temperatures can plunge as low as -34C.

BAM Nuttall has an ongoing relationship with BAS and are now around halfway through a 10-year, £500m contract to upgrade and extend their polar research stations.

Although three of the team are now home, two AJE employees are expected to be in Rothera until May.

Director and general manager Graham Alexander said: "Completion of the cladding, and the unique wind deflector structure, really is a milestone and the whole facility is now well on its way to being complete. We are glad to welcome back some of the team, but we still have two guys out there finishing up. I know, it's all part and parcel of the job, and AJE is known for being exceptional at working in remote conditions, but this is as remote as it gets and the climate can be harsh. >



Some of the team who have been working in Antarctica

facebook.com/ajengscotland • twitter.com/ajengscotland

Continued from front page:

Well done to all of the team who have been involved to date.”

However, Graham added: “It’s unlikely this will be the end of our time working in Antarctica. We are in the early contractor involvement phase for works to the hangar building at Rothera. The client is keen to use our experience gained over the last five years to advise on buildability and cladding detailing for such a harsh environment.”

This new two-storey Discovery Building (4,500m²) replaces a number of older buildings and will allow for scientific support and operations functions to work together under one roof.

The building includes: a plant room and energy centre, a central store to consolidate equipment and cargo stores, workshops and preparation areas, a new operations hub and offices to support

the whole station, an operations tower, medical centre, improved training facilities including a climbing wall for expedition teams and an education centre. It will also house enhanced wellbeing areas including gym, breakout areas, music centre and arts and crafts facility and backup systems for life support and operations.



The new Discovery Building in Rothera is almost complete

NEW CONTRACT AWARDED

AJ Engineering has been awarded a contract which will form part of the new Subsea Cable Manufacturing Facility at Nigg, currently under construction.

The company’s role in the project is to fabricate 63 machine foundation templates of various designs. These templates, primarily fabricated from angle will be processed using the new Peddinghaus Angle Master which will make light work of producing the 800+ individual parts. In addition, each frame is equipped with large 35mm thick plates with a range of drilled and tapped holes ranging from M24 to M30 in some cases.

The frames will be used as foundation templates for extremely heavy machinery such as carousels which are an integral part of the cable manufacturing process, so the project although not huge plays an important part in the construction of the factory.

Sumitomo Electric is one of the leading global manufacturers of state-of-the-art high-end electricity transmission cables, up to and including 525kV HVDC cable.

The new factory at Nigg, with investment value announced by the Scottish Government of £350M, will make a significant contribution towards realisation of the UK Net Zero Target by contributing to critical electricity transmission infrastructure to connect and deliver renewable energy, including offshore wind, to UK consumers and beyond.

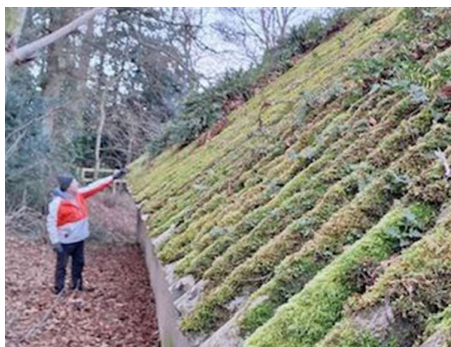
NEW ROOF FOR GAMES SHED

A storage shed will be given a new roof with support from AJ Engineering.

The organisers of the Forres Highland Games have been awarded £10,000 from the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for the removal and replacement of asbestos cement roof on their equipment storage shed at Grant Park.

And the trustees of the Games knew to look no further than AJE because of their past experience and training in removing and safely disposing of the existing corrugated asbestos cement roof cladding and then replacing with composite insulated cladding.

AJ Engineering supports many community events every year, including



The moss covered shed roof

the Highland Games to which is provides infrastructure support with the use of equipment to help put the games arena, so that locals and visitors can enjoy a great day out.

Games president, Fred Davidson, is delighted with the support.

He said: “We very much appreciate the award from Berry Burn. We were awarded the full amount we applied for, representing approximately 40 per cent of the total cost of the job. It made sense for us to approach AJE to carry out the works as they are a local company which we already have a relationship with and we know the works will be carried out safely and extremely well.”



Games volunteers Malcolm Barrington, Bruce Kerr and Fred Davidson

SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

AJE will be hitting the road for Scottish Apprenticeship Week to engage with different groups about the benefits of work-based learning.

The week, runs from 3 to 7 March and office manager Fiona will be attending two events to talk about AJE’s track record of its apprenticeship scheme and what opportunities there are within the company.

We’ve often shared that managing director, Alan James, once an apprentice himself, has always employed apprentices throughout the 26 years of the company, and today with 15 apprentices on the books, things are no different.

Fiona, will attend an apprenticeship fair and business breakfast at Moray College with second year mechanical engineering apprentice Hannah joining her at the breakfast.



Fabricated foundation supports ready for installation