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# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## NEWCO EXPANSION TAKING SHAPE

**A half a million pound extension to NEWCo is taking shape with the steelwork now erected.**

NEWCo is expanding its premises by 50 per cent in the £539,000 project which will increase productivity and efficiency, and help meet growing demand for its services.

The expansion will allow for two new overhead cranes to be installed making handling materials and projects more efficient, as well as improving safety and cutting carbon by reducing forklift use.

The company secured a £172,700 contribution from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) towards building and plant and equipment costs for the project.

The expansion project will support five jobs, including an apprentice, and bring about an estimated £800,000 increase in annual turnover within three years.

Neil Worsdall, manager of NEWCo said: "Getting the framework up is a real milestone and it's really exciting. The whole team here is delighted and are just looking forward to being able to get in and use the new space.

"Now that the steel frame is up, the next part is to get the roof sheets and cladding done and then of course the flooring. We hope to be in the building by June which is when we can then knock through to the existing NEWCo premises. The whole development is going to streamline everything but one of the key advantages is that it will allow us to take on more structural steel work. Up until now, carrying out this type of work has been quite labour intensive. The new extension and the investment of the cranes, means that this work can be handled by one person allowing the rest of the team to concentrate on other projects. It will give us a much more user friendly workshop."

Neil added: "We have already been able to recruit and over the past few months we have had two new apprentices start with us, a new welder and admin assistant and also we have a young lad who is here on trial for a CNC apprenticeship."

Alan James added: "We are very pleased that the works to expand our base at Fort William are progressing. NEWCo was bought in 2015 and since that time the workload there has been increasing month on month, and we are now at a point where we need to look at what we have in place for our hardworking team and make it even more efficient for them and therefore our growing customer base."



The extension at NEWCo is well underway

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# GRAHAM TAKES ON LEADERSHIP ROLE AT MORAY CHAMBER

Moray Chamber of Commerce members have welcomed AJE's director Graham Alexander, into his new appointment as President.

The appointment was approved at Moray Chamber's AGM held at The Macallan Estate last month. Graham will be joined by Sean Donnelly, Managing Director of Northern Asbestos Services Ltd as Vice President. Both Graham and Sean will serve a two-year term in their respective roles.

Graham takes over from Kirsty Dagnan, Operations Director at Johnstons of Elgin.

In his first statement as President, Graham said: "I'm delighted to become president of the Moray Chamber of Commerce. Moray, and Moray businesses, rightly, have a great deal to be proud of. We will help wherever possible to remove the blockers that hinder their ambition for growth."



Graham is delighted to be taking on a new role with Moray Chamber

## END IN SIGHT FOR BOLTON PROJECT

**The last of the steelwork for a project in the northwest of England is expected to leave Waterford in the next couple of weeks.**

The end is in sight for AJE's involvement in the improvement works at the wastewater treatment plant in Bolton.

The AJE scope was to design, detail, fabricate, supply and install a new steel framework 134m long x 26m wide over the existing sludge plant lanes at the wastewater treatment works.

The new structure will also incorporate raised walkways running the full length, consisting of a primary walkway with goal post support frames for mechanical installation and two tertiary walkways.

There will be a further 12 walkways spanning the width.

The project for client JN Bentley for United Utilities has been led by Chris Roberts who said he was pleased to see the project coming to an end.

"It's been an interesting project to be involved with due to its complexity and fast-tracked programme, which have managed to maintain. As we were working ahead of the fabrication schedule, we were also able to incorporate additional work packages for the client, without compromising the original completion date. I am delighted for the team that it has been a success and huge credit to the fabrication and installation teams. There are still a few smaller work scopes to complete such as handrailing and flooring but anticipate that we will complete the project scope by the end of April, which was always the plan."



The end is in sight for the Bolton project

## STEEL TOECAPS DITCHED FOR DANCING SHOES!

**AN AJE team have to get in the groove after Easter when they begin working on a project which will see a music and art centre feature a new auditorium and sprung-floor dance studios.**

Working on behalf of builders MacInnes Bros, based in Benbecula, the AJE team will be working on Phase Two of the Cnoc Soilleir music and art centre in Daliburgh, South Uist.

Phase One of the project was opened to the public in September 2022 and has since begun to make a mark on the local and wider scene as a creative focus and lively venue. It was created to the house and grow the programmes and activities of Ceòlas Uibhist Ltd and UHI Outer Hebrides (now UHI North, West and Hebrides) and to provide a bespoke centre for education and learning, Gaelic language and culture, music, dance and performance.

Now that phase one is established, phase two is underway and will include:

- Flexible performance hall, with acoustics suitable for music and singing. The hall will have a sprung floor suitable for dance, performance, and ceilidhs.
- Retractable auditorium seating for audiences of up to 200 people.
- Breakout spaces.
- A small dance studio with sprung floor, and mirrors.
- Two additional teaching spaces which can double up as green rooms and rehearsal space.
- It will be built to the same environmental PassivHaus standards as phase 1 to minimise impact and running costs.