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BROOKS FORGINGS

THE NON STANDARD SPECIALISTS



FORGING, BENDING AND FABRICATION SERVICES

OVER 20 MANUFACTURING PROCESSES



Robot Forging



Upset Forging



Drop Forging



Counterblow Forging



Open Die Forging



Hand Forging



Hot & Cold Bending



Hot & Cold Pressing



Swaging & Pointing



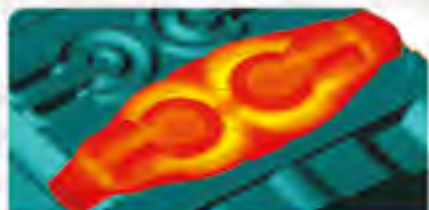
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Fabrication & Assembly



Flash Butt Welding



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Quality Control



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Front cover image CBM Mini Fastener Expo

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CBM – FORGING/ FASTENER SECTOR MEETING

Wednesday 11th December, 2pm Via Zoom. Register with Melinda Jean at CBM (melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk)

Metallurgy for Non Metallurgist:

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th March 2025, Online Register with Melinda Jean at CBM (melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk)

Fastener Fair Stuttgart

25-27 March 2025

CBM ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS

3rd April, Birmingham Council House, Birmingham Register with Melinda Jean at CBM (melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk)

SMART MANUFACTURING EXPO

4th & 5th June, NEC Birmingham

UK Metals Expo:

10th & 11th September, NEC Birmingham

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Labour get the framing wrong and let Manufacturing and Business down !!

Former Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson, famously coined the phrase: "A week is a long time in politics," well I think now we can say that a day is a long time in politics.

Given the optimism following the election of the new government the promise of an industrial strategy to support and promote growth, business was rightly optimistic. To see this almost wiped away overnight following the budget was a shock to the system.

To be brutally honest if Labour were laying down a 'Red Carpet' for manufacturing growth it's just been pulled from under us in one fell swoop. So, instead of talking about optimism and growth, once again we are back to the words of resilience and tenacity, words I am too often repeating, however as always manufacturing will do what it always does and get on with it, despite this setback.

We must not forget some of the positives such as the £2 billion commitment to automotive transformation funding, as it promises to support the scaling up of manufacturing as we transition to net zero, digitalisation and automation. However, this alone is not enough, we need to see a clear mandate to support the growth of EV and a good start would be a stimulus which subsidises individual consumers and a full review of the onerous quotas set under the so called zero-emission vehicle (Zev) mandate.

Positive that full expensing was maintained, the commitment to an Industrial Strategy, the Corporate Tax Road Map and continued support for vital programmes such as Made Smarter. However, with increased employment costs and no real respite on Energy costs, compared to our European Competitors this will leave manufacturing supply chains which consist of so many of our SME members vulnerable.

Moving forward we need an industrial strategy that will regrow confidence, showing a clear commitment to manufacturing through 'aggressive' reshoring, and a roadmap to reduce energy costs in line with our global competitors .

Overall this begs the question, can we now trust this government with the Industrial Strategy? It is one thing giving us one, but it's the content that counts especially for SME's. Who is really speaking for the SME's in Manufacturing? Who will define its content? For me it wasn't only the government's credibility that was damaged by the budget but that of the B5. Given their direct access to government on a monumental scale, the failure of the Budget to deliver for business left the B5 at best 'hoodwinked' at worst looking naive, despite their best intentions, they let us down. It is important that the true SME voice is heard.

Results matter and this was a heavy defeat and

can't be dressed up any other way. Lobbying is all well and good but if you are going in softly softly all of the time this is what happens! It is far too cosy and needs a shake up, only then will we see clear support for SMEs, who are the foundation of manufacturing in the U.K.

We maybe an island but we are not alone

Even before the shockwaves of the budget were felt we were in malaise, hoping for something to happen. The media perspective was doom and gloom and whilst you couldn't blame them it was framing that left you feeling the UK economy was not only doomed but isolated, however that is not the case.

Those that have seen my LinkedIn posts will have seen that I've been travelling far and wide with Gerladine, presenting the U.K. perspective , which we've done at Euroforge in Milan, ICOSPA in Osaka and more recently I presented to the Toolmaking Association, ISTMA in Aachen .

As I have said even without the impact of the recent budget we were hardly optimistic about our future in Manufacturing here in the U.K.. Whilst I certainly don't have a magic wand or a secret recipe but what I have learned from my colleagues in these international organisations is that we are certainly not alone with our issues. There wasn't one country that I've met with that wasn't immune to difficulties, the majority of which echoed what we see here in the U.K.

- Germany normally the powerhouse impacted by the dire downturn in the Automotive market and a 35% increase in the minimum wage over recent years.
- France with crippling debt against GDP and impacts of safeguarding on downstream metal users.
- USA having similar issues with steel tariffs causing a shortage of steel and additional costs.
- China stating all the potential employees want to do is be an 'uber driver or on 'tik tok'
- Japan with crippling demographic issues of an aging population.

All of the above were repeated over the other European countries we met with.

Labour (not the government yet) and the cost labour were impacting every country and all countries failing to attract young people into manufacturing. They all want 'clean jobs ' , It's certainly an issue we need to address here in the UK.

At ISTMA I heard of the dire situation for Toolmaking across the EU, starting my



• Steve Morley,
CBM President

career as a 'toolie' it's certainly something close to my heart, so found it quite depressing. So, whilst the media talks everything down over here, it is no different anywhere else, in fact worse in some cases!!

Going forward its very clear we need support from our Governments across Europe and I include the U.K. in that, we haven't left the continent, and our respective OEMs to support Manufacturing so we can survive!! It is really time to wake up, if it's not too late already.

When we're posting we are keen to add hashtags #shoutaboutukmfg #ukmanufacturing #supportukmfg but is anyone listening. I'm old enough to remember the 'Buy British' campaigns of the 1970's if Manufacturing is to survive and we are to see any of the promised growth that would be a good starting point.

Finally

As we head into this Christmas break, I want to thank the CBM team for all their work throughout the year, that includes our sector specialists and Board Members. A big thank you to all the members for their support throughout the year, especially those who helped with our lobbying and media requests. I can't emphasise how important this is in supporting the work we do to help support all of you.

This is a time that I feel that we get a true break and gives us some quality time to enjoy our families and hopefully get some rest. So I wish all of our member companies, their employees and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Let's enter 2025 with a positive outlook, I will certainly be focused on the positive moving forward supporting our members and manufacturing community.

Steve Morley
President of the Confederation of British Metalforming





The UK's only specialist manufacturers' organisation for experts in metalforming

Why Join the CBM

You get valuable influence, business support, technical expertise and market insight as a CBM member.

Lobbying & Promotion

Get your voice heard within Government and the wider manufacturing industry

- Benefit from our active lobbying support, which has played a key role as post-brexite trade negotiations accelerate and business conditions continue to be challenging.
- We collaborate with the Department for Business and Trade on a weekly basis, covering issues ranging from Rules of Origin, energy prices, Steel Safeguarding, Labour & Skills to name but a few.
- We collaborate with the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) are required covering energy related issues ranging from cost, supply issues and the role of OFGEM.
- Our mission is to represent UK in those industry discussions – and help you access opportunities through collaboration with a broad stakeholder group.

Compliance & Cost Management

Save money through your CBM membership

- As a CBM member, you get access to a range of practical services that save money and make operations easier.
- Our accredited energy tax rebate service is a key benefit – it's saved members £4 million+ annually in Climate Change Levy Tax on their energy bills.
- You can boost your savings with our cost-effective Streamlined Energy & Carbon Reporting compliance service and Energy Saving Opportunity Scheme assessments – as well as discounted meeting room hire, our free business support helpline and more.

Marketing & Business Development Support

- Build relationships and develop opportunities
- CBM members come from across the supply chain – and work across automotive, aerospace, rail, defence, energy and Construction. We help you build relationships with potential customers and partners.
- You can also use our platform to promote your business – in Metal Matters magazine, at industry events and among our growing social media audience. Our popular website directory and Buyers' Guide is a popular way to get noticed by supply chain managers.

Technical Support

Leverage expert knowledge of metalforming techniques

- Whether you have a problem or want advice on a new process, our sector specialists are here to help. With your CBM membership, technical support is quick and cost-effective.
- Over 130 years' experience with our Sector Specialists who cover Forging, Fastening, Press work and Sheet Metal

Innovation & Knowledge Sharing

Keep your business on the front foot

- CBM events give you opportunities to share knowledge and best practice. Thanks to member days, sector group meetings, monthly market reports and more, it's easy to learn about developments that will help your business.
- Through your membership, you also benefit from our established links with universities and innovation hubs like Warwick Manufacturing Group, Advanced Forming Research Centre, Imperial College and Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

Training & Skills Development

Fill skills gaps and boost retention

- We offer training opportunities for technical and non-technical roles, so you can fill gaps in your business.
- In response to CBM member feedback, a level 6 Apprenticeship (degree level) programme was developed by the CBMs Trailblazer group.
- The level 6 Tool Process Design Engineer Apprenticeship was specifically created for the metal forming sector in recognition of increasing skills shortages. It is the only Apprenticeship that recognises the unique and specialist skills for this senior technical role. This apprenticeship is available to enrol on now.

Health & Safety

- Our popular Health & Safety Group meetings provide a vital forum for sharing successes and getting advice on overcoming challenges.
- You have access to our HSE helpline, as well as discounted private healthcare and occupational health services.

HR Support

- Exclusive access to a CBM dedicated website
- Designated Client Relationship Manager
- Discounted rates for litigated matters in any Employment tribunal

CBM membership pays for itself thanks to the opportunities, access and cost management benefits you receive. Contact us to discuss your business needs and the best membership

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0121 601 6350 or
email Melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk**



CBM would like to welcome Bridgnorth Aluminium as new members

Bridgnorth Aluminium rolls out £2m investment

Bridgnorth Aluminium has kickstarted a £2m investment drive in new technology at its 66-acre Midlands site as part of a long-term growth plan targeting new markets.

The company, which employs more than 330 people, has seen sales increase by 33% in 2024 and is currently recruiting for another 10 roles.

The growth is good news for Bridgnorth Aluminium which was negatively impacted in 2023 by rising UK energy prices and the decision of a major customer to move production from Europe to China.

However, directors say the company's decision to restructure and target new markets in EV technology and packaging is already proving successful.



Gerhard Trilling, General Manager of Bridgnorth Aluminium

Gerhard Trilling, General Manager of Bridgnorth Aluminium, said the 2024 order book was strong.

He said: "We expected our Bridgnorth workforce to total around 305 at this point in the year but we're already at 330, with more jobs being created now for additional production operatives plus support roles in engineering and other disciplines.

"The £2m investment in casthouse technology will support our growing order book in the EV market and packaging and we are positioning ourselves to support the growing demand for aluminium products in battery technology and in electrification."



Bridgnorth Aluminium primarily manufactures aluminium coils for use in lithographic printing plates, pharma and household foils for packaging, and battery foil stocks for electrification. The new £1.6m investment is in molten metal filtration equipment which is deployed prior to the casting process and will support the company to increase its share of new and growing markets.

Adam Hunter, Deputy General Manager, added: "The leading edge technology will give Bridgnorth Aluminium cleaner metal in the casting process. This is really important for the battery foil market as well as high-end packaging."

The company's core business remains in lithographic printing for companies across the globe, with 90% of its products exported outside of the UK. It has a dedicated Research & Development department and production capabilities spanning casting, hot/cold rolling, heat treatment, slitting, levelling and degreasing.

With a rich history spanning over 90 years, Bridgnorth Aluminium is the only fully integrated UK operation producing flat rolled aluminium coils to global customers.

For more information visit <https://bridgnorthaluminium.co.uk>



CBM would like to welcome A E Oscroft & Sons Ltd as new members

A E Oscroft & Sons Ltd: Leading Manufacturer in UK Metalforming offering presswork, welded assemblies, laser cutting and toolmaking services.



Established in 1947, AE Oscroft & Sons (AEO) has been at the forefront of innovation and craftsmanship in the metal-forming industry for over 75 years. As a proud member of the Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM), AEO exemplifies the values of integrity, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. With a strong foundation in presswork and welded assemblies, and a forward-thinking approach to design for manufacture (DFM), AEO continues to lead in delivering high-quality, scalable solutions.

As a leader in British manufacturing, A E Oscroft continues to shape the future of metalforming and roadside assistance, embodying the values championed by the Confederation of British Metalforming.

For more information, [visit www.aeoscroft.co.uk](http://www.aeoscroft.co.uk)

AEO's presswork capabilities are renowned, offering both high-volume production and bespoke solutions tailored to specific client needs. The company excels at collaborating closely with customers to ensure products are not only precisely crafted but also cost-effective and production-ready. This dedication to quality and efficiency has been key to AEO's sustained success.

Recently, AEO unveiled the Multi-Fit Wheel (MFW) and Free Wheeling Hub (FWH), two ground-breaking products set to revolutionize roadside assistance. The MFW, available in 16", 17", and 19" sizes, is a versatile, temporary replacement wheel that fits over 90% of vehicles, including caravans and trailers. The Free Wheeling Hub, designed for recovering electric vehicles (EVs) and hard-to-tow vehicles like 4x4s, allows independent wheel turning for vehicles with seized brakes or electric handbrakes.

AEO's commitment to innovation, driven by customer needs and feedback, ensures these products reach global markets through a strong distribution network. The Multi-Fit Wheel and Free Wheeling Hub reflect AEO's dedication to safety, efficiency, and advancing roadside recovery solutions.



CBM would like to welcome KFactory as new member

KFactory®: Driving Digital Transformation in Metal Industry

KFactory® is a cutting-edge platform designed to enhance operational efficiency in industrial manufacturing by leveraging Industry 4.0 technologies. Founded with the mission to enable digital transformation in the manufacturing sector, KFactory® provides comprehensive solutions for real-time data collection, process monitoring, and advanced analytics.

The platform empowers companies to improve production efficiency, reduce downtime, and optimize resource utilization. KFactory® is particularly well-suited for industries such as metalforming, where precision, speed, and cost control are critical to success.

The Benefits of using KFactory®

Metalforming companies often face challenges such as the need for real-time monitoring of production process, error-prone manual data collection, and inefficient workflows. KFactory® addresses these issues by automating data collection and providing real-time visibility into the production process. The platform integrates with existing industrial equipment, collecting data automatically and offering valuable insights through intuitive dashboards. This allows companies to quickly identify bottlenecks, reduce downtime, and improve overall production efficiency and reduce CO₂ footprint.

In metalforming environments, the importance of precise execution and optimal resource allocation cannot be overstated. KFactory's advanced analytics and machine learning algorithms help managers make informed decisions to enhance production quality and reduce costs. By using predictive maintenance and energy monitoring tools, metalforming companies can also increase the lifespan of equipment and reduce energy consumption, contributing to a more sustainable and cost-effective production process.

Client Testimonials:

Two notable examples of successful digital transformation with KFactory® are Tristar Steel and Teconnex Europe, both of which operate in highly demanding manufacturing environments.

Tristar Steel

Before implementing KFactory®, Tristar Steel faced significant operational challenges due to manual data collection, which was prone to errors and delays. The lack of real-time visibility into production performance made it difficult to optimize processes, leading to inefficiencies. The KFactory® platform revolutionized their operations by automating data collection and providing real-time insights.

Nicoleta Dobre, CEO of Tristar Steel: "In the first three months after implementing KFactory, **we saw a 20% increase in production efficiency**. The platform allows us to monitor all equipment and operators in real time, giving us a clear picture of our production flow. This improved visibility and data accuracy have helped us optimize scheduling, reduce downtime, and improve on-time delivery performance."



The flexibility and scalability of KFactory® have also made it a valuable tool for Tristar Steel's future initiatives, such as monitoring energy consumption and calculating the company's carbon footprint, which aligns with their sustainability goals.

Teconnex Europe

Teconnex Europe, part of the Teconnex global group of companies producing technical coupling solutions for the automotive industry, turned to KFactory® to digitize its production processes. Teconnex needed real-time data analysis to monitor production performance and reduce scrap.

Ovidiu Gavriş, General Manager of Teconnex Europe: "With KFactory®, we now have complete visibility over all processes on the production line, allowing us to intervene immediately if there are any deviations from the production plan. This has resulted in a **12% increase in monthly production and a 4% improvement in production efficiency**."

KFactory® has proven itself as a powerful tool for metalforming companies aiming to improve efficiency, reduce operational costs, and enhance sustainability. With real-time insights, automated data collection, and predictive analytics, KFactory® enables manufacturers to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving industry.

All members of Confederation of British Metalforming can have a FREE Demo and Trial version of KFactory® platform.

For more details you can contact us at: office@kfactory.ai

Innovation Centre Gallows Hill office@kfactory.eu
Warwick, CV34 6UW, www.kfactory.ai
United Kingdom

AP&T launched a new production line at EuroBLECH 2024 – a new step towards sustainable and efficient production

At EuroBLECH 2024, AP&T introduced its latest innovation, AP&T® SkyLines – a compact and efficient press-hardening line, specially developed to handle large and complex components.

The news aroused great interest among visitors and cemented AP&T's position as a leading player in the sustainable production of the future.



In the booth at EuroBLECH, AP&T showed its latest innovation – AP&T® SkyLines, which is specially designed to handle large sheets and complex integrated components.

“The industry is increasingly moving towards sustainability and energy efficiency, and our new product AP&T® SkyLines clearly meets the market's demands. This new line combines high precision with short cycle times, making it attractive to customers looking to improve both efficiency and quality in their production. With our broad range of services, SkyLines also provides high performance over time, which creates long-term business value for our customers,” says Dr. Christian Koroschetz, Head of Products and Marketing at AP&T.



Components from our partners' productions illustrate how AP&T solutions can contribute to reduced weight and improved material strength.

Premiere for seminars in AP&T's booth

In connection with the launch of SkyLines, AP&T held its own widely popular seminars in the booth for the first time. The seminars, which attracted both physical and digital participants, were led by AP&T experts

and included industry leaders from companies such as ArcelorMittal, GEDIA and fischer Group. Together they shared insights on press hardening, hot forming of high-strength aluminum and various sustainable solutions for the future. These seminars offered a valuable platform to discuss upcoming production challenges and technological advances in sustainability and energy efficiency.



For the first time, AP&T held seminars in its booth, where its own experts and industry leaders from ArcelorMittal, GEDIA and fischer Group shared industry news and technological advances. The seminars were also broadcast online.

“We couldn't be more pleased about the positive response we received and all the new contacts we made. Our focus on sustainable production and quality solutions is really in line with the needs of the industry,” says Dr. Christian Koroschetz.

Continued discussion and next steps

EuroBLECH 2024 resulted in many new customer contacts and tangible requests. AP&T now looks forward to building on these conversations to continue developing solutions that help customers achieve their future goals.

Read more about AP&T's offerings here <https://www.aptgroup.com>



A Tribute to Adrian Nicklin

CBM were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Adrian Nicklin who died on the 9th September.



Adrian had worked with CBM for over 15 years as our Sheet Metal & Cold Rolled Specialist and he was well respected and an extremely well-liked member of the team. Many CBM members will have known Adrian well and have benefited from his technical expertise and industry knowledge over the years.

In recent years Adrian had also helped to create and develop the curriculum for the Tool Process Design Engineering (TPDE) L6 Trailblazer Apprenticeship. Adrian was also very actively involved with the UK Metals Council Education, Training & Skills Group and attended regular meetings on behalf of CBM.

Adrian was also the Chairman of his local branch of The British Legion and his absence has been felt this year as he always brought a tray full of poppies and a collection tin in to the CBM building in time for Remembrance Sunday.

In former years Adrian had worked as Toolmaker to Technical Director for 36 years at Wagon Automotive where he was responsible for process engineering teams in Wagon Germany & France and for new business engineering projects supplying the automotive industry as 1st and 2nd Tier Supplier.

Adrian will be greatly missed by both the CBM team and CBM members and our sympathies and well wishes go to Adrian's family and friends.

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Is the UK Forging Industry ready for a period of growth after decades of decline? By Derek Bond, Forging Specialist for CBM

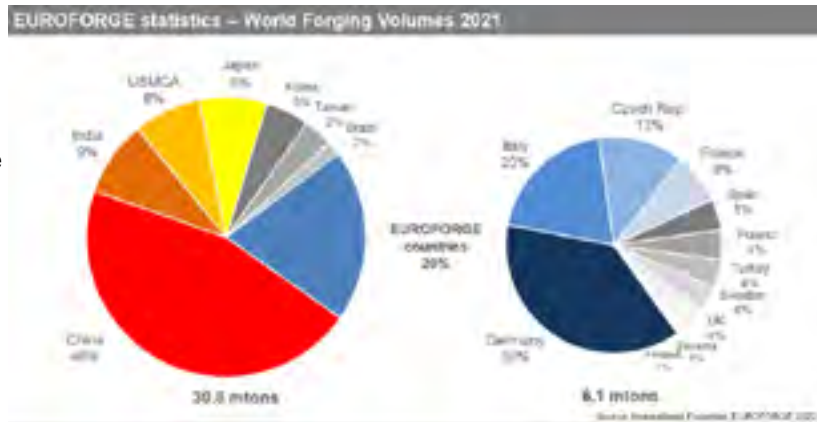
Over the past 50 years, the UK Forging Industry has declined considerably in terms of global output, with the automotive forging market probably seeing the steepest decline as business steadily flowed out to low-cost manufacturing economies.

Certainly, over this period of time output from China has increased at an alarming rate and now accounts for almost half of the global output of forgings. With India now emerging as one of the fastest growing forging producers, along with continuing challenges in the local economy and the western world, you might think that the outlook is bleak. Today the UK produces just 0.8% of world-wide forging output¹.

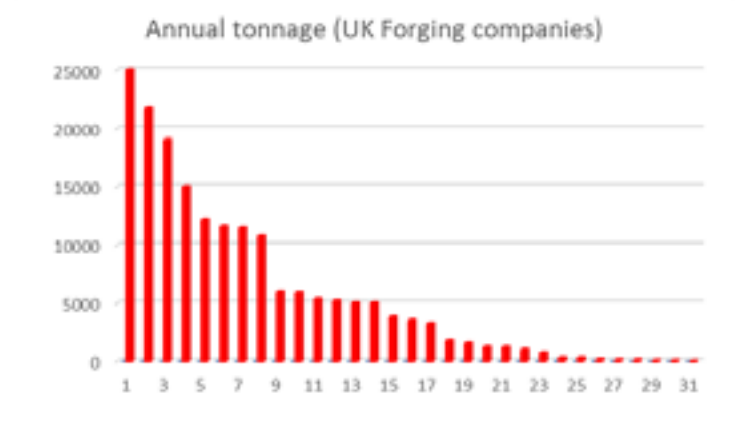
However, a large proportion of the UK Forging market is already focussed on high technology/high value markets, such as aerospace & defence (A&D), is now seeing a resurgence in demand for both aircraft and military hardware due to global factors and post pandemic recovery. As a result of this some of the major A&D UK Forgers are already forecasting growth rates over the next 2-3 years greater than 20% year on year. Furthermore, if UK Energy adopts a strong domestic strategy to invest in low emissions power and a new generation of small modular nuclear reactors (SMR's) then there is significant opportunity for further growth to support the UK economy and GDP beyond the cyclical nature of the aerospace & defence markets.

In order to seize opportunities, there needs to be a vision, strategy and the capability/appetite to invest in not only the fundamental building blocks for growth, but also in the transitional environmental challenges of industrial decarbonisation for high energy intensive traditional manufacturing. There is already a looming skills and traditional manufacturing knowledge shortage due to the demographics of high technical skilled staff retiring over recent years, so industry needs to work closely with schools/colleges/universities to attract and develop younger people with basic skills knowledge and the desire to make manufacturing a career choice – this has been recognised for a while but now we are seeing fresh shoots emerging, influenced heavily by some of the major UK forging companies leadership initiatives. If funding can be sourced for investment in key assets and technological solutions to maintain operational efficiency improvements and adopt and embed a decarbonisation strategy, then perhaps years of forging industry decline can be partially reversed.

Decarbonising the forging industry is a large challenge, due to the reliance in many cases on natural gas fired furnaces for heating forging stock and traditional manufacturing. Replacement of large industrial furnaces would be cost prohibitive and would take decades to achieve. In some cases, modernisation is possible by switching to recuperative or regenerative burners. In a small number of cases where investment is being considered there could be a switch to electric ovens. Hydrogen may emerge as a viable alternative fuel source but that is not likely to happen in the short term and would require significant investment. Since at least 50% of the heat input is ultimately lost as waste heat then the ability to capture, store and re-use this waste heat is an obvious area to focus on. IETF funded feasibility projects are in place with two large



UK Forgers, with the aim of identifying if waste heat recovery thermal energy solutions can offer a practical, affordable and scalable solution that can be flexibly developed to suit the majority of large and medium sized forges. The output from these studies will show that it is theoretically a viable solution so it will come down to optimising size/cost and identifying an affordable business case. Payback is not likely to be short, and a large number of units would be required to sit alongside the gas-fired furnaces in use today.



A recent industry study carried out by the CBM² has provided a snapshot of the UK Forging Industry today. This has identified the following:

- There are over 40 UK forging companies who have a combined annual turnover of £1.1Bn
- These 42 companies employ 5,500 direct staff
- 240,000 tonnes of forgings are produced annually in the UK
- There are estimated to be in excess of 450 natural gas fired furnaces and around 200 electric furnaces in use (within the 42 companies)
- The 650 furnaces are estimated to use over 900Gwh energy and produce around 175,000 TCO_{2e}.

For further information please contact either derek.bond@thebcm.co.uk or the CBM directly info@thebcm.co.uk

Brooks Forgings Purchase Henry Williams Upset & Drop Forging Plant

Brooks Forgings has successfully acquired the upset and drop forging plant and equipment from Henry Williams following their decision to close the forging division at the Darlington site.

Henry Williams Limited, a renowned forging manufacturer with a rich history dating back to 1883, initially focused on producing forged components for control and signalling equipment to support the railway network's expansion. Over the years, the company diversified its skills, invested in new technology, and built enduring relationships with a diverse customer base in the railway, highways, and petrochemical sectors.

Brooks Forgings Ltd was chosen to acquire the forging plant and machinery because Henry Williams understood the significance of maintaining this capability within the UK and partnering with a well-established, financially stable British manufacturer. The collaboration between the two companies will ensure a smooth transition for clients, safeguarding the supply chain for future requirements.

We are dedicated to ongoing investment and plan to strategically distribute and install the newly acquired plant across three sites in the West Midlands. This expansion of forging capacity will not only enable the manufacture of larger forgings but also improve lead times for both existing and new customers. This positive development underscores the commitment to growth and excellence within the forging industry.

If you would like to learn more or have any requirements for upset or drop forgings in standard grade or exotic materials, please get in touch with our sales team by telephone at 01384 563356 or by email at sales@brooksforgeings.co.uk



BROOKS
FORGINGS
THE NON STANDARD SPECIALISTS

hw Henry Williams



Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry Visits Somers Forge to make her first big Announcement

Somers Forge, a leading forge and heavy machine shop hosts ground breaking defence announcement for MaST Framework.



The Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry, Maria Eagle, announced the new agreement yesterday, on a visit to Somers Forge yesterday, based in Halesowen. The new agreement gives small and medium sized companies the chance to bid for work under a seven-year framework, worth up to £850 million.

During the site visit, MinDPI had the opportunity to witness first-hand the advanced forging processes, with a 36 tonne ingot shaft being forged by a mammoth 4,000 tonne press. The event saw many key figures from the MOD, including Toni Gray, Programme Director, along with other top industry leaders such as Dr. Simon Dakin, Director Integrated Battlespace and Samira Braund, ADS Group Defence Director.

Samson Folkes, Managing Director: 'Being selected for the MAST framework represents a huge opportunity for our business. We have been a defence supplier since 1912 and are incredibly proud of our heritage supporting the Royal Navy. For Somers Forge, winning contracts through MAST can help us sustain vital jobs and apprenticeships in the Midlands, as well as underpin our growth ambitions'.

Hosting this announcement is a significant milestone for Somers Forge, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to supporting the UK's defence capabilities. The event highlighted the vital role that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) like Somers Forge, play in the defence supply chain.

For more information about Somers Forge please visit www.somersforge.com

How Barton Reduces Time to Market for UK Manufacturers By Adrian Ball, Business Development Manager at Barton Cold Form, an Optimas Company

Despite the UK manufacturing industry recording growth for the first time since July 2022, there are still many issues causing OEMs reporting 30-week lead times.



From disruption in the Red Sea to strong competition by the EU market on overseas demand, there are many current issues creating risk to supply chains. As a result, local sourcing and simplifying production processes remain key priorities for UK manufacturers.

Fasteners may be some of the smallest parts in a production build, but they're often the most critical. Depending on their application, some fasteners have to be intricately engineered and rigorously tested before they're put to use, taking up a considerable amount of time and resources. This is especially the case for manufacturers that are sourcing, finishing and testing fasteners in multiple locations.

Barton Cold-Form, Optimas' UK manufacturing division, provides their UK and European partners with localised, in-house fastener design, engineering and production facilities. By keeping these processes all under one roof, their partners significantly reduce their lead times and avoid costly shipping and logistics charges, so they can focus on manufacturing cutting-edge products. Specialising in cold forming, a highly reproducible manufacturing process, Barton's manufacturing team are experts in all stages of the production process, from product design to point of manufacture. Here are six ways Barton Cold Form reduces manufacturers' time to market:

Design

With some members holding over 30 years' experience in fastener engineering, the team at Barton are well-versed in dealing with all types of fastening requirements. Collaborating with customers on their drawings and CAD files, their engineers work to understand and perfect fastener designs to make sure the end product is fit for use.

Prototyping

Using state-of-the-art 3D printers and CNC machinery, Barton's team are equipped with a wealth of prototyping equipment to test the material, strength and performance of a fastener outside of its application. Alongside producing precise and geometrically complex parts, their 3D printers allow us to achieve rapid, same-day prototyping for our partners, boosting their time to market.

Tooling

Barton recently completed a significant investment with the addition of a MV-S NewGen EDM Machine which provides their manufacturing team with further capabilities to produce a variety of complex tooling in-house at great speeds (17% faster than conventional machines) and precision accuracy to 2 microns. With this new technology alongside the in-house tool room at Barton, time and costs are saved producing new, complex tooling enabling partner needs to be addressed quicker which contributes to significantly reduced lead times.

Engineering

In the earliest stages of a production build, Barton's in-house engineers can assess and refine your Bill of Materials. From reviewing the suitability of fastener finishes and materials to reducing part proliferation, the team at Barton find ways to improve product performance, drive cost savings and mitigate risk.

Quality Testing

Working to a range of customer, industry and regulatory-specific requirements, like PPAP Level 3 and Failure Mode and Effects Analysis, Barton's quality team conduct a range of rigorous quality tests to make sure our fasteners are exactly fit for use. Some of their testing capabilities include salt spray testing, torque tension testing and metallography testing in state-of-the-art quality labs.

Production

Cold heading is a process that produces especially durable parts, as it maximizes the material's metallurgical properties and structural integrity. Barton has 27 cold heading machines, running 24 hours a day, and 15 thread rollers. These machines can produce hundreds of thousands of pieces per day, made from a wide range of standard and exotic materials and in a wide range of diameters and lengths.

With over 90 years' experience in fastener manufacturing, Barton is well-equipped to manage each critical stage of fastener production, all under one roof. By keeping each of these processes in-house, their partners can significantly reduce their lead times and improve their time to market.

As companies put effort into taking more control of their operational and capital expenditure, Total Cost of Ownership has taken on a new meaning. Through consolidating all of these stages of production, Optimas and Barton are helping to address manufacturers' Total Cost of Ownership and maximise efficiencies across their production processes.

For further information, please visit www.optimas.com or contact adrian.ball@optimas.com.



Cooper Turner Beck Group Launches First ESG Report, Creating a Launchpad for a Sustainable Future

Manufacturing Industry Heavyweight Driving Carbon Reduction, Employee Well-being, and Social Responsibility



[Cooper Turner Beck Group \(CTB\)](#), a global leader in safety-critical fastener solutions, is proud to announce the publication of its inaugural [Environmental, Social, and Governance \(ESG\) Report](#). This document is a comprehensive roadmap for the company's sustainable growth, reflecting its commitment to transparency, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. It outlines CTB's strategic goals to reduce emissions, enhance workplace safety, and foster stronger relationships with its stakeholders.

Key Highlights from the ESG Report:

- A baseline carbon footprint of 73,702 tCO₂e for 2022, driven predominantly by Scope 3 emissions from CTB's global supply chain.
- Ambitious targets include a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2032 and a commitment to achieving net zero by 2050.
- CTB's investment in product life cycle assessments (LCA) to track and reduce carbon intensity across its operations and value chain.
- A Living Wage Policy across all sites, ensuring fair compensation and promoting ethical labour practices throughout the supply chain.

Driving Sustainability and Employee Well-being

CTB's ESG report places equal emphasis on social and governance goals, including its initiatives to improve employee well-being, foster a diverse and inclusive work environment, and ensure the highest standards of safety. It has implemented a Living Wage Policy, and through its EHS Model, CTB has reduced serious accidents by 36% since 2022 and is on track to further enhance employee safety.

Playing a Key Role in Decarbonising the Steel Manufacturing Sector

With steel production responsible for around 8% of global carbon emissions, CTB is keenly aware of its responsibility to reduce its environmental footprint. Through compliance with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and analysing the supply chain, CTB is striving to make significant progress in the sector's decarbonisation efforts.

Commitment to the United Nations SDGs

CTB's sustainability strategy is firmly aligned with eight of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8), Climate Action (Goal 13), and Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12). These goals are at the core of the company's efforts to reduce negative impacts while driving positive change.

CTB's Role in Carbon Reduction and Sustainable Innovation

"As a key player in the global steel and fasteners industry, we recognise the significant role we must play in reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices. This report marks a crucial step in our journey towards becoming a force for good in the communities we operate in and beyond," said Tony Brown, CEO of Cooper Turner Beck. "We are committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and equitable future."

Dr. Vicky Hill, Head of ESG and Safety at CTB, adds: "We are not only complying with evolving regulations but actively contributing to positive change in our industry. Our approach to ESG is about embedding sustainability into every decision we make—from the products we design to the way we operate."

Looking Forward: ESG Goals for 2025 and Beyond

CTB's ESG journey is just beginning. The company has set clear targets for 2025, including a 20% reduction in active suppliers, prioritising those who share its commitment to sustainability, and reducing the serious accident rate to below 2 per 100 employees by 2026.

CTB invites stakeholders, partners, and employees to explore its sustainability journey by downloading the [full ESG report](#), and to join the [upcoming webinar](#) where key leaders will discuss the report's findings and future goals in more detail.

For more information, visit our website <https://www.cooperturnerbeck.com/>

Submit Your Entries Now for the 2025 Annual Dinner & Awards!

We are excited to invite entries for the prestigious 2025 Annual Dinner & Awards, taking place at the Birmingham Council House on Thursday, 3rd April 2025. This is your chance to celebrate your accomplishments and gain well-deserved recognition!

Why Enter?

- Showcase your success and innovation
- Elevate your brand and build credibility
- Network with industry leaders and peers
- Be recognized in front of an audience of top professionals
- The winners will receive a reward

Categories Include:

- Company of the Year
- Apprentice of the Year
- HSE Initiative of the Year
- Energy Efficiency Initiative
- New! - Employee Engagement Award

How to Enter:

1. Choose your category
2. Complete the entry form
3. Submit supporting documents

Deadline for submissions: 7th February

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to shine and be acknowledged for your hard work and achievements!

For more details and to submit your entry, Melinda Jean via email melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk.

FASTENER

Atlas Copco Group celebrates Water for All's 40th anniversary

Atlas Copco Group marks a significant milestone in its history as the Groups employee driven global initiative, Water for All, celebrates its 40th anniversary, an anniversary that represents four decades of unwavering commitment to making clean and safe water universally available.



"I am very proud to say that Water for All has transformed countless lives by providing access to clean water and sanitation. I am equally proud of the continuous engagement in this initiative stretching over 40 years and counting, which not only supplies water but also fosters education and economic development," said Vagner Rego, President and CEO of Atlas Copco Group.

Water for All is a global initiative driven by employees from both Atlas Copco Group and Epiroc, committed to ensuring access to clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. On average during the last 5 years Water for All has had 65 ongoing projects and reached approximately 250 000 people per year. Atlas Copco Group has made a standing commitment to double match the monthly donations employees are making.

www.atlascopcogroup.com/en

With the belief that access to water is not a privilege but a fundamental human right, Water for All emerged amidst a global water crisis manifested through events in Peru in 1984. Aimed with the conviction that water is essential for health, education, and economic prosperity, the founders initiated a movement that has since reached millions of people around the globe.

Greenfields Energy Group – Expanding Team & Client Numbers

August 2023 seems forever ago As they say time flies when you're having fun!



When Liam Conway & Richard Clark set the business up in August 2023 the vision was clear on the kind of energy brokerage they wanted to run. Relationship led, no-nonsense, client specific advice!

Just over a year in to the journey we're closing in on 100 clients with 85% being in the manufacturing sector.

Demand for a no-nonsense approach is high so much so the team has expanded to four with the recruitment of Neil Freeman & Lindsay Williams. Two very experienced energy professionals.

The team is set to grow further in January 2025 with further experienced hires!

We're all about people and relationships - getting to know the management teams, their businesses and how we can use our knowledge of the industry to ensure they are well placed with electricity and gas contracts.

Management teams are turning to us because of our straightforward approach. We don't try to bamboozle them with jargon and empty promises, instead understanding where we can use our knowledge of the market and bespoke energy strategies to deliver them significant savings.

Unlike plenty of other energy brokers who are not giving well rounded advice on the basis they have targets to hit for certain contract structures, Greenfields Energy Group have no affinity or allegiance to any supplier nor product. This is invaluable when ensuring the client has a range of options available to them in order that they are well furnished with information to make an informed decision!

We're always happy to talk!

Liam@greenfieldsenergygroup.co.uk

07570539251



Greenfields

Energy Group

Sense Check Your Energy Contracts Before Signing

Energy remains a key business priority and cost to our members. With the help and support of **Greenfields Energy Group** we are offering a no-obligation review of existing energy contracts and advice covering future contract decisions.

CBM members will be familiar with **Greenfields Energy Group** from recent co-hosted energy webinars. Their advice is well received and to the point.

It's crucial for CBM members to sense check energy contracts before signing as once a contract is signed there is no going back.

Get in Touch



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Fastener Mini-Expo gets a Big Thumbs Up

On 4th September, the Confederation of British Metalforming staged its second 'Fastener Mini-Expo' at the National Metalforming Centre, West Bromwich. Aimed at providing an informative networking opportunity for the UK fastener manufacturing sector, all respondents to a post-expo survey felt the event was good or excellent, with 83% recommending it to industry colleagues.



The one-day event involved twenty-seven exhibitors, encompassing leading European steel and machinery manufacturers, inspection, process monitoring and simulation systems, tooling and heat treatment specialists, lubricant and energy suppliers. The Mini-Expo was also supported by Fastener + Fixing Magazine and CBM associates Croner HR and Crowe UK. Highlight of the event was a fascinating in-depth presentation from Voestalpine Steel, exploring both the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to green steel production.

The CBM Fastener Mini-Expo originated in 2019, but plans for further editions were stymied by the pandemic, until a successful relaunch this year. That was at the initiative of CBM fastener specialist, Derek Barnes, with the able support of the Confederation's Media and Communications Administrator, Rachael Bromley.



Reflecting on the event, Derek said: "The CBM set out to create a dedicated trade fair for fastener and precision component manufacturing companies, giving them access to key providers in the supply chain but also bringing them together as a community for a great networking opportunity. We chose exhibitors that were diverse in their products and services and offered state of the art technologies that add value to the manufacturing industry."

Explaining the selection of Voestalpine as the day's keynote speaker, Derek explained: "We decided to have a single keynote speaker and the presentation by Voestalpine on Green Steel was not only extremely relevant but also very insightful. It created an excellent focal point for attendees and exhibitors, with discussions continuing over the buffet lunch provided by the CBM".



The National Metalforming Centre is the CBM's headquarters and events venue, conveniently located in the heart of the West Midlands, close to the M5 and M6 motorway network. For Derek Barnes, as well as showcasing the capabilities of the NMC as a welcoming and effective venue, hosting the Expo there "allowed us to create a really good, relaxed atmosphere, appreciated by all." He noted "It's fair to say that the day was a total success with both exhibitors and attendees enjoying the event. Having re-established the value of the Mini-Expo, now we can start planning next year's event."

Derek was far from alone in his assessment of the day. One exhibitor noted that they had received three times as many positive enquiries than they had at big exhibitions. All bar one exhibitor confirmed they would be pleased to exhibit again.



There was unanimous approval for the Voestalpine presentation, which was described by one attendee as "very good and useful". The presentation, led by Dr Walter Berger, Voestalpine's Director of Innovation, who flew in with his team especially for the event, provided a detailed and scrupulously



honest commentary on both the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to green steel production.

Overall assessments of the Mini-Expo included comments describing it as “well-organised and well-attended”, with positive feedback on the range of featured exhibitors, as well as special praise for a “lovely lunch”. 91% of respondents to the post-event survey were pleased with the variety of exhibitor stands, and a similar percentage approved the time-efficient schedule – some felt the event might be even more focused, closing sooner after the keynote presentation and lunch. Others, however, clearly valued the networking time. Every respondent concurred that the National Metalforming Centre was a good location, although there was a feeling that, if this year’s success drove greater demand, as seems likely, space might become a challenge.



CBM Chief Executive, Geraldine Bolton, commented “CBM was delighted to host so many fastener sector participants, both as exhibitors and attendees. It was particularly pleasing to see ‘standing room only’ for an excellent presentation from Voestalpine. It was also great to hear how attendees were engaging with the exhibitors and each other. It was important to Derek that the Mini-Expo should be a successful networking as well as informative event and it certainly delivered on both scores. It was also a measure of the range of support that CBM provides its members that attendees valued the presence of Croner HR and Crowe UK as well as our policy advisor, Phil Matten, who was clearly being ‘collared’ on various pressing regulatory issues, particularly steel safeguarding and CBAM.”

The CBM stages informative ‘TTG webinars’ on fastener manufacturing technology and holds regular online forging and fastener meetings, which deliver the latest on market and regulatory developments. They also include personal updates from President, Steve Morley, on CBM’s lobbying with Government departments on key concerns for the entire metal manufacturing sector.

For more on CBM membership [visit thecbm.co.uk](http://visit.thecbm.co.uk)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FASTENER EXPO 15th OCTOBER 2025. Please email Rachael.bromley@thecbm.co.uk for further information.

Featured Exhibitors:

Brankamp Process Monitoring
Carlo Salvi Machinery
Saspi
RLS Tooling
Regg Inspection
Condat Lubricants
Croner HR
Crowe UK
Dayton Progress
Fastener + Fixing Magazine
FourJaw Analytics
G John Power
Greenfields Energy Group
Hariton Machinery Company
Hav-Sentry Ferau Dynamics
Heat Treatment 2000
Petrofer
Plus Automation
Micas Solutions
Novametal
Solid Cam
Technology Supply Chain
The Sempre Group
Total Energies
TR Fastenings
Voestalpine

“Good to meet everyone. Nice to know innovation in our sector is still happening”

“...a really good, relaxed atmosphere, appreciated by all”

“A great expo with some very interesting businesses attending, had some good, interesting chats “



Morley forges automotive role at leading European industrial association

A leading UK manufacturing figure has been appointed as the Chair of the Automotive Group within Euroforge.

Steve Morley, the current president of the Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM), will take up the influential role at the association's high-profile Autumn Summit in Milan on October 21st.

He will be responsible for developing a strategy to tackle some of the major issues impacting European automotive forgers, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), fluctuating energy prices and the availability of material across the supply chain.

The experienced auto specialist has also put together an industry-packed speaking line-up for the event from across Europe, featuring Matt Pearson (Partner at EY Pantheon), Philippa Oldham (Stakeholder Engagement Director at the Advanced Propulsion Centre) and Euclides Coimbra (Senior Partner and Managing Director of the Kaizen Institute).

Together, the trio will give Euroforge members a clear insight into the current industry landscape, as well as exploring access to funding of new technologies and how firms can maximise efficiencies through new process implementation.

The Autumn Summit is an important pre-cursor for conFAIR 2024 on the 22nd and 23rd October, which has a full house of exhibitors for the only European event specifically designed for the forging industry.

"I'm very honoured to have been appointed as the Chair of the Automotive Group, one of the most prestigious roles within an organisation that now represents more than 350 members across Europe," explained Steve, who has more than 40 years' experience working in manufacturing.

"We are at a very important time in the evolution of forging as an industry, especially when you consider the emergence of electric vehicles and the types of parts we can supply. One of my roles will be to take all the intel we're getting on the ground and funnel them into a strategy that moves us forward as one collective."

He continued: "Milan will be a great start to the position and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone at the Autumn Summit."

Steve has been President of the Confederation of British Metalforming since 2018, working with CEO Geraldine Bolton and its policy advisers to lobby UK government on key factors affecting the sector.



Some notable achievements secured in the last six years have included increasing steel safeguarded quotas domestically, lobbying on the escalation of rising energy costs and providing intelligence on CBAM to members ahead of its European introduction.

The former Group Engineering Director at Sertec Group has spent the majority of his 40-year career in and around the automotive sector, working at all tiers of the supply chain and running his own consultancy business.

"Steve has the experience, industry contacts and passion to make a really big difference as Chair of Euroforge's Automotive Group," added Geraldine Bolton, CEO of the Confederation of British Metalforming.

"Importantly, he will be able to factor in some of the issues facing CBM members, ensuring they are represented alongside their European peers. He will also be in an ideal position to see new technologies developing at the earliest possible opportunity, intelligence that will help accelerate the growth of our own domestic supply chain."

For further information, please visit www.thecbm.co.uk or www.euroforge.org

EUROFORGE





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LOW-COST CONTRINEX LIGHT DETECTION GRIDS ENSURE ACCURATE COUNTING OF BRACKET ASSEMBLIES

One of the challenges of supplying retailers and the automotive industry is their intolerance of delivery errors, which often results in severe penalties for supplying the wrong number of parts in a delivery. Another is that calculating the OEE of an assembly machine requires accurately counting the machine's output, but doing this reliably at an affordable cost is often difficult.

Contrinex's low-cost DGI infra-red light grids provide an affordable solution, with a choice of resolutions, ranging from a fine resolution of 0.9 mm, for example, to count small fasteners, to sensors with a broader resolution of 25 mm for affordable detection of larger items across a sensing distance of up to 8m, for example detecting car bodies, or panels entering a paint-line.

CUSTOMER APPLICATION

A company pressing and welding an assembly for an automotive application needed a reliable system to count the assemblies and guarantee that the assembly was welded correctly. The parts are loaded by hand onto an assembly jig on a resistance-welding machine, with the finished part being removed and dropped into a metal bin used to transport the parts to the customer.

To ensure that only welded parts removed from the welder are placed into the transportation bin and that the correct number of finished assemblies is in the bin, a sensor system was sought to reliably detect each item as it is dropped into the bin and check that the corresponding welding cycle has been completed.

Manual inspection of each assembly is impractical because of the high volume of low-cost parts being manufactured. However, there is only a limited budget for an automated system, yet the size, shape, weight and colour of the assemblies made on the welder varies across different part numbers.



Implementing the control system could not extend the process cycle time, making loading the assembly into a checking gauge impractical. A sensing system was sought that would reliably detect various fast-moving assemblies being dropped or thrown into the despatch bin.

CUSTOMER SOLUTION

The Contrinex DGI range of infrared light detection grids was ideally suited to the application, comprising separate sender and receiver units housed in rugged one-piece aluminium profiles, ideal for the busy factory production environment. In addition to being low-cost sensors, they are also easy,

fast and low-cost to implement into a PLC-controlled system because they behave just like a simple photoelectric sensor, with Push-Pull (PNP and NPN), Light-ON & Dark-ON outputs switching whenever a beam is broken. No configuration or software set-up is required, simplifying their implementation; they are truly plug-and-play, with only a potentiometer to adjust sensitivity if needed, and are connected using low-cost 4-pin M12 connection cables.

The customer's system detects the presence of any item passing through the light grid and interrogates the PLC to confirm that a welding cycle has been completed since the preceding part was placed into the bin. If a correct welding cycle was not registered before the part entered the bin, the system suspends the process, disabling the welder and sounding an alarm to alert the operator.



With response times from 0.8 to 4.8 milliseconds, which is faster than safety light curtains, and a choice of resolutions from 0.9 to 25mm dependent upon the size of the light grid, the DGI light detection grids exceeded the customer's demanding specification for rapid response and reliable detection of small parts, which machine safety light curtains could not.

In front of the transport bin, a DGI light grid with a detection height of 480mm and a beam spacing of 5mm (smaller than the smallest machine-safety light curtain resolution of 14mm) was used. The sensor can work across a span of up to 4m, so the 120cm wide bin was easily accommodated without impeding the operator or increasing the process cycle time.

Being the largest DGI light-grid sensor with an 8mm resolution, it is one of the more costly DGI sensors. However, at less than £1,000, it was less than half the price of a safety light curtain with only a 14mm resolution, and made automating the counting and verification of the weld assembly affordable.



PRODUCT ADVANTAGES

- Well-proven, highly reliable detection
- Ideal for detection and counting of small objects, or a wide variety of shapes and sizes
- Choice of resolutions - 0.9 mm, 2 mm, 4 mm, 8 mm or 25 mm
- Detection heights up to 2m and up to 8m distance
- Fast response time - 0.8 ms ... 4.8 ms
- Robust aluminium extrusion housings and shatter-resistant PMMA optics
- Fast & simple set-up – Adjust just one potentiometer - No programming, PLC or complexity
- Low-cost M12 cable connections
- -5°C... to +50°C – IP65 rating
- Exceptional price/performance ratio

PLUS Automation, which offers fellow Confederation of British Metalforming members a 10% discount can be contacted on **0121 58 222 58** or email Sales@PLUSAutomation.co.uk to discuss how they can help you **#MakeSenseofSensors**.

With over 2,000 sensors in stock in the UK, supported by stock held in Europe and short manufacturing lead times, PLUS Automation welcomes the opportunity to discuss improving automation and machine performance or reducing costs.

For further information please visit <https://plusautomation.co.uk/>

PLUS AUTOMATION
HELPING YOU **#MAKESENSEOFSENSORS**

Review your transformers this winter - for power resilience, emission reductions, and lower energy spend

Power resilience is critical and winter is the time when disruptions are most likely to occur. As the metals industry negotiates a still-uncertain energy market and the UK's commitment to net zero has fresh impetus, Claire Tonks, Account Manager at Powerstar throws a spotlight on transformers - a true workhorse of energy infrastructure. She shows how modern, UK-manufactured transformer solutions are helping energy-intensive companies meet power resilience and sustainability challenges, while offering the return on investment that companies need.

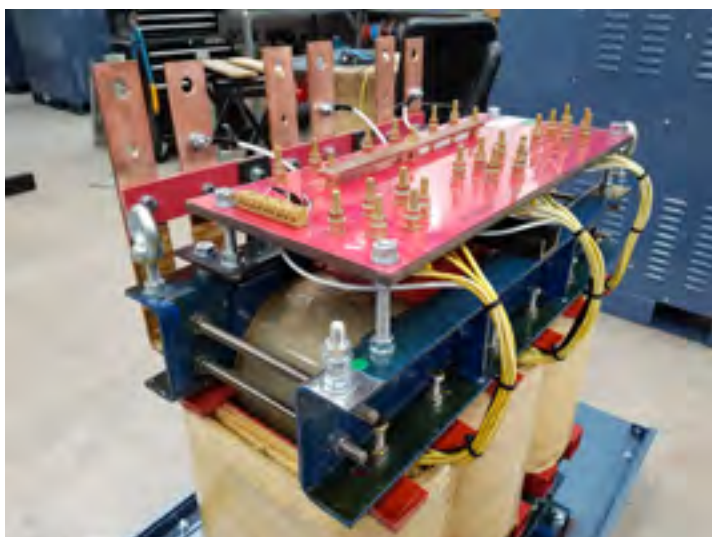


Many businesses rely on transformers, to step-up or step-down incoming voltage for usable power on-site. Where companies have invested in on-site renewables, transformers are vital for the integration of sustainable power. In part, it is the uptake of on-site renewables that is creating potential problems for those companies relying on transformers. Demand has increased such that companies may face lengthy delays when purchasing new transformers.

But the UK transformer fleet is ageing, risking extended downtime and productivity losses. Ofgem have confirmed that, across approximately 230,000 transformers employed across the UK, the average unit age is over 60 years. When the anticipated design lifespan for a transformer is about 20 years, there are obvious issues. Worst-case scenario: your transformer fails, meaning production downtime, potential scrappage or wastage of product, and a lengthy wait while a replacement is sourced. Even outside of failure, an older transformer will have operational costs that are higher than necessary, including maintenance bills, inflated energy consumption, and unnecessary carbon emissions - Scope 2 emissions which could be avoided.

The UK Metals Council reported that the most significant challenges businesses face are economic uncertainty and market volatility (20%), and energy costs (15%). Their survey identified three measures that businesses are taking to mitigate the energy problem: energy reduction through modification of production processes; improving energy supply contracts, and introducing more energy-efficient technologies and equipment. The Council conclude that companies will have most control,

“...through modifying production processes and introducing energy efficient technologies and equipment. The degree to which these can both be achieved will depend on the ease and impact of implementing these measures. There is also likely to be capital investment required which may not always be available as an option for a business, depending on the time required for a return on investment.”



Given the need to demonstrate returns on initial investment - where modern amorphous core transformers may be more expensive than the traditional option - how do advancements in transformer technology translate into quantifiable benefits?

As a subset of Grain Orientated Electrical Steel (GOES) transformers, Cold Rolled Grain Orientated (CRGO) are a more efficient option. However, modern amorphous core transformers offer major benefits, even compared to CRGO. Amorphous core transformers experience significantly lower core losses - up to 70% - and minimising energy losses equates to lower operating costs and reduced consumption. And, Powerstar transformers feature integrated remote monitoring, providing real-time visibility to help with proactive maintenance to minimise downtime and improve operational efficiency.

Key themes for the metal sector, highlighted in sessions at UK Metals Expo, include dispelling the belief that the UK no longer manufactures significant products. Local sourcing is a priority for Powerstar's transformer manufacture - supporting sustainability through reducing transport-related emissions, while ensuring clear and rigorous quality control and avoiding the potential pitfalls of delays that can come with importing equipment, and keeping lead times as short as possible. Powerstar's amorphous core transformers are built to meet or exceed industry standards, including UL Quality Assurance (E4725530), ISO 9001, ISO 14001, IEC 60076, and BS EN 61558.



Energy independence, and decarbonisation on the path to net zero are equally pressing issues, a focus for both the forthcoming Expo and for the UK Metals Council. Data from Powerstar clients, across advanced manufacturing and energy-intensive industries, attest to the benefits of investment in modern transformer technology, and demonstrate the ROI that businesses need to show, particularly when negotiating economic uncertainty and market volatility.

For one Sheffield-based customer, manufacturers who supply into the oil and gas drilling industry, Powerstar's evaluation - including voltage profile measurement and analysis of the site's electrical characteristics - led to the replacement of their HV distribution transformer with a low-loss transformer incorporating electronic dynamic voltage optimisation. This new installation has resulted in 9.5%



annual energy consumption reduction which equates to 107,659 kWh saving and a reduction in carbon emissions of nearly 60 tonnes per year.

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Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March 2025

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- Metal properties
- Metals structure
- Ore smelting
- Metals making & casting
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- Mechanical Testing and NDT
- Hot & cold working/shaping/forming
- Heat treatment
- Metal alloy classification
- Corrosion



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- appreciate the properties and applications of relevant industrial alloys

PROGRAMME CONTENT

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PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Courses take the form of participative workshops, led by an expert metallurgist with extensive metals industry experience.

The content, length and structure of the course can vary according to individual company needs.

A folder of course materials is supplied and all attendees will receive a certificate after completing the two day course.

COST

CBM members £325 + vat per person,
Non Members £445 + vat per person

**Places are limited, so to avoid
disappointment reserve your place(s) now
contact:**

**Melinda Jean at the CBM on 0121 601 6350 or
email: melinda.jean@thecbm.co.uk**



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

ANNUAL AWARDS & DINNER 2025

Thursday 3rd April 2025 at
The Council House, Birmingham

Our annual dinner & awards is back by popular demand.

The annual CBM Metalforming Awards are a wonderful way to promote your company. As the voice of the industry, we can't wait to recognise your accomplishments and show the wider supply chain and business community what you've achieved.

Dress Code: Black Tie

£135 per ticket for member
£150 for non member.

Table for member £1250.
Table for non member £1,400.

For more information please contact
Melinda Jean at Melinda.jean@thebcm.co.uk

Sponsorship opportunities are available