



ORACLE

Journal of the Institute of Sheet Metal Engineering



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Principal Officers

President

Mr Alan Shaw



Chairman of Council

Mr Steve Morley



Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Josie Stevenson



Honorary Secretary

Mr Bill Pinfold

Telephone: 07891 499146

Email: ismesec@gmail.com



Events Officer

Mr Adrian Nicklin

Telephone: 07774 260126

Email: adriannicklin@btinternet.com



Advertising Manager

Ray Jelf

Telephone: 01608 730994

Email: rayjelf@mma.org.uk



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Cover picture - Overall winner of the skills competition and recipient of the ISME Trophy, Ben Lang of Babcock.

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From the President

Dear ISME Members,

I hope you have all had a pleasant summer, and returned from holiday to find continued healthy order books.

We live in turbulent times politically, which is having aspin-off into the commercial world with the steep fall in the value of Sterling against the Dollar and the Euro – good news if you are exporting heavily, not so good if you use a lot of imported materials in your products.

For those members who are involved in exporting, you are probably already aware that the Government has re-branded UKTI and re-launched it as part of DIT (Department for International Trade) under the leadership of Liam Fox, who apparently believes that British business leaders are generally "too fat and lazy, and spend too much time on the golf course". It will be interesting to see if DIT turns out to be of any more practical use than UKTI. I'm not holding my breath, so look out for the next re-branding exercise – one could suggest Department for Trade and industry (DTI) next time, nice solid ring to it.

Lots of good content in this edition of Oracle, hope you enjoy it, I'm off to play golf! (not).

Alan Shaw - President

ISME Honorary Secretary's Report



71st ISME AGM

Chairman Steven Morley reported on another successful year for the Institute with the organisation of events such as the Skills Competition and Meet the Experts day at the Birmingham Thinktank. The Institute's journal Oracle had been regularly produced and the high standard of content had been maintained.

The decline in membership had been arrested with several new members being recruited. He thanked Josie Stevenson and her colleagues at MPPS for their financial work on behalf of the Institute. The accounts for the year showed a surplus of £2,016 compared to £2,989 in the previous year.

Council members K Chadwick, JB Davis, A Haller, D Glennon, A Shaw, D Vaughan and S Morley were all due to retire by rotation. All were prepared to stand again and were elected unopposed.

After the meeting 59 members and guests dined and the Institute's Gold Medal was awarded to Mr Ian Harnett of JLR and the Davey Udal award to Prof. Jiango Lin. Details of both presentations are featured later in this issue.

Our thanks go to the catering staff at the Molineux for the excellent meal.

New ISME Council Member

We are pleased to welcome Stuart McSheehy to the ISME Council.

Stuart is, Managing Director of European Springs & Pressings Ltd. and has experienced decades of technical and development growth in the sheet metal industry whilst heading up the UK's leading springs and pressings manufacturer. European Springs & Pressings has been established since 1948 and operates from three sites across the UK, in London, Cornwall and Leeds. In 2007 it became part of the Swedish Lesjöfors Group and grew from a £5.5m turnover to today's £16.5+m turnover.



Bill Pinfeld
ISME Hon Secretary



ISME Past President Wilf Taylor

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of ISME Past President and Honorary Member Wilf Taylor, who died on September 1st 2016 at the age of 84.

Wilf joined SASMUTA (The Sheet and Sheet Metal Users Technical Association – later to be renamed ISME) in 1953 whilst working in the press tool drawing office of the Austin Motor Company.

Some years later he joined other colleagues to form the contract design company, A H Cole Designs. The business expanded and created a group of companies, which included A H Cole Tools Ltd. where Wilf was appointed Technical Director.

Wilf was elected to the National Council of ISME and to its Technical Committee.

During an economic downturn the A H Cole group broke up and Wilf established his own company Nimrod Services, providing both design and supply of tooling together with special purpose machinery.

Wilf held various positions within ISME including Chairman and President.

He represented the UK at ICOSPA (International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Associations) and attended meetings in France, Germany, the USA and the UK.

He was honoured with the ICOSPA Silver Medal for "Outstanding Merit" presented in France at the Palace of Versailles.

More recently Consultancy and Expert Witness roles took up the greater part of his engineering career. He was always interested in the future and supported education and training particularly as a judge at ISME Skills Competitions as well as judging sheet metal entries for the International Youth Skills Olympics.

In 2012 Wilf's contribution to ISME was recognised when he was made an Honorary Member of the Institute.

Wilf, who will be fondly remembered by all who knew him, played a major role in the development and operation of ISME and we are indeed greatly indebted to him for his continued active, wise and positive support.

Bill Pinfeld - ISME Hon Sec

The Voith BWIL Drive

Introducing a complete hydraulic system for punching and shearing applications from a single source: a lean drive system with few interfaces delivers cylinder forces of up to 2,500 kN with significant energy savings and high availability.

Engineering, hydraulics and system know how – with its new BWIL drive, Voith combines all expertises in a single unit. The result is a lean and robust system for punching and shearing applications with forces of up to 2,500 kN. The multi-pressure circuits and accumulator charging technology of the system make it highly energy efficient. Thanks to its modular construction, it is flexible in its application.

Hydraulic drive systems in roll form units are compact in design. To minimize the number of interfaces and ensure short cycle times, Voith has optimally synchronized the hydraulic power pack, control unit, actuator, control electronics and application software in the BWIL drive. The close connection between the machine and drive system provides operators with the benefit of high reliability and availability.

Proven components are combined in a modular structure according to the respective machine requirements. As a result, the BWIL drive requires a shorter development time and is available faster. The programmable high-performance drive uses hydrodynamic servo valves for process control and thus facilitates even complex forming and positioning tasks.

Apart from the high quality of the produced parts, the BWIL drive also impresses with its performance data. The application-optimized electrohydraulic drive allows punching forces of up to 2,500 kN in pressing applications, with a cycle time of 400 ms and 20 mm stroke. In shearing applications, forces of 1,000 kN with 200 mm stroke and cycle times of up to three seconds are possible.

For driving the internal gear pump, Voith equips the unit with the latest IE3 motor technology. The delivery capacity of the pump is two times 125 litres. In combination with the accumulator charging technology and an additional three 50 litre accumulators, this delivery capacity is sufficient to realize even long dynamic strokes if necessary. The combination of Voith's well-known accumulator charging systems and the highly efficient internal gear pump provides significant energy savings compared to conventional drives.



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Bruderer UK signs £500,000 Harwin deal at MACH 2016

A new £500,000 deal to supply a second high-speed precision stamping press to Harwin was the highlight of Bruderer UK's appearance at MACH 2016.

Featuring industry-leading Bruderer BSV-75 high-speed servo feeder technology and an integrated planetary gearbox, the machine will help the Portsmouth-based electronics component specialist increase capacity, develop new products and support plans for 20% growth year-on-year.

"MACH was one of the busiest shows I've been to and we had lots of interest in our technology, explained Adrian Haller, Managing Director of Bruderer UK.

"The headline news was completing a deal with Harwin to supply a second Bruderer BSTA 280-75 B2, two years on from when it first invested in this machine at MACH 2014."

He continued: "We have been working with the company for more than 32 years and understand the technical capability and accuracy it is looking to achieve...two attributes Bruderer presses deliver in abundance.

Harwin, which manufactures high reliability connectors and innovative PCB hardware, is expecting the new press to help it increase

efficiencies and attack new opportunities in aerospace, instrumentation and industrial markets.

The integration of the planetary gearbox allows the firm's engineers to have full control of tooling that is necessary to produce test runs of new products that will drive the future of the business.

Operations Director Paul McGuinness, who is also overseeing completion of a new 3000 sq metre factory extension at Harwin, commented:

"We are continually investing in our new product development programme and this new acquisition will give our R&D team even greater capacity to bring the next generation of connectors to market."

Bruderer UK used MACH 2016 to launch a domestic 'first', with the unveiling of the Bruderer BSTA 410-110 B2.

Visitors to the company's stand were impressed with the performance of the high-speed press, which was manufacturing live parts for use in a new DIY innovation.

The machine boasts 1600 strokes per minute and comes with an impressive tool loading area of 1100mm, ideal for more complex progression press tools.

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2016 Gold Medal Award

Jaguar Land Rover Executive Director of Human Resources and Global Purchasing Ian Harnett, has been awarded the Institute of Sheet Metal Engineering's prestigious Gold Medal, for his service to the industry.

The Institute (ISME) was founded 70 years ago when the sheet metal industry was a very different animal in so many ways to what it is today. However the principles of the industry and the aims of the institute remain the same.

Set up to promote the sheet metal industry and to share knowledge and skills throughout its membership, the need to stamp, bend and fabricate sheet metal is the same now as it was in 1946. But technologies have changed dramatically and the demands of the automotive industry in particular have revolutionised methodology and working practices.

Ian Harnett has played an integral part in the growth of Jaguar Land Rover and as Global

Purchasing Director he oversaw the distribution of contracts to the supply chain throughout the world.

Vitality for the Midlands, automotive manufacturing has not only survived but remained strong in many cases, with companies investing in the new technologies to keep pace with Jaguar Land Rover's stringent demands on quality and the advent of aluminium structures.

Ian has helped guide these suppliers through the highs and lows of the automotive industry fortunes and in doing so has supported business growth and the generation of thousands of jobs in sheet metal engineering throughout the Midlands, the UK and beyond.

Chairman of ISME Steve Morley said "The Gold Medal is presented to influential people within our industry and I'm delighted to say that we had no hesitation in making Ian the 27th recipient of this award. "



World class supplier of lightweight stampings, assembled components...

...and so much more. Through investment in a brand new £16m press shop and the recent acquisition of a £50m business, Sertec now provides an even more comprehensive portfolio of manufacturing expertise, to world class automotive customers.

Steel and aluminium stamping, robotic welding and manual assemblies, hinges & closures, tubular assemblies, precision washers, fine blanking, spring and wire forming.



PROUD



Membership News

We welcome John Yarnall to membership. John is professionally qualified surface engineer with more than 30 years experience. He has recently started his own consultancy business after retiring from his full time position with an international group provider of heat treatments and surface coatings technology. Since graduating from The University of Nottingham with a Master's Degree in Surface Engineering & Design, he has been consulting to a diverse range of manufacturing companies serving both the UK and European markets on surface engineering topics.

Much of the consultancy work involves the protection of solid surfaces, which includes: surface treatments for metal forming tools; anti-wear coatings for automotive and aerospace applications; biomedical engineering, and more recently via research activities with The University of Birmingham.

He is a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Environmental Engineer for the Society for The Environment, which involves providing sustainable surface engineering solutions to industry for the protection of the environment.

He also serves in an advisory capacity for The Institute of Materials, Mineral & Mining and is treasurer for Industrial Metal Forming Technologies Group.

All entrants to the ISME skills Competition are awarded free student membership of the Institute. We welcome the following trainees who entered for the first time this year:

Adam Ellis, Samuel Evans, Jack Rogers, Joshua Sault and Madeline Whiting (all Royal Air Force Museum Cosford), Jamie Gage, Harry Hayton, Stephen Livick, Fin O'Donovan, Jack Rawlings and Thomas Phillips (all Babcock International), Matthew Murchington, Jay Scott, Terry Yates and Austin Walker-Nani (all Sertec Group) and Ryan Johnson from the School of Military Engineering.

We wish them well and hope that as their careers in the sheet metal industry develop and progress, they will apply to become full members of ISME.

Technical Publication News.

In the last edition of Oracle we printed the summary from "Cutting Metals With Knife Blades- Cropping/Shearing" a monograph by Stephen Henderson. The full document has now been published with an ISBN: 978-1907257-36-0. Stephen has kindly supplied the Institute with two copies. Any member wishing borrow a copy please contact Bill Pinfold.



Sheet Metal Skills Competition



Firstly, we must thank the Museum and the Conservation Centre, in particular Karen Dixon, Mick Shepherd and the staff for all their support in running our event and for the excellent lunch time catering.

The Apprentices and Trainers were very impressed with the Museum exhibits layout and facilities.

This year's event bought in 29 apprentice competitors from various companies from around the UK. This shows the need for young talent to make or maintain our metal commodities whether in aerospace, ship building, automotive, construction, catering or retail hardware.

With Competitors from, Babcock Marine Technology, Sertec, RAF Museum Cosford, Military Engineering, PAB and Midland Power Press Services, we had a good mix of test pieces to judge.

The Categories were Wall vent (year 1), Ducting (year 2), Hinged Clasp (category for toolmaking apprentices), Hinged Clasp Checking Fixtures (category for toolmaking apprentices) and Open Class Exhibits.

As last year we must praise the skills of the Apprentices for their workmanship and quality. Dimensional accuracy of the test pieces this year were to a very high standard with marking very close in all categories. The Open Class entries as normal gave the Judges a challenge to identify skills and originality.

ISME also judge their written technical document that accompanies the component they have made. We believe that the written word is an essential part in the planning of how they go about producing their exhibit. Like all events in today's environment we are indebted to our event sponsors;

Bruderer, Institution of Mechanical Engineers (ImechE), Sertec Group Holdings, Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM), AP&T Group, Radshape, Bauomat, Babcock Marine and Midland Power Press Services. Without their support there would be no competition.

The 2017 competition will take place on 15th June at The Coventry Transport Museum. If you'd like to enter or indeed contribute to the successful running of the event, please contact; Adrian Nicklin ISME Event Officer on adriannicklin@btinternet.com or call him on Mobile 07774 260126.

View gallery and this year's winners overleaf

This Years Award Winners

While Judging took place the Contestants, Trainers & Guests enjoyed the very interesting Museum & Conservation Centre Workshop.

As previously mentioned the ISME judges thought the quality standard was exceptionally high with the following awards given;

- Wall Vent Test Piece Winner(Frank Cooper Award) Terry Yates, Sertec
- Wall Vent Test Piece Written Winner, Terry Yates, Sertec
- Ducting Test Piece Winner, Ben Lang, Babcock
- Ducting Written (Ted Rosmarin Award) Andrew Neal, Babcock
- Clasp Test Piece Make, Kieren Coles, Sertec
- Clasp Test Piece Written, Scott Jay, Sertec
- Clasp Checking Fixture, Ricki Riaz, Midland Power Press Services
- John Davies Award Open Class winner, Stephen Livick, Babcock
- ISME Originality Open Class Award, Andrew Neal, Babcock
- Open Class Written Award, Andrew Neal, Babcock
- **ISME Trophy Overall Winner, Ben Lang, Babcock**

Thanks must go to the Company trainers, colleges and training schools for the time, effort and support they give to the students and apprentices. Their commitment to our entrants is essential to the future of this event. Similarly, the support of the ISME judges who provide their time free of charge is laudable.





Busy 2016 sees funding, restructuring, expansion and acquisition for Sertec Group

Sertec Group Holdings Ltd, one of the UK's largest independent manufacturers of stampings and welded assemblies has had quite a year!

Off to a flying start, the Birmingham based company secured a £20m funding package from BGF (Business Growth Fund) and Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking to support the management team's continuing expansion plans for the 54 year old business.

The Coleshill headquartered manufacturer is a major supplier to the automotive industry and has enjoyed significant growth over the last eight years. The funding was put in place to accelerate growth still further, with major customers requiring greater capacity and capability to support their own plans.

The deal allowed for more than just investment in plant and equipment. Following the reshaping of the company, the founding Mosedale family retired from the business having developed a strong Executive Management team to continue to grow the company, which was founded by Harry Mosedale back in 1962 from a small unit in Aston, Birmingham.



With funding in place, Sertec looked to increase manufacturing floor space as the company approached full production of parts for new Jaguar Land Rover vehicle launches.

In May, the company signed an agreement to open a brand new Logistics facility at Hams Hall Estate, located just a mile from their Winchester House Head Office in Coleshill and less than two miles from Junction 9 of the M42. This 145,000 sq ft warehouse unit has become the Group's Distribution Centre for finished parts, allowing its existing factory storage areas to be reallocated to manufacturing.

Group Managing Director Dave Steggles said "This exciting new development has allowed us to not only demonstrate greater manufacturing capacity across our factories, but now we have added an outstanding stand alone distribution centre to our business."



With the continuing success of Jaguar Land Rover and the automotive industry in general, the pressure on the Midlands supply chain to find new skilled labour continues to be an issue. So Sertec took its destiny and that of its new recruits in its own hands in June, with

the launch of the Sertec Learning Academy.

The investment in bricks and mortar, plant and equipment has certainly increased manufacturing capacity. But to sustain such growth, the business has now invested in its people. Training has always been a part of building an effective and efficient workforce at Sertec's factories, but with the launch of the Academy, Sertec can now take new, unskilled people, give them a world class induction and train them before a single day's work is done.

The Learning Academy covers all aspects of the manufacturing processes involved in the supply of automotive components, not only for new starters but for existing employees too.



Sertec Group Chief Executive Grant Adams said "This is only just the beginning. The possibilities are endless in our efforts to up-skill our workforce and with our current team of people increasing all the time, the Learning Academy is an essential development in the future of our business".

The business invested heavily last year across all operating centres in new robotics, presses and site upgrades. This year sees the completion of a brand new £16m press shop at its Coleshill factory, where 13 new Zani transfer and progression presses will be fully operational within the next 6 months.

Moving assembly work to a dedicated robotic weld and manual assembly facility half a mile up the road at the Head Office, Sertec has created space to concentrate solely on expanding its stamping capability for both Steel and Aluminium at its Gorse Lane site.



If all this wasn't enough for the year, Sertec has also completed their largest ever take over with the 100% acquisition of Midlands headquartered WILD automotive (AWC Industries Ltd) creating what is now a £250m turnover Group, employing 2500 people at 10 manufacturing plants across the UK, Germany and Hungary.

The deal represents a transformational opportunity for Sertec through enhancing its product capabilities, customer portfolio and providing an international platform at the heart of the European automotive hub.

Specifically, new expertise now part of the Sertec portfolio is in precision components, closures, fine blanked components, spring parts, complex stamped assemblies and wire forming, with the old WILD business enjoying a leading market share in the supply of wire seat frames to the UK automotive industry.

Combined with Sertec's primary experience in steel and aluminium body structural assemblies, this presents an exciting opportunity to diversify into the manufacture of other components, in areas of a vehicle not yet explored by Sertec.

The acquisition is precisely the kind of accelerated growth provided for by the £20m funding invested in Sertec at the beginning of the year and is probably the most important acquisition in Sertec's history, not only because of the size of the business, but because of the new opportunities it presents.



From left to right): hydro-mechanical clamping nut with clamping force display and continuous thread, followed by the mechanical version with clamping force display and through-hole and, on the right, a mechanical sliding clamp with clamping bolt.



Retrofit Cost-Effectively and Safely with Roemheld

Roemheld offers a wide range of new clamping tools that enable workholding systems on deformation presses to be retrofitted simply, cost-effectively and safely. New mechanical and hydraulic clamping elements enable faster set-up on virtually any press or machine. In addition, the new version of the mechanical variant is fitted with a visual clamping force display, which provides additional safety during clamping.

From higher flexibility and shorter set-up times when a great variety of tools are involved to the automation of processes or clamping with high forces and in tight spaces, virtually any intended application can be realised thanks to Roemheld's large selection of mechanical, hydraulic and electromechanical semi- and fully-automatic clamping elements.

Roemheld mechanical and hydro-mechanical clamping nuts are particularly suitable as cost-effective solutions as they can be installed quickly and simply without the need for piping. Thanks to its compact dimensions, the Roemheld hydro-mechanical clamping nut is ideal for applications where space is restricted. In addition to the visual clamping display on the mechanical clamping element, an integrated spring assembly prevents a loss of force when used with deformable components or clamping edges.

Both versions are maintenance-free and, thanks to the continuous thread, suitable for all clamping edges. Many different model variants are available with clamping forces up to 150 kN and low tightening torques of just 30 Nm.

Customers who want a higher level of automation can choose from a wide range of standard

hydraulic clamping elements such as hollow piston cylinders, sliding clamps, angular clamps and wedge clamps. The use of such elements reduces clamping and release times to between just two and four seconds. In addition to these time savings and a high level of automation capabilities, Roemheld hydraulic clamping elements deliver uniform clamping at all points without applying force with the ability to monitor clamping forces. In addition, all the elements are easy to install and therefore ideal for retrofitting.

Terry O'Neill, Managing Director of Roemheld, said: "Our best-selling toolholding elements for retrofitting applications are hydraulic hollow piston cylinders. This is because they are quick, cost-effective, easy to retrofit and can also be used in tight spaces. They are positioned manually at the tool edge, clamp using hydraulic pressure, release by means of spring force and achieve clamping forces up to 104 kN. Locking pins secure the centrally guided T-bolt against unintentional shifting of the clamping dimension. For tools with solid, uniform clamping edges or shapes with varying clamping edge heights, different variants of hollow piston cylinder are available with and without spherical washer or with adjustable tie rod."

In addition, Roemheld can provide matching high-performance and energy-saving hydraulic power units that are adapted to the requirements of the clamping elements being used.

To find out more about Roemheld's full range of workholding and materials handling solutions, go to www.roemheld.co.uk or telephone 01462 459052.



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Report on CBM Health and Safety Meeting October 2016

At a well attended meeting of the CBM H&S Group, which followed a tour of Salop Design and Engineering Shrewsbury and the associated In Comm training centre, an update in the latest developments for measuring and monitoring Hand Arm Vibration was given. A wrist band sensor has now been developed which communicates with a chip fixed to the tool.

A presentation followed on the importance of ensuring that all company drivers and their vehicles were fit and qualified for legal use. This includes own vehicles used on company business. Delegates were surprised to hear that an average of three drivers per day are killed whilst on company business.

An HSE Specialist Inspector gave an update on the strategy "Helping Great Britain Work Well". This has six themes including "Ill Health" and this subject continues to be a focus for proactive

inspections. Asthmagens and Carcinogens from weld fumes and metal working fluids will receive particular attention and Inspectors will ask questions related to respiratory issues. They may also ask questions related to dermal issues.

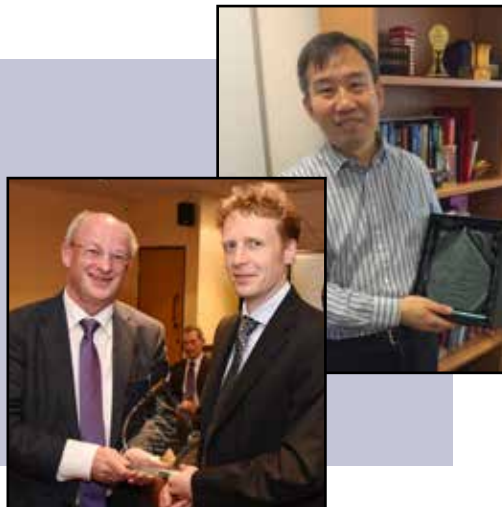
Big fines recently imposed by the courts following HSE prosecutions were highlighted including the Alton Towers and Harrison Ford cases. The HSE FFI hourly rate has been increased to £129. Employers can keep up to date by subscribing to the HSE e bulletin via the HSE web site.

Other subjects covered in a very full agenda were managing an ageing work force, environmental update and coaching techniques for H&S professionals.

Bill Pinfold

Davy Udual Award

ISME has recognised the work of ISME Member Professor Jianguo Lin from Imperial College with a special award. He is responsible for the development of the new HFQ® (Hot form quench) sheet Aluminium forming process. Jianguo was unable to attend the presentation and so work colleague Alistair Foster collected the 'Davy Udual Award' on his behalf at the Gold Medal Dinner.



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ISME Visit to Impression Technologies, Coventry

In September ISME members were invited to join the CBM on a tour of Impression Technologies brand new facility built on the old Jaguar site in Lyons Park, Coventry.

The tour was hosted by ISME Council Member, Dr. Alistair Foster who gave a presentation on the Hot Form Quench Process (HFQ®) which he has been instrumental in developing.

The process was ideal for low to medium volume components where high strength and light weight at a reduced cost was required. Typically 6000 or 7000 grade Aluminium is used preheated to above 450 C before being pressed and quenched whilst still in the tool. The component is then batch age hardened. Cycle times were demonstrated at 30s, but the process limit for the press cycle can be much lower, at 5-10 seconds.

Markets where HFQ was of interest include automotive, aerospace and rail and mass transit.

A factory tour followed where visitors saw a production a-post being produced on the world's first dedicated HFQ aluminium hot stamping line supplied by ISME Company Member AP&T. Currently, the technology is being used on the new Aston Martin DB11 and other UK sports cars.

Following the tour members were invited to participate in the CBM Sheet Metal Sector meeting.

CBM Sheet Metal Sector Meeting

Geraldine Bolton, CBM Operations Director gave an update on the association's work and current initiatives. CBM members now have a combined turnover of £4Billion and employ 40,000.

CBM are a member of the newly formed Metals Council Metal Forum, a group of ten metals related trade associations, which has produced "A Vision for 2030" for the metals industry.

Energy saving for members through the Climate Change Agreement continues to play an important part of the CBM's activities with companies making major savings often more than covering their membership fees.

An update was given on the new Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills which will open in July 2017. The level 3 and 4 Trialblazer units to be offered at West Bromwich were outlined along with new units that need to be developed to provide the full range of skills required by employers.



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With a history dating back over more than 45 years to when the company was founded with the aim of designing and producing equipment for process coil material for presses, **Servopresse** has developed a reputation as one of Europe's leading companies in this sector

Servopresse products are found in shears, forming machines and machines that use sheet metal coils across several industry sectors. The company was founded in 1970 and today continues to operate as a mid-sized privately managed organisation, with around 40 employees and partners operating in its factories in Milan and Nice covering a combined space of 5000 sq. metres. Throughout its history Servopresse has remained at the forefront of developing markets, new customer requirements and ongoing technology trends, which the company is able to respond to quickly, owing to its experience as a family owned business. Indeed, since Silvano and Umberto Cecchi first established the firm, Servopresse has sold in excess of 5000 coil lines to customers worldwide. The business is in its second generation and is currently under the successful guidance of Dario, Lara and Paolo Cecchi, operating as technical, commercial and financial managers respectively. "The name Servopresse comes from a play on words, with 'servo' in the Italian language meaning aid or servant, while 'presse' simply means press. Therefore the name Servopresse



Heavy duty line



Traditional coil loop line

literally translates to 'aid to press'. My mother conceived this name 46 years ago, when the company was founded and the brand was later officially filed in 1975," reveals Commercial Manager, Lara Cecchi. "In recent years this name has been increasingly useful to us, because the development of technology in building presses with servomotors, has resulted in greater visibility for our company. Since we obviously own the trademarks and domains for Servopresse that are recorded for our organisation, this is something that does somewhat 'stick in the throat' of several press manufacturers who would like to have the exclusivity of this major brand. It is a fact that we received some interesting takeover offers in recent years, especially from manufacturers based in Asian countries wishing to expand their activities in Europe. This would give them a major advantage over their competitors since they would then automatically have a point of distribution in Europe, however Servopresse is a family company and the progress that we achieved in the last few years has given us a lot of confidence. Therefore, we are keen to continue to push further in this area, by endeavouring to build even more advanced lines in the future." Around 95 per cent of the components produced by Servopresse are exported to clients outside of Italy through a network of technically qualified distributors, which are able to offer customers full installation services and

after-sales support. This has allowed Servopresse to gain a reputation as a trusted supplier to leading OEMs including Sertec – an important equipment supplier for Jaguar-Land Rover: The company's production range covers all coils up to a maximum capacity of 20 tons, widths of up to 2000mm and thicknesses of up to 20mm. Servopresse can build single machines, compact lines and special lines comprising:

- Decoilers: single or double, with or without motor, and hydraulic self-centring expansion.
- Straighteners: normal or feeding straighteners, comprising a cast iron drafting head and hardened and ground steel straightening rolls.
- Electronic roll feeders: easy to use and suitable for automated lines.
- Traditional lines: these feature decoilers and straighteners to be used with an independent feeder.
- Compact lines: these are composed of integrated decoilers and feeder straighteners.
- Special lines: to satisfy most sophisticated working requirements such as zigzag feeding lines; straightener cradles; bar feeders; complete cutting lines; micro-perforation and embossing coil lines as well as automatic multi-disc cutting lines from coil.

The company's comprehensive product portfolio is supported by its flexible management structure and 'made-to-measure' manufacturing processes that have allowed Servopresse to remain both buoyant and competitive in a challenging market. Rather than operating as a simple assembler, the company manufactures around 85 per cent of the components it uses in-house, which enables it to satisfy even the most sophisticated, diverse and complex manufacturing requirements.

"Through a period of global financial downturn that has affected most of the world across almost all sectors, we have emerged stronger with a close-on threefold increase in production and our forward order book is full up to mid-2017," Lara exclaims. "For example, we have seen an increasing demand for machines that can process new, high-strength materials or aluminium. It is important for our customers that our machines are very capable and increasingly automated. Most of our customers are big companies

wrestling with shortages in skilled operators, meaning that machines need to be automated to support their operations. In the last year, our production has changed from semi-automatic to fully automatic line production and we have therefore developed new automatic threading adjustment systems for coil feeding equipment which enables us to offer complete decoiling, feeding and straightening lines able to automate the set-up phase of these machines."

During the next 12 months and beyond, Servopresse will continue to provide market-leading solutions to its clients while managing the demands of a volatile global market. Its international customer base has given the company a diverse range of clients and a strong order book that will help the business to further develop its global reputation and win new orders over the coming years. "The UK is the most important market for us right now and we deliver to a lot of customers there. We are honoured and proud to be a supplier to one of our best customers, Sertec where in recent years, we have delivered almost 15 large lines ranging from 1000mm to 1600mm/10-15 ton coil width. Sertec operates multi-production runs so automation is very important for the business, meaning that it wanted compact lines that are very small and space saving. Line safety is also a key prerequisite for us and we fix protective barriers as an integral part of the machine and not as an add-on," Lara concludes. "Servopresse also has customers in Poland, Hungary and Scandinavia as well as Italy. It has also delivered lines to customers in the US, Mexico and Brazil and is currently in the process of delivering a machine to a rollforming manufacturer in India, with a further project for a customer in Russia. We view the Italian and global markets market as a challenge but also, more importantly, an opportunity." 📍

Servopresse Srl
Coil and associated equipment specialist
www.servopresse.com

Heavy coil



Servo Presse
Via Enrico Fermi 48 - 20019 Sottimo Milanese - MILANO - ITALY
Tel. +39 02 3285 775 - Fax: +39 02 3350 1158
Email: info@servopresse.it

Servopresse S.r.l. for 45 years, is the leader company on the automation field to produce equipments to decoil and straighten steel from coils, and can build single machines, special lines composed by: Decoilers, Straighteners (normal or feeding straighteners), Electronic rolls feeders.

www.servopresse.it

UK Agent..Indicum (Sales) Ltd
Contact Ray Jelf 01608730994, Email rayjelf@indicumsales.freserve.co.uk

TMA Secures Exclusive Power Press Distributor Contract

TMA Engineering Ltd, the Birmingham-based power press specialist (www.TMAPresses.com), has been appointed by World Precise Machinery Group Power Presses as its exclusive distributor for sales and service in the UK and Europe.

The company will be offering a new range of power presses (6-2,000 tonnes) in both standard and non-standard stroke versions. Working closely with the manufacturer, TMA will be able to meet a wide variety of bespoke specifications and is solely responsible for the design of electrical circuits and the fitting of Pilz guarding systems, ensuring full CE marking and certification.

Managing Director Matt Albutt says: "TMA has been serving the power press market since 1973 with a full service, spares and repair offering. It was a logical move to give our customers the additional option of a high-quality range of new power presses to replace some equipment where it is no longer cost-effective to make further repairs or to expand current press capacity."

The new power press range will be offered with full warranty and support from TMA engineers in the UK, ensuring fast customer service and technical support.

NEW TMA servo feeds manufactured in the UK

- Electronic servo roll feed
- User friendly touch screen display
- Hand held remote jog/pitch/rolls open pendant
- Adjustable pneumatic roll pressure
- Pilot release
- Manufactured, built and programmed at TMA



New Roemheld compact hydraulic sliding clamp



Roemheld has introduced a range of compact, hydraulic sliding clamps designed for clamping in tight spaces on systems, press beds and rams. The new "compact" version provides the same clamping force as the "classic" sliding clamp, but both the size and the weight have been reduced. The new Roemheld compact sliding clamp is ideally suited for retrofitting without the need for standardisation of the width and depth of the dies.

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UK Sheet Metal Industry Voice Heard at ICOSPA China

The 51st International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Association's Presidents Council Meeting took place during September in Beijing, China and was attended by 38 delegates representing 6 countries; France, Germany, UK, Japan, China and USA.

The UK's sheet metal press work members were represented by ISME Council members Steve Morley (ISME Chairman and Sertec Group) and John Davis, alongside CBM Operations Director Geraldine Bolton.

The Confederation of Chinese Metalforming Industry is the current holder of the Presidency for 2016-2018, after which the UK has been asked to host the following three years.

The meeting contained a market report and trade association activity presentation from each country, a copy of which can be found in the members' area of the CBM website.

Steve Morley's presentation covered an introduction to Sertec, the UK Economy metrics and SMMT data on the recent performance of the Automotive Industry in the UK. 'Brexit' also proved to be a very popular topic! All was well received.

There were some common themes across the world on training and attracting young people into the metals manufacturing industry, especially as most countries have ageing workforces. Energy costs were also seen to be a problem, particularly in Germany and the UK.

Specific points covered by other member presentations included:

France - get no government support, decrease in sales. They are looking to Morocco as a potential new market.

Germany - struggling with the integration of up to 1 million immigrants, especially on a skills level and the language barrier. The country is split on the issue causing big divisions in all areas.

They are very worried about Brexit and see it has a threat not a positive - they seemed to be far more worried about it than we are!

North America - fluctuation in market sector but overall the trend is stable. They have some good ideas on introducing young people to industry.

Japan- big drop in sales in stampings and the economy is struggling generally.

China - GDP down at 6% overall with manufacturing at 7% they believe this will stabilise at 6.5% going forward.

ICOSPA are trying to encourage inter-company visits from one country to another. A number of these have already taken place where a country arranges visits to some of its member companies for others to take part in and then reciprocal arrangements are made. ISME and the CBM would encourage members to take part in such exchanges and both organisations would be happy to liaise, so that we can set up a mutual visit. This type of arrangement could also be used to share training placements.





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