



New Tyne Facilities Up & Running

Press Release: Panel Line

The A&P Group is pleased to announce that their upgraded steel fabrication workshop at the Tyne facility is now fully up and running. The existing fabrication facilities have been enhanced to deliver greater volumes of fabricated products for a number of industry sectors in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

The already well equipped facility has been supplemented by a new IMG panel line capable of manufacturing steel panels up to 13.5m X 20m from 6mm – 35mm in thickness with associated stiffeners up to a weight of 100 tonne. The line is made up of a butt welding station with magnetic clamping, profile fit up and tacking station and a profile welding station with 4 welding heads. All stations are fully automated. It is also equipped with overhead service beams for manual activities. The line is capable of producing up to 20 panels per week depending on size and complexity of the panel.

In addition to the new panel line, the steel cutting facilities have been enhanced by the installation of two new burning machines.

The first machine being an ESAB SUPRAREX SXE 8500 plasma cutter, which has a track length of 31m and a width of 8.5m. The unit has two 2x M3 401 plasma 400amp cutting heads in independently driven carriages, ink jet marking, and is capable of mirror image cutting on two plates up to 13m x 3.1m. The cutting speed and quality of finish is a significant enhancement to existing facilities.

The second machine is another ESAB SUPRAREX SXE 8500 of similar dimensions, equipped with 4 off ESAB COOLJET cutting torches and 2 off MR90 Oxy fuel bevel posts. This machine is capable of cutting steel up to 100mm thick with bevel edge preparation as required; it is also capable of plate stripping with twelve heads working simultaneously.

The systems are fully commissioned and have already been working successfully on fabrications for the first of the Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers. In addition to this work, A&P are bidding a number of projects both within the marine and civil industry where they believe these new enhancements will ensure they are competitive on a Europe wide basis.





It is expected that the facility will have an annual outturn capability of 10,000 tonnes per year of fabrications.

David Skentelbery,
A&P Group Managing Director said.

“It is this type of investment that will ensure the longevity of a marine business on the Tyne. I doubt we will be building whole ships but we will certainly be building substantial sections in a cost effective manner that will make us commercially very attractive in the European Market”



Stewart Boak,
A&P Tyne Managing Director said,

“We are very pleased with this new investment. This, together with a significant dredging operation last year and a planned upgrade to the quaysides, demonstrates a commitment to the future.”



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