

10 years –
MAA marks
first decade:
Tuesday,
10 July, 12pm

SC21 –
a year to
celebrate:
Wednesday,
11 July, 10am

UK trade
groups joint
reception,
Wednesday,
11 July, 4pm

Join us for these events at the MAA stand

aim

aerospace in the midlands

The quarterly newsletter of the Midlands Aerospace Alliance

Issue 29 Summer 2012

Double cause for celebration on MAA stand at Farnborough

THE MAA kicks off its 10th anniversary year celebrations by bringing its biggest airshow contingent to date to Farnborough.

"We have 27 companies joining us on our exhibition stand in Hall 1," says Marketing manager Emma Burgess. "That's 50% up on our previous best in 2010."

To mark the MAA's first decade, a reception sponsored by MAA member IPI Solutions will take place on the stand on Tuesday, 10 July.

The MAA team is already planning for the new Berlin Airshow in September – see page 11.

● Building on the successful meetings held at last year's Paris airshow, the MAA and the UKTI aerospace team in Italy will be arranging meetings between MAA members and Italian companies at Farnborough from 10-12 July.

"Last year, the UKTI team set up dozens of fruitful meetings for our exhibitors. This year we also hope to progress plans at Farnborough for an MAA trade mission to Italy later in the year,"



said chief executive Andrew Mair.

Scan for future MAA events

Midlands buoyant on global outlook

Orders underline region's strength in international marketplace

BRITISH Midlands aerospace companies are seeing their order books filling, thanks in large part to the success of the world's major civil aircraft programmes.

The Midlands supply chain is benefiting from the participation of big regional companies on global programmes including the Boeing 787, Airbus A350 and Bombardier CSeries.

But supply chain companies are also winning work outside their traditional markets, which "proves that the rest of the world is interested in buying from the Midlands," says MAA chief executive Dr Andrew Mair.

Business and jobs growth continue apace at Rolls-Royce's Midlands aero engine factories in Derby and across the region, where the current focus is on Trent engines for the 787 and A350.

Elsewhere Wolverhampton-based flight controls and actuation specialist Goodrich Actuation has doubled its



The first Airbus A350 XWB front fuselage in final assembly: one of the big civil programmes driving Midlands growth.

Visual of Aero Engine Controls' new facility at Birmingham airport.

workforce in the last few years and the CSeries is one of several growth programmes, while both Moog Aircraft Group and Aero Engine Controls are moving into all-new facilities kitted out ready for a new phase of business growth.

Moog has a new factory in the i54 high-tech industrial park, designed to enable the business to fulfill its obligations to major global programmes, including the 787 and China's COMAC C919, for which it is contributing flight control technologies.

Aero Engine Controls, also

Continued on page 3





Business class!



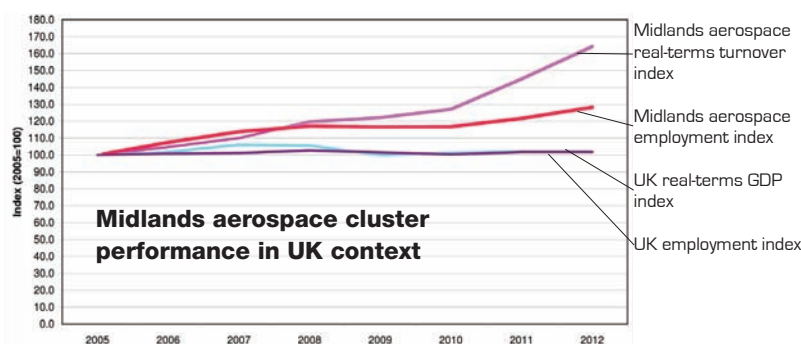
Doosan machine tools, supplied by Mills CNC, have a large and growing reputation in the aerospace sector.

Year-on-year precision component manufacturers invest in our technically-excellent, ultra-reliable and competitively-priced lathes, machining centres and mill-turn machines as tried, tested and trusted routes to improved productivity, performance and profitability. And, with the number of new machines we've recently launched into the market – like our new Lynx sub-spindle lathes; our new large vertical machining centres and our incredibly versatile 5-axis milling machines and multi-axis mill-turn centres - we expect this trend to continue well into the future.

If you already manufacture complex, high-precision aerospace parts (or if you are looking to break into the aerospace sector) - call Mills CNC on **01926 736736** or visit our website www.millscnc.co.uk to check-out the machines that will enable your business fortunes to take-off.



aerospace in the midlands



Midlands aerospace on a growth curve

Continued on page 3

involved in 787 and A350 engines, is consolidating two plants to a major new site at Birmingham airport in 2014. It is investing £60 million in the advanced manufacturing and technology facility.

Midlands supplier base technology is in demand not only by Rolls-Royce but also by other major aero engine makers. HS Marston in Wolverhampton, for instance, is a key player on the Pratt & Whitney geared turbofan.

The MAA's successful visit to Safran Group in France – owner of the giant aero engine maker Snecma – was

proof that Midlands expertise is valued in the global marketplace.

At that event earlier this year, 10 MAA members and senior Safran Group procurement managers held 50 one-to-one meetings, specially arranged at the British Embassy in Paris. Discussions begun in Paris are expected to continue at Farnborough, leading to positive outcomes for both parties.

Says Andrew Mair: "It's great to see the positive effect these new aircraft programmes are having on the supply chain."

Farnborough with the MAA

This year's Farnborough airshow promises to be the best yet for the MAA with the largest number of members exhibiting on the stand. Please turn to the following pages for information about the exhibiting MAA members. A number of events are planned for the week at the MAA stand in Hall 1. Please watch our website or visit us at the show for up-to-date details.

Designer's impression of the MAA stand in Hall 1.



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HALL 1
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New beginning for rejuvenated Amfin

ABBEY Metal Finishing (Amfin) is back and wants the aerospace and defence industry to know.

Less than two years after fire destroyed most of its operation, the Midlands-based specialist is at Farnborough to announce a return to full production at its new 65,000sq ft plant.

General manager Mike Beirns says support from Amfin's parent, Camellia PLC, and the regional industrial funding bodies has been "magnificent", enabling Amfin to double its factory space and install state-of-the-art equipment.

"Our skillset is intact because we retained all our original workforce," he added.

One-stop efficiency is Amfin's hallmark. With more than 40 finishing operations on one site, its customers – including some of the world's leading aerospace manufacturers – benefit from reduced costs and shortened lead times.

Amfin undertakes a wide range of finishing operations on machined and formed parts. Its treatment lines include plating, anodising (including TSA anodising as specified by Airbus for its new A350), painting, non-destructive testing and plasma spraying.

The diversity of materials that Amfin can coat is extensive and includes light alloy, steel, titanium, nickel-based super alloys and exotic metals.

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Accrofab puts plug on display noises

THIS year's Farnborough flying display could be the quietest yet – especially for visitors to Accrofab on the MAA stand. The class-leading precision fabrication and machining company from Derby will be handing out ear plugs in return for a business card.

Accrofab's Nick Willers said: "We always aim to support our customers in innovative ways. While many civil engines are quieter than ever, we're keen to help people enjoy the whole flying display in comfort."

Visitors to Accrofab will be able to find details of the company's Nadcap-accredited laser cutting, welding, heat treatment and NDT processes, as well as learning more about its fabrication and machining performance for demanding aerospace customers around the globe.

"Accrofab provides an end-to-end source, so customers can entrust us with their new product introduction work, volume production and legacy part manufacture," said Willers. "We deliver added value across all phases of the product lifecycle and our assured security of supply eliminates the need for transfer activities."

He said the company was expecting a "real buzz" at Farnborough – but hopefully, and with Accrofab's help, not the kind that leaves visitors' ears ringing afterwards.

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Alloy Wire keeps exotic company

ROUND wire, shaped wire, bars and stranded wire – Alloy Wire International (AWI) produces all of these in more than 40 different nickel and cobalt alloys.

Midlands-based AWI produces wire in exotic alloys such as Inconel, Nimonic, Hastelloy, Monel etc for the manufacture of springs, specialist seals, fasteners and many other demanding engineering applications for industries where an aggressive environment is encountered.

The wire is custom-made to specification within three weeks in a wide size range from 20mm to 0.025mm, with order quantities starting from as low as a few metres/feet.

And when a customer requires wire to be made and delivered urgently, AWI can provide its Emergency Manufacturing Service. The company has offices world-wide and despatches wire globally by express courier.

AWI supplies materials to manufacturers of fire detection systems, engine retaining rings, engine seals, thread inserts, high temperature springs, fasteners, locking wire, flexible hoses, engine compression springs for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), precision turned parts and many more.

AWI's approvals include ISO 9001, BAE Systems, Raytheon Jets and Westland Corp.

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Aluminium Special Products Limited

ASP shows off its expertise in aluminium

'EXPERTISE in aluminium' is the mantra of Midlands-based Aluminium Special Products (ASP), and that's exactly what the company is showcasing at Farnborough 2012.

ASP is proud of its reputation for quality in the supply of aluminium alloy materials and components for use in a wide variety of applications, including safety critical parts for civil and military aerospace programmes.

With an established global supply chain, ASP offers customers a hands-on, cost effective alternative without compromise on quality, delivery or service.

ASP has leapt into 2012 with the launch of a revised website and fresh company branding as well as already securing the new AS9100 Revision C approval.

ASP's positive and dynamic outlook further underlines the company's commitment to the development and continuous improvement of the bespoke products it supplies daily to the most demanding of applications.

The company's expertise covers raw material, from hard alloys to advanced powder metallurgy alloys, and extends through processing to any stage in-house, including cold drawn and seamless extruded tubes and solids; extruded bars, tubes and profiles; and finished components and assemblies.

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MAA at Farnborough 2012

Blum set for takeoff at Farnborough

BLUM Novotest is showing new innovations at this year's Farnborough airshow.

In 2011, Blum demonstrated its aerospace pedigree by being part of a team that won a prestigious Chairman's Award from BAE Systems.

BAE Systems made the award to a team at its Samlesbury plant that includes BAE Systems and Blum Novotest employees after Blum reduced cycle times on a number of production components for the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft by more than 40%. The breakthrough resulted from the use of Blum's TC54-10 touch probe and IC56 infrared receiver that sit within a machine tool.

At Farnborough, this technology is on show alongside the new Tool Monitor Adaptive Control (TMAC) system for the elimination of broken cutting tools and the resultant damage or scrapping of components.

Blum is also exhibiting the new TC76-N digilog touch probe for turning and round work applications. The TC range of probes is designed for both tool and workpiece measurement in turning machines, and delivers an on-machine measuring solution.

Blum will also exhibit its market-leading TC50 and TC52 workpiece touch probes.

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Versatile Caparo puts expertise on show

MIDLANDS-based Caparo is showcasing its expertise and capabilities in design, manufacture and testing for the aerospace sector at Farnborough 2012.

Caparo Testing Technologies has more than 30 years of experience and in-depth market knowledge providing aircraft testing services. All aircraft inspection services are carried out in accordance with national and international industry standards, and can be delivered in the UK or abroad at short notice.

The company's manufacturing division, Caparo Accles and Pollock, is a specialist manufacturer of precision manipulated and coiled tube assemblies primarily for the aerospace industry. Its products include rigid and flexible pipes, aerospace ducts, tube coils, convoluted tube and bespoke tubular products, and the company holds approvals such as AS9100, Nadcap, ISO9001, TS16949 and Rolls-Royce.

Caparo Advanced Composites has expertise in lightweight technology. Recently, it has created a new concept for lightweight low-cost aircraft seating which will be manufactured from materials conforming to stringent aircraft interior fire and smoke regulations.

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Columbia hallmark is quality service

COLUMBIA is back at Farnborough to promote its work in high-end precision manufacturing.

The company, based in the heart of England, was established 33 years ago by managing director Neil Holmes and has grown steadily. It credits this success on holding to the concept of being a quality service provider to many industries.

Columbia is internationally recognised as a leading force in precision manufacturing solutions. Its two modern facilities are the result of a carefully structured development plan of investment in state-of-the-art manufacturing technology. A highly skilled technical support team ensures Columbia remains at the forefront of its field.

Columbia continues to increase its unmanned manufacturing capability, expanded in support of its customers' needs, to embrace the most demanding of projects and critical timescales. Examples it will be exhibiting at Farnborough include a UAV engine and V6 Indycar block.

The company holds leading international accreditations and standards including AS9100 rev C, ISO9001, SC21, Nadcap approved NDT and chemical processing further adds to the quality portfolio.

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ConsultAvila builds reputation for support

FOLLOWING the successes of previous Farnborough appearances, ConsultAvila Ltd is back at the show looking to capitalise on its impressive track record in supporting companies in the aerospace and defence industry.

With these sectors going through interesting and uncertain times, the role of consultants is being redefined.

Significant transformation among key players requires a new set of competences, including effective change management and agility.

Dr Jose Guzman, ConsultAvila managing director, said: "Our clients tell us the challenge facing them today is not so much determining what direction to take, but the effective and rapid execution of their plans."

"Companies have moved from requiring consultants to tell them what to do, to needing expert help to bridge skills gaps, to provide expert coaching and help with implementation."

Since 2010, ConsultAvila has focused on supporting organisations to develop their capability to cope with this instability by implementing SIOIP (Sales, Inventory and Operations Planning) and supporting processes, while helping them to optimise their cash flow (Inventory Management) and to improve their supply chain (Strategic Sourcing).

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Visit us in
HALL 1
Stand B14



Cosworth stands for high performance

COSWORTH'S precision manufacturing capability continues to blaze a trail for the UK manufacturing sector.

The company comes to Farnborough fresh from announcing the acquisition of Adaero Precision Components as the latest member of the vertically integrated engineering group.

The manufacturing team in Cosworth's AS9100-accredited UK facility, which was awarded an eight-year contract with industry leader Aero Engine Controls in 2010, and named RBS Manufacturer of the Year in 2011, continues to develop its capabilities to secure business with new customers through 2012.

Cosworth's aerospace division exploits over five decades of engineering know-how to address tough design and manufacturing challenges. The addition of Adaero Precision Components extends the expertise available within the group to include precision machining of aluminium components to single figure micron tolerances.

Cosworth specialises in providing complex prismatic machining, intelligent embedded architecture, data acquisition, logging and analysis, telemetry solutions, control systems, Health Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS) and heavy fuel engines for unmanned systems.

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aerospace

Delcam solutions top industry rankings

DEL CAM, ranked for more than a decade as the world's leading specialist supplier in its field, is at Farnborough to promote its wide range of software and services for aerospace manufacturers.

The Birmingham-based company offers a range of solutions to help companies increase productivity, reduce lead times and improve quality and consistency that have topped CIMdata rankings for 11 years.

To maintain its leading position, Delcam employs the largest development team in the CAM industry to develop a comprehensive range of systems for every type of machine tool.

"Our systems have been used, at some stage, on virtually every major aircraft programme in recent years," says marketing manager Peter Dickin. "Our customers have undertaken projects in all the various areas that go towards producing a successful aircraft, from developing more fuel-efficient engines, to manufacturing airframe components more effectively, and even in designing more comfortable and more attractive interiors."

In addition, Delcam's Professional Services team helps companies whose own engineering resource is needed to maintain its existing operations.

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Euro-Projects tailors recruitment solutions

WITH 102,110 people directly employed by the UK aerospace industry, you would think there would be enough to go around.

However, an acute shortage of key skills in the areas of engineering and management means the competition for talent is intense.

Euro-Projects Recruitment is at Farnborough to explain its approach to recruitment and how the company can tailor a solution to precisely match what a business is looking for.

"Helping aerospace and defence manufacturers to recruit technical and commercial specialists has been our passion for more than 16 years," says managing director Stephen Brown.

"Our expertise doesn't stop at UK based assignments. We have recently assisted aerospace manufacturers appoint their Project Managers for new facilities in Mexico, Poland and India."

Andrew Churchill, managing director of JJ Churchill Precision Engineering, says: "Given their in-depth understanding of the specialist needs required by this sector, we have no hesitation in recommending a partnership with Euro-Projects Recruitment."

Euro-Projects invites Farnborough visitors who feel their business could benefit from new skills and expertise to drop by for a conversation with its experts.

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G&O exclusive with Aerospring software

MIDLANDS supply chain company G&O Springs returns to Farnborough with an industry-first to celebrate.

G&O recently completed a project called 'Aerospring' under the Aerospace Technology Exploitation Programme (ATEP). The project gathered data to enable accurate fatigue predictions for springs produced from the novel materials covered.

This makes G&O and its ATEP partners the only places in the world where spring designs from exotic alloys such as inconel and titanium can be accurately assessed for important factors such as relaxation at temperature and cycle life.

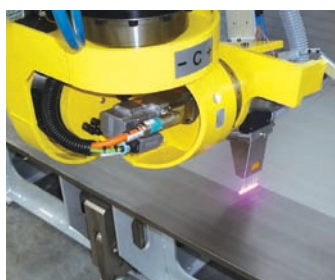
G&O will be demonstrating the finished software at the show. "Come to our stand to find out if you are eligible to receive the software," says managing director Steve Boyd.

G&O has something else to shout about this year: in January, the company attained approved supplier status for Rolls-Royce Corporation.

"This approval demonstrates our commitment to the aerospace sector," said Boyd. "We work tirelessly to ensure that all of our customer requirements are met in full. This level of dedicated service has its rewards in keeping our customers satisfied."

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MAA at Farnborough 2012



GÜDEL showcases composite solutions

GÜDEL Lineartec UK is exhibiting at Farnborough 2012 for the first time, and will be showcasing its extensive range of composite manufacturing solutions.

The Midlands-based company is part of the Güdel Group, the global leaders in supplying automation technology, headquartered in Switzerland.

Güdel Lineartec has a 50-year track record of innovation and product development. Its solutions are typically employed in assembly and manufacturing applications in aerospace, automotive, logistics, nuclear, machine tool and process sectors.

The company's capabilities also include a worldwide network of manufacturing, sales and service facilities as would be expected of a global supplier.

OEM's such as Airbus and Bombardier have been supplied with composite manufacturing solutions for various areas, including mould cleaning and material handling, which have delivered significant improvements in the manufacturing processes in regard to cost savings, reliability and production rates.

The company plans to further increase its activity within this sector over the next few years by increasing its product portfolio, by continually investing in the development of new technology and innovative solutions.

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Hydrapower lands record crimper order

BIRMINGHAM-based Hydrapower Dynamics comes to Farnborough fresh from winning an order to supply and commission what is thought to be the world's largest and strongest crimping machine.

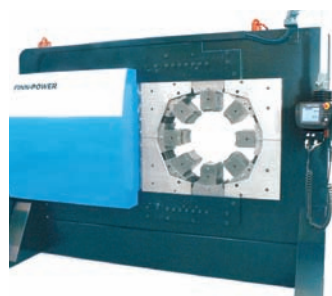
The company's UK customer will use the Finn-Power King Crimper for the manufacture of large bore hose assemblies. The machine has a crimping range of 200-650mm and 2,000 tons of crimping pressure to enable the customer to connect steel and special material fittings to its large-bore hoses.

The King Crimper incorporates the latest innovations in a high-quality crimping control system and has the capacity to crimp using force as well as by the conventional dimensional method.

Sales manager Noel Chambers says 'crimping by force' is gaining popularity as it enables the force to be calculated in order to successfully crimp components together. This is especially useful in the field of industrial hose assembly manufacture, where the correct crimping dimensions may not be known but the force can be calculated to provide a leak-free connection.

Hydrapower Dynamics has been Finn-Power's UK and Ireland distributor for 25 years, providing sales, service, spares, repairs and calibration.

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New machining solutions from MAG

MAG/Forest-Liné group, a leading machine tool and systems company, is at Farnborough 2012 to present some of its newest solutions in composite and milling applications.

The company prides itself on serving the durable goods industry worldwide with complete manufacturing solutions for machining and composite deposition applications.

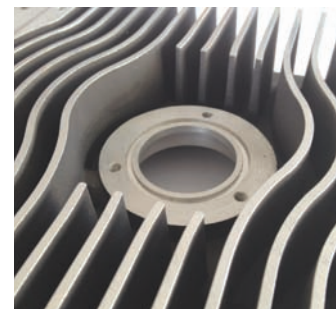
MAG will be promoting the Gemini composite processing system with dockable head. This is the first system capable of switching in a matter of minutes from automated fibre placement to automated tape laying.

Other innovations include the new In Process Inspection (IPI) of lap and gap on the Atlas, which guarantees 100% automatic tape laying, and machines dedicated to hard metal application such as the Powermill TI and the H5000ZTI, with 120Kw at the spindle.

Sales director Eric Teisseire says MAG/Forest-Liné is "the supplier of choice to aircraft OEMs and their supply chains".

With more than 40 years of experience and the world's largest installed base, the company is the leader in automated composites and milling manufacturing solutions.

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Maycast buoyed by best quarter results

PRECISION engineer Maycast-Nokes comes to Farnborough 2012 buoyed by its best first quarter since the 1998 merger that created the company as it is today.

The company, one of the UK's leading suppliers of fully finished machined castings, is posting an average monthly turnover in excess of half a million pounds, about 84% of which comes from its "significant base" of customers in the aerospace and defence sector.

"Much of this comes from an increased presence with clients from Europe, mainly France," says sales director Dave Blower.

The sustained success of Maycast-Nokes underpins a programme of expansion and development in several areas of the business, including new machine tools and an air conditioned CMM facility.

The foundry side of the business, which manufactures aluminium and steel castings by various processes, is looking to develop a new vacuum casting facility. Equipment has already been purchased and planning permission agreed for a new building to house the vacuum chamber.

The extra workload has prompted the company to increase staff numbers to 133 people at its Halstead, Essex site.

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Visit us in
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Stand B14



Osborn highlights extrusion prowess

OSBORN Steel Extrusions is showcasing its extensive experience in manufacturing steel and titanium extrusions for aerospace applications at Farnborough 2012.

Part of the UK-owned Osborn Metals group situated in the Low Moor area of Bradford, the company has been supplying the aerospace industry for more than 30 of its 60 years in existence.

It has supplied special profiles in titanium and high temperature stainless grades to customers who roll and flash butt weld into near net profile rings for use in aero engines.

Recent years have seen an increase in titanium profiles for airframe applications such as seat tracks, brackets and hinges, where the longevity, strength and corrosion resistance of titanium has proved cost effective over some aluminium applications.

Osborn's tooling charges are relatively low; tooling is easily modified to accommodate design changes. The company regularly manufactures quantities as low as 30 metres and even less for development work. More than 70% of its output is exported.

The approvals held by Osborn reflect the end users and include Airbus, Boeing, Snecma and Rolls-Royce, as well as other approvals such as AS9100 and ISO 9001.

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Class-leading quality at Paul Fabrications

PAUL Fabrications returns to Farnborough to promote its class-leading quality and delivery in the manufacture of complex fabricated and machined assemblies for the aerospace, defence and power generation sectors.

The company has an unbroken relationship with the aerospace industry spanning more than 70 years. During this period it has been involved in the development of many major civil and military engine programmes.

Operating from a modern 60,000sq ft facility in Castle Donington, the company has built its reputation by successfully applying sound engineering principles to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers, which was demonstrated with the recent purchase of the adjoining building.

A commitment to continual investment in the latest manufacturing equipment has resulted in the addition of a second five-axis laser and nine four- and five-axis computer numerical control (CNC) machining centres which combined with Paul Fabrications' highly skilled staff has allowed it to further broaden the services it offers.

Thanks to the individual skills

of the 85 people working on the shop floor, Paul Fabrications produces high quality sheet metal work and precision machined components. "Our workers take pride in the work they do and have a great deal of experience and desire for first-class customer satisfaction," says business development manager Kevin Dexter.

"With more than 38 manufacturing processes in-house, you gain an appreciation of the breadth of engineering capability available."

With 96% of its work tied up in long-term agreements, the company continues to focus on increasing the levels of business on new projects with both existing and new customers.

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Aerospace underpins growth at Pre-Met

METAL component and sub-assembly specialist Pre-Met Ltd is at Farnborough this year with a story of consolidation and growth.

"We are entering a new phase," says Mark Smith, Sales and Marketing Manager. "Over the years we have had considerable success and have maintained and built upon that success by monitoring and reacting to new market trends and entering new market sectors that closely match our core competencies.

"This last year has seen us consolidate our existing business and exceed our budgets by approximately 10%, budgets that in themselves were quite challenging."

Aerospace is one of Pre-Met's most important markets. At the show, the company is highlighting its capabilities in metal pressing and stampings, proto-typing, component and tool design, and sub-assembly. A notable feature is the company's low volume capability.

These services, combined with outstanding on-time delivery and excellent quality credentials, make Pre-Met a supplier of choice to the aerospace supply chain.

"With more than 70 years of experience, we believe we are at the forefront of our industry," says Smith.

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MAA at Farnborough 2012



Premier Group strikes solid gold

The Premier Group (TPG) struck gold when it applied skills from the aerospace and automotive industries to an Olympic-scale challenge.

TPG won the tender to manufacture 11,100 torches for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Torch relays. "That was easy part," said manufacturing director Gez Halton. The apparently seamless doubled-skinned torches, each perforated with 8,000 holes and finished in glistening gold, presented numerous technical challenges which TPG overcame with its blend of innovation and experience.

Coventry-based TPG is now looking to further extend its aerospace connections through speciality work in aluminium deep drawn pressings and in its state-of-the-art laser facility.

The Premier Group deploys an experienced team of qualified engineers, backed up with excellent CAD facilities, and a workforce skilled in the working of all types of materials. Their years of expertise and knowledge in producing precision quality components in short lead times make a compelling proposition for the aerospace industry.

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Sigma buoyed by record growth

SIGMA Precision Components continues to perform strongly in the rigid pipe and precision machined component markets.

The company arrives in Farnborough buoyed by record growth over the past year that has been fuelled by significant orders from Rolls-Royce, Eaton and Goodrich. Its business model of offering a combination of engineering experience and low-cost manufacture via its sister company Chengdu Sigma Precision Components in China is an attractive proposition to Sigma's customers.

The company is also expanding capability in China, investing in facilities for pipe manufacture and some special processes. The recent acquisition of Sigma Composites by parent company Avingtrans plc also enables Sigma to market composite components and structures to its customer base.

Sigma manufactures rigid pipe assemblies, precision machined components and specialist fasteners for aerospace and other markets. Its 260 employees occupy modern facilities in the UK and China and produce a spectrum of components ranging from the simple machined parts to complex assemblies of rigid pipes. Among its approvals are AS9100, Nadcap, and ISO14001.

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W: www.sigmacomponents.com



TRW Conekt mounts PCB challenge

TRW Conekt, the Midlands-based consultancy and engineering test services business, is issuing a challenge to electronics engineers at Farnborough 2012.

Visitors to the company's stand will have the opportunity to win a Kindle e-reader by identifying a number of faults on a printed circuit board (PCB) that has been specially created for the show. This PCB incorporates several manufacturing defects that might give rise to in-service reliability problems.

Dr Martin Harvey, who leads Conekt's electronics reliability activities, commented: "To produce electronics assemblies for the aerospace industry, the IPC-A-610 Class III standard needs to be met.

"Conekt has many years of experience of working with this standard and has helped several organisations either improve the quality of their own processes or those of their supply chain."

Conekt has a proven track record of delivering services to enable the development of electromechanical and electronic aerospace products. In addition to supporting electronics reliability improvement, it provides a wide range of ISO 17025 accredited product validation services including climatics, EMC and vibration testing.

Conekt also offers design and development services to support the development of safety-critical electronic products and systems.

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TTI showcases materials expertise

If you're looking for surface treatment and heat treatment services, the specialists at TTI Group Ltd will likely have what you need.

TTI, part of the Materials Technology division of Aalberts Industries NV, is at Farnborough to promote the range of these services that the company provides to the UK engineering sector.

"Our team of specialists provides customers with access to extensive experience and excellent expert metallurgical knowledge," says Technical Development Manager Steve Plumb.

In addition to offering a full range of traditional heat treatment processes, TTI also provides special treatments designed to overcome specific problems such as abrasion, corrosion and adhesion.

The company also specialises in Hot Isostatic Pressing including powder metallurgy (PM) and vacuum brazing. New processes to surface-harden stainless steels while maintaining corrosion resistance are also available.

With services delivered through seven strategically located and accredited sites, and supported by an extensive transport network, TTI Group is able to supply the contract heat and surface treatment processes required by manufacturing industry in a timely manner.

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Visit us in
HALL 1
Stand B14



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Umeco leads way in advanced materials

UMECO Structural Materials, a leading provider of high performance prepregs and adhesives to the aerospace, space and military industries, is exhibiting examples of Airbus-qualified prepregs at Farnborough 2012.

Umeco leads the way in Out-of-Autoclave (OoA) prepreg processing technology for primary and secondary structures; its MTM@44-1, MTM@45-1, MTM@46 epoxy prepregs are in use at major airframers, including Airbus.

Farnborough visitors can inspect an aerospace sandwich panel manufactured using a combination of Umeco's MTM@44-1 OoA carbon fabric prepreg and MTF246 sandable surface improvement film. This combination enables the customer to produce paint-ready parts with minimal reworking and curing costs, says Umeco.

Also on display is an integrally-stiffened monolithic wing skin demonstrator section manufactured using Umeco's OoA MTM@44-1 carbon unidirectional prepreg. Aerospace market sector manager Xavier Gambert says: "This material was chosen for its high toughness, low density and ability to produce low void content parts using vacuum bag moulding."

Umeco also manufactures low out-gassing cyanate esters and epoxies qualified at the ESA for space applications, and epoxy and phenolic systems for aircraft interior structures.

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Acciaierie Valbruna expertise in steel

ACCIAIERIE Valbruna has been producing steel for close to 90 years, and is at Farnborough 2012 to promote its work with the global aerospace and defence industry.

Founded in 1925, and employing 2,500 people, Acciaierie Valbruna remains a private company. It produces more than 180,000 tonnes of stainless steels, duplex steels, nickel alloys and titanium long products per annum from three production plants, situated in Vicenza and Bolzano, Italy, and in the USA at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The company offers more than 700 special steel qualities in a range of sections.

Valbruna's ISO-accredited quality systems, philosophy and expertise permeate every aspect of production. This ensures the highest quality steel which meets the increasing demands of its high-tech markets with improved performances, reliability and machining consistency.

The company's extensive and strategic distribution network is its cornerstone in a global market, allowing not only a worldwide commercial presence, but also a continuous feedback with customers.

In the UK, customers' requirements are maintained through service centres based in West Bromwich, Sheffield and Manchester.

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Debut for Winbro solutions to cooling

WORLD-leading technologies from Winbro Group Technologies for cooling gas turbine aero-engines are at Farnborough for the first time.

For more than four decades, Winbro has provided advanced manufacturing systems for the machining of cooling holes, forms and features in gas turbine components. The benefits are higher operating temperatures providing greater power and fuel efficiency.

Winbro's Machine Systems Division is the industry's unique supplier of Laser, High Speed EDM and ECM solutions. Its installed base of more than 1,000 systems in 16 countries globally has the dedicated support of the Product Services business.

Supporting the growing market demand, Winbro Advanced Machining (WAM) has been formed to be the first choice for manufacturing features in complex gas turbine engine components by excelling in the application of its technologies.

WAM has two ISO9001/AS9100, Nadcap accredited operations in Coalville, UK, supporting Europe and Asia and Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA serving the Americas.

Both component production facilities provide a complete manufacturing service for blades, vanes and combustion parts utilising VIPER grinding, EDM and laser drilling.

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Wolverhampton is making it happen

THE City of Wolverhampton is home to the largest cluster of aerospace suppliers in the West Midlands and is active in its support of the sector's growth and development.

The city takes pride in being a hub of advanced engineering and the base for four global aerospace OEMs.

Companies such as Moog (pictured above), Goodrich, HS Marston and Timken underpin the Wolverhampton cluster, helping it top £300 million a year and provide jobs for more than 2,000 people, a highly-skilled, creative and adaptable multi-national workforce.

Wolverhampton's aerospace cluster works in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton, the city council and key companies in the sector. It recognises the importance of the aerospace industry to the city and wider region and works to promote innovative programmes and retain graduates from the university in the sector.

The city council as chair, the university and the MAA are members of the regional aerospace cluster opportunity group (COG) and the National Aerospace Forum.

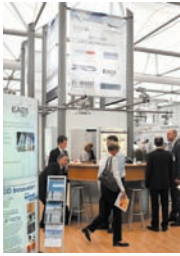
Wolverhampton encourages public and private research facilities to work with technology companies to drive new ideas and enhanced shareholder value.

Whatever your business needs, Wolverhampton can deliver.

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aerospace in the midlands

ILA Berlin opportunity for UK suppliers



EADS' presence in the International Suppliers Centre at the last ILA Berlin.

A UK Aerospace Suppliers Village at ILA Berlin, which runs 11-13 September, offers British companies an opportunity to promote themselves at the heart of German aerospace.

The MAA is managing the village on behalf of ADS and all the regional alliances. It is supported by UK Trade and Investment.

Each UK exhibitor will have its own large, branded, premium pod on the stand in the International Suppliers Centre (ISC). Exhibiting will also provide access to an international meet-the-buyers event over two days.

"The stand is designed to give companies an excellent base to meet with new and existing clients and that all-important physical presence to represent your company," says MAA marketing manager Emma Burgess. "Its open-plan design will encourage visitors onto the stand."

ILA is Europe's third biggest show and has the active support of German aerospace industry leaders and their companies. the biggest yet.

For information and bookings contact: emma.burgess@midlandsaerospace.org.uk.



About the MAA...

The Midlands Aerospace Alliance (MAA) is the voice of companies in the British Midlands supplying global aerospace. Its 250 corporate members range from global aerospace players to SMEs. The MAA board comprises senior managers from Aero Engine Controls, Goodrich Actuation Systems, Meggitt, Moog Aircraft Group and Rolls-Royce as well as elected supply chain representatives and key regional partner bodies.

For additional copies of AIM, or to add your clients to the distribution database, please contact the MAA Secretariat.

If you have a query or suggestion that you wish to make, please contact the MAA by any of the means below:

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midlands aerospace alliance

NEW MEMBERS

The MAA welcomes the following new members to the alliance:

ATA Group UK, Leicester

Air tools and consumables products.

Caparo Accles & Pollock, Oldbury

Tube manipulators and coilers, metal rigid tube assemblies.

CSP Technical Recruitment, Leicester

Technical and engineering recruitment.

GCC Innova, Solihull

IT solutions.

Hammond Lubricants & Chemicals, Birmingham

Lubricant supply.

Nasmyth Group, Coventry

Manufacturing assembly and product support in precision mechanical and electro-mechanical engineering.

PM Group, Birmingham

International engineering, architectural and project management.

SL Laser, Shrewsbury

Design and production of high precision 2D/3D laser projection and digitisation systems.

Trimite Technologies, Birmingham

Process chemical supply to the metal pretreatment and plating industries.



Scan to visit the searchable database of MAA members.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

BHR Group, Cranfield

Independent consultancy, research, design and testing services.

CW Fletcher & Sons, Sheffield

Manufacture of precision engineered components.

Encocam, Huntingdon

Parent company of diversified industrial, manufacturing and engineering business.

Greentree Shercon, Tewkesbury

Supply and provision of masking, protection and jiggging products.

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- Nickels
- Nispan/C902
- Nilos
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