

AS 9100 QUALITY

EYJAFJALLAJOKULL EDITION

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Miserable Stranded Family Featured Above

With politicians, business groups, airlines, environmentalists, the media, and the occasional engineer all grabbing a piece of the volcano action. Who could resist joining in.

In fact some of our very own did. Julie Forrest, David Simpson, Robert Smith and Tommy Grassie were all stuck abroad during the eruption disruption.

Tommy Grassie and his family did their best impressions of Planes, Trains and Automobiles; but without the planes, and the trains were busy, and the automobile was more of a bus. This was then closely followed by a rendition of "By any means possible".

With our weary travellers safely back home and unlikely to go abroad ever again, its time to get back to business.

Given the environmental theme over the last few weeks, it seems the only appropriate place to start.

Since receiving the ISO 14001 environmental standard back in February, the Company's efforts to meet its obligations have really gained traction.

As you will have probably already noticed, green, red, grey and yellow bins have been dispensed around the factory in sets of four. These are the new recycling bins.



Say it with me... E-YAF-YALLA-JO-KULL...and I'm not going home any time soon.

The system will be ready for use as of Friday 7th of May with the first pickup on May 27th. Once the system is up and running on the shopfloor, the offices will also be provided with recycling bins. However in the meantime, the office staff should use what is available on the shopfloor.

The bins have been allocated as per over the page. Please ensure metal cans and plastic bottles are completely empty before disposing and crush items to be as space efficient as possible. The large blue bin will remain as a general waste bin for fruit matter, tissues and anything else

that you can think of, that doesn't apply to the other recycling bins. Of all the bins, the red bin is the most important, as this is the oily waste and contamination bin. It applies to everything; paper towels, tissues, paper, small bits of cardboard, anything that has soaked up any oil. Basically, anything that could be considered to be contaminated waste, must go in this bin to be processed properly. The exception to that rule is for large oily items, such as sheets of cardboard that may have been contaminated. Large items like such should be disposed of in the enclosed orange Hi-Pod skip outside Goods Inwards.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

The next step after the offices will be to look at the maintenance section and our disposal of electrical equipment to meet the new WEEE regulations. Eventually this will include the recycling of batteries, fluorescent lights, printer cartridges and many others.

As well as recycling the company is also taking active steps to reduce its water consumption and carbon footprint. This is not only environmentally friendly, but should also reduce the Company's service bills in future.

Three high efficiency gas heaters have replaced old units, which combined with improved temperature monitoring and control, has amounted to a 20% efficiency gain.

The compressor unit, which gives us all of our compressed air, is also coming towards the end of

its life having gone the equivalent of 150,000 miles. After a week long consumption study to evaluate our future requirements, the unit will be stripped down and overhauled. The company is having an independent leak test survey carried out where we expect a 10% cost saving can be made on compressed air usage.

The compressor unit also gives off a lot of heat, which during the winter will now be funnelled from the compressor room into the adjacent lathe section saving on heating requirements. During the summer, the excess heat will be vented outdoors.

PIR lights are now being rolled out across the plant. These are the lights that you will have all seen operating in the NMV area, which automatically switch off after a period of inactivity. Expect project completion summer 2011.

For the last few months Castle has been working with Scottish Water for the full use of our Bund area outside despatch. If you recall back to newsletter issue 10 December 2009, Environment Article; Castle introduced an Environmental scheme to separate out the water constituent from coolant and floor washing fluids using a temperature and pressure process.

The Water Board, happy with the proposal has given the go ahead for Castle to now safely recycle or discharge water from May 1st. Samples from this process will be tested for purity on a regular basis.

If you have any queries about the recycling system or are unsure at any point of what can and what cannot be put in the bins, please contact Andrea Ferri H&S and Environmental Officer.

“As well as recycling the company is also taking active steps to reduce its water consumption and carbon footprint.”

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IT SYSTEM UPDATES

The Castle IT system is continually being developed, with the latest major project an automated tool tracking system. The company has some 4000 milling holders in the factory. These are high quality, balanced and expensive items whose whereabouts would save considerable time and money when developing new processes, due to the elimination of manual hunting or duplication. By using 2D bar-coding, and cameras in machine tools and tool storage systems, Castle has an in-house developed system that can provide the exact position of every tool in the factory; instantly. In order to automatically keep track of the tools when they are not loaded in a machine, two large carousels have recently been installed with the capacity to hold 608 BT50 tools and 528 BT40 tools. Just as the machine's

“tool holders” have cameras to track the tools as they pass, so the carousels will have a bank of cameras to read each row as they circulate. The tool tracking system follows the philosophy behind the IT system which is to automate and integrate at every level. In fact the system will be integrated to such an extent that the tool tracking system will eventually be able to tell an operator if he has put a tool in the wrong location, eliminating potential error.

With over 3500 BT40 & BT50 machining centre tools already marked with a 2D barcode, work is progressing on marking the Capto tools and other lathe tooling.

Another update to the system is one that concerns the inspection department. Castle has implemented a CMM visual management

system for better CMM utilisation. Utilising the same technology from the machine tool camera viewer, inspectors can now see all of the CMM tables in the factory instantly. The biggest benefits will come to those working overtime and nightshift, whom often run 3 or even 4 machines, in different facilities, at the same time.

BT40 carousel below.



“an in-house developed system that can provide the exact position of every tool in the factory; instantly.”

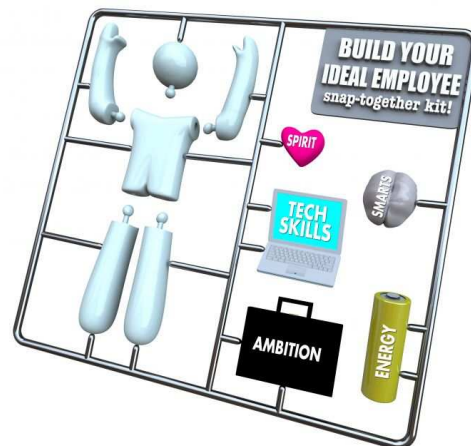
MANAGEMENT TRAINING

We are about to embark on a Management Development programme which will formalise management methods from senior director level to foremen and supervisors. This will allow us to fully utilise the potential in our management team to ensure the forward viability of the company. The training course will be run by Mike Fitzpatrick, who prior to specialising in leadership and management training was Vice President of Polaroid UK and a Senior Director of the companies European

Board. The management training begins Thursday 6th May and will last approximately 1 year.

Training on lean manufacturing philosophies and methods is also being rolled out to the entire workforce utilising in-house training resources and an on-line application called the Gemba Academy. The Gemba package is recognised industry wide as one of the most effective Lean training tools available. The lessons are a series of short video

presentations which last no longer than 15min covering everything from the 5S's to seven deadly wastes.





SCOTTISH ENGINEERING AWARD

Castle has been put forward to apply for the Scottish Engineering Award. The Company was nominated for the prestigious award by Dr Peter T Hughes OBE FREng, Scottish Engineering Chief Executive. This annual award is given to the company who best meets the following criterion: "A manufacturing engineering supply company working in Scotland, which has made a significant contribution towards

raising the standard of the sector and has been shown to be an appropriate standard bearer for that sector."

The Company has been involved with Scottish Engineering many times in the past, not least of which with the Hammermen Award. Another prestigious award, given to the young engineer who has led a project, and proven themselves to be instrumental in formulating and driving that project

forward. Our own previous winners include William Palmer with Stuart Barbour, Mark Forest and Dominic McBride all coming 2nd. Our most recent applicant was Colin Tucker, with Colin Burrows running for the award this year.

The company having put forward its appeal for the award can do nothing but sit and wait till the award ceremony, May 13th.

"Our flagship NT6600 machine has finally arrived."

Our flagship NT6600 machine has finally arrived. The entry into the facility was a fair challenge with changeable weather conditions and little room to spare. Assembly of the machine was successfully completed last month with testing also beginning late April.

The Company received a splined test part that was machined in Japan before shipment. The test piece was measured on our Leitz CMM, with the results showing achievement of the ANSI Class 4 spec at about 90%. The next step will be to reproduce these results, before continuing development on site.

See Image right of Leitz CMM measuring first splined component machined on site.



Many of you have cut your fingers and thought nothing of it in the past. As of May 2010, please now inform your foreman who will pass the information onto Health & Safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Martin Taylor on his 40 years of service in the Company. A fine achievement.

With Castle approaching 60 years, the Company will be putting out its first official timeline, which should be available to view at your DNC terminals mid May.

Health and Safety.

The Company is proud to be approaching the 1000 day mark since the last reportable injury.

For its own internal measures, the Company will now be recording everything down to a cut finger. The rule of thumb; if it needs a plaster, then it needs to be reported.



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