



## New Investments – New machinery – New Facility – New Potters

**A**s shown in our previous newsletter last year, we finally took the keys to our expanded manufacturing area late on in 2019. This additional 8000 sq/ft is adjacent to our existing factory and creates a total area of 33000 sq/ft at Potters' disposal. This increase allows us to use the new and existing space in a far more efficient manor, creating a better workflow and manufacturing environment. The new area is now setting the standard for the rest of the factory,

several of the recent investments over the last year have been planned in accordance with this expansion, incorporating the latest technology along with enhanced data capture gearing Potters up to Industry 4.0 standards.

The ever-changing market we work within demands new technological investments to help create an improved factory with increased levels of quality and performance we strive for every day.

## EML-AJ (Punch and Fibre laser combination machine)

**O**ne of Potters' many investments in new technology over the last year, and by far the biggest, comes in the form of the Amada EML-AJ punch laser combination machine. Equipped with a state of the art fibre laser engine the EML-AJ brings a new dawn to Potters, building on the success achieved with our original CO2 punch laser combination machine. Potters now enters the new decade boasting the latest fibre laser technology alongside a state of the art all electric punching capacity, all utilised within one automated single blanking process. As

many Potters customers already know, this all in one punch & laser processing removes the requirement for additional secondary operations such as tapping, formed louvres or dimples etc, which can become costly and time consuming.

The new fibre engine and all electric punching system used by the machine, offers an increased throughput and flexibility on existing materials and processes that Potters has always supplied. However we can now offer a higher degree of laser cut material specification such as copper, brass and titanium etc, with the benefit of more detailed intricate designs now possible

across the entire material range also, that can only be achieved using fibre laser technology. In addition it can utilise a built in

nozzle changer, which enables the full range of materials to be processed without any manual intervention.

New technology offers new processes, with up to thirty ton of punching force now available which provides the capability to perform complex, forming procedures. A progressive joggle form around corners, as well as along straight edges is a perfect example, along with being able to provide tapping operations whilst the machine is "in-process". These additional operations can be carried out in a variety of materials and thicknesses, offering greater design options to Potters customers.

The new machine is also fitted to an automated sheet handling system to provide unmanned operation 24 hours a day, enabling a greater output from this area of manufacturing. This new automated combination machine offers many new features that are designed for minimal operator input and allow full range processing of simple to complex parts. It has easily incorporated the demands of our existing blanking requirements and allowed us the opportunity to offer the increased capacity for additional work from existing and new customers.





# POTTERS

## A Trio of New Bushes

Potters has also taken the opportunity to upgrade the technology available within our bushing area. We can now offer the advanced capabilities of three new Haeger machines, which have recently been installed adding to our existing range.

After careful consideration we made the decision to take on different variations of this style of machine to offer greater flexibility to our customers. Now being able to offer the best solution from small intricate parts up to larger components that can be handled more easily around the ram head.

All the new machines have the added multi station option, which allows up to four different styles of fasteners to be fitted within one programmable set up, for single pick up operation.

The last 12 months have seen many changes at Potters, allowing us to enter the 2020s with the latest technology, the room to grow and the will to succeed, I hope you will join us. Please get in contact if you wish to visit us, or alternatively come and see us at **Stand D-95 at the Southern Manufacturing show.**



## ATC (Auto tool change) Pressbrake

In addition to upgrading the punch laser combination machine, Potters also installed an Amada HG1003 pressbrake with (ATC) automatic tool changing. Providing fast, accurate, automatic tool loading and unloading, this machine has been brought in alongside Potters' existing range of manual tool loading pressbrakes.

It offers an unparalleled advantage with the new auto tool change facility over our standard tool loading machines. Rationalising set up times, it allows faster changeovers between different job batches and a one pick up operation for complex folding sequences that previously took multi tool or multi machine setups.

The new pressbrake boasts faster bending speeds and a 50% power saving against traditional machines, whilst

offering extremely high accuracy in angle achievement utilising various offline and in-process measuring systems in order to maintain a constant accuracy across its varied workload.

Taking advantage of the offline software gives the benefit of processing various different jobs at the same time by creating a common tool layout to run multiple parts within one tool setup. The software offers unique programs and tool layouts required to create the desired formed components. Vastly improved set up times supported by the new programming and tool loading system allow a higher throughput of work than that of standard machines during a normal working day, helping to promote a higher efficiency through this process of the overall manufacturing cycle.



**COME AND SEE US AT STAND D-95**

# SOUTHERN 20 Manufacturing & Electronics

Farnborough International Exhibition Centre  
**11th to 13th February 2020**

Potters will be exhibiting at the upcoming Southern Manufacturing show this year. between February 11th~13th at Farnborough International, Hampshire. Potters will be on stand D-95. Please feel free to come and visit us to discuss your ongoing requirements or any new projects. Or just to say hello. We, as always, will be pleased to see you.

## POTTERS

INNOVATORS IN  
SHEET METAL COMPONENTS

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