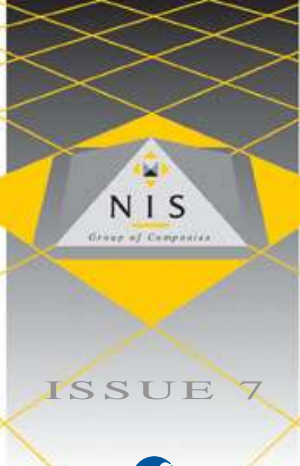


insight



Contents



**NIS supply BAE SYSTEMS
with new SPF Loading Systems**

**NSG and BNFL at
Hunterston Power Station**

A Global Marketplace

FEED - a New Service from the NIS Group

Raising our Profile

Semi-Automated Curing Oven

'Fresh' Ideas at Geest

NSG Wins AWE Contract

**Philips' Mexican Flow Coating
Mills Completed on Time**

**Automated Component
Handling & Baking System**

High Accuracy PaR Waterjet



NIS supply BAE SYSTEMS with new SPF Loading Systems

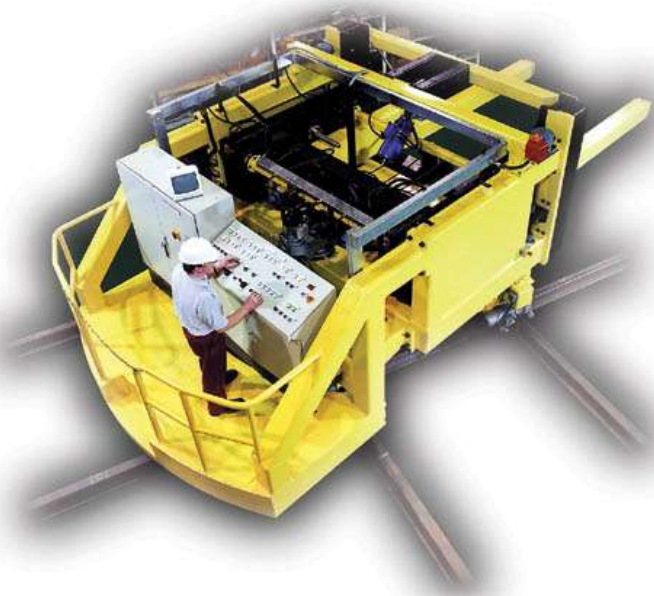
NIS has completed a contract to design, manufacture, install and commission two SPF (Super Plastic Forming) loading systems for BAE SYSTEMS. This follows the successful completion of two earlier contracts by NIS, for the design and manufacture of two loading systems for BAE SYSTEMS airframe assembly facility at Samlesbury, where major assemblies using AMT (Advanced Manufacturing Technologies) for the Eurofighter Typhoon take place.

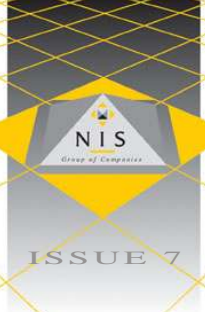
BAE SYSTEMS is making a major investment in its SPF manufacturing area. The contract involves two loaders - one which loads tools into existing press units, and the other which

loads and unloads components into a new press.

The system provides semi-automated transfer from press to furnace and furnace to press, and is supplied with an operator vision system to enable accurate positioning of the tool into the press.

NIS has built a solid reputation with BAE SYSTEMS as a specialist in the field of mechanical handling and component manipulation. This, together with a close working relationship with BAE SYSTEMS' highly respected team, has resulted in them having the confidence to place the order.





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A Global Marketplace

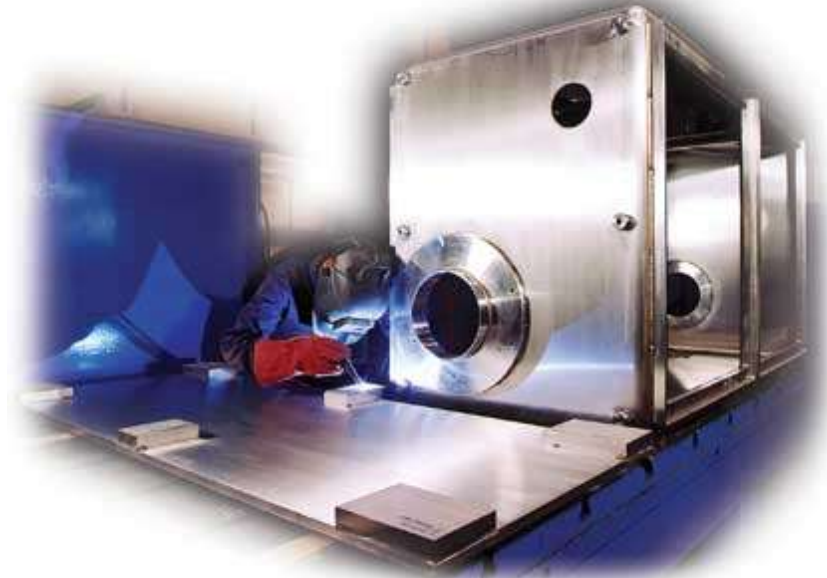
What do Paris, Vienna, Geneva, Tokyo and Chorley have in common? Answer: - NIS

Whilst working to stringent quality procedures, our in-house team of procurement specialists has identified an impressive array of international suppliers providing a quality and cost effective supply of service and materials.

NIS is soon to receive an automated microscope, sourced from overseas, to be installed at the BNFL Technology Centre (BTC) at Sellafield.

The BTC conducts ongoing development work on improving existing processes, whilst assisting in the design and operation of future plant and equipment.

In a joint project between NIS and BNFL, several high integrity containment systems, or 'Gloveboxes' for the BTC Laboratory are currently in manufacture.



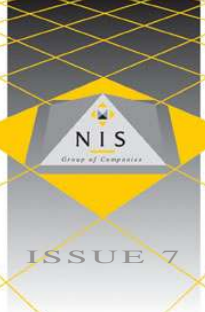
Raising our Profile



The NIS Group Nuclear SBU took part in two exhibitions this year organised by Nu-Tech Associates. The objective was to raise our profile in these key areas of business interest.

Both exhibitions were held over two days, with Ray Shaw and John Morris attending the exhibition at AWE Aldermaston in April, and Ray Shaw and Steve Travis attending the Dounreay exhibition in May. This was the first time that Nu-Tech had organised an exhibition at either Aldermaston or Dounreay, and both events were extremely well supported.

The Dounreay exhibition was of particular interest, as the SBU were attempting to secure a 'Term Contract' for the supply of consultancy services. It obviously worked, because the good news is we were awarded the contract in June 2001 and are currently working on various study packages for UKAEA Dounreay.



insight

'Fresh' Ideas at Geest

Continuing its 3-year association with Geest Prepared Foods, NIS Invotec has recently embarked on a further project involving the development of an innovative new product, based at one of Geest's production facilities in Lincolnshire.

Invotec facilitated sessions at Geest's own Culinary Academy, identifying the new

core values, planning the project's key activities, and establishing and monitoring the project's critical path through to market launch.

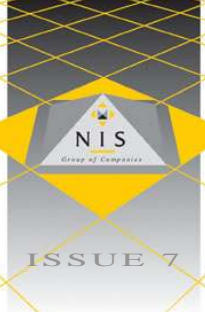
As part of Geest's own process development team, Invotec continues to assist in the identification and evaluation of innovative manufacturing techniques to help maintain Geest's market position and reputation for delivering unique products.

NSG Wins AWE Contract

NSG Environmental Ltd has been employed at AWE Aldermaston for over five years and has recently won a contract to decommission a number of tanks at site. The project entails a radiological survey and the removal/size reduction of the tanks. Utilising hot gas cutting techniques within a ventilated containment, the first tanks will be complete this Autumn.

The contract was let after recent success in emptying two radioactive sludge/liquor storage tanks and processing the waste using the BNFL Magnox mobile encapsulation unit. The mobile plant, housed and transported in three ISO containers is maintained and operated by NSG for BNFL Magnox.

NSG is extremely pleased with the outcome of this project which they attribute to good teamwork and co-operation at all levels between AWE and NSG. Identifying and mitigating against risks early in the project we were able to work together to ensure everything was in place to meet our weekly targets. Both AWE and NSG staff had a common goal which was to empty the two tanks before the end of April 2001, delivering encapsulated LLW to the client in a safe and efficient manner.



insight

FEED - a New Service from the NIS Group

The NIS approach to the supply of integrated nuclear solutions is embodied in the creation of our Front-End Engineering Definition Services Group (FEED).

FEED was created to bring together a core team of young engineers, working closely with our experienced nuclear staff, to provide innovative and novel front-end engineering solutions to our clients.

Designed to work alongside our clients, FEED maximises equipment efficiency by creating

and developing inter-company relationships between people, processes and equipment.

Using this approach has already resulted in the successful conclusion of a number of front-end studies, which involved the application of a range of Total Productive Manufacturing (TPM) techniques: Optioneering and Feasibility Studies, Risk Assessments, and Test and Development programmes, all of which have been favourably received by our clients.

It is our belief that investment in front-end activities prior to commencement of detail design, manufacture, assembly, test and installation will result in equipment capable of delivering increased overall effectiveness.

By working closely with our clients and applying a range of techniques at our disposal, we hope to enhance and develop our reputation as a world class supplier to clients wishing to achieve world class performance.

High Accuracy PaR Waterjet



NIS Invotec is the UK agent for PaR Systems Inc. PaR has more than 40 years of experience in remote handling equipment for various industries and is recognised as a leader in gantry robotics, both in standard and custom applications. The industries that PaR serves include nuclear, utility, automated fuel handling and service, environmental, material handling, custom robotics (which services the marine, aerospace and heavy-duty industrial segments), and waterjet cutting equipment.

Fourteen years ago, PaR added waterjet processing to its state-of-the-industry precision processing systems. The PaR Vector® Systems now offer complete turnkey packages that are designed, fabricated and supported by NIS Invotec.

PaR Vector® Systems are designed and constructed using advanced high quality, heavy duty, industrial grade equipment which allow many hours of precise, repeatable production.

Waterjet machine tool class cutting is made possible by high precision, industrial grade positioning systems, utilising PaR designed Vector® Gantry Positioning Systems, fully integrated with Ingersoll-Rand waterjet

intensifiers. Standard Vector® work envelopes include 4' x 8' x 1', 6' x 10' x 2' and 8' x 12' x 3' in eleven standard configurations. The Vector® Waterjet Processing System has become one of the most cost effective, high accuracy, waterjet systems available in the market today.

Automated Component Handling & Baking System



A UK based manufacturer of components for electronic goods, has taken delivery of an automated handling and component baking system. The project was undertaken by NIS and Petrie in partnership with the client and Gudel, suppliers of gantry units.

Designed and built by NIS, the system comprises several stations including invert, stand and bake. Featuring pneumatically controlled grippers, the gantry units provide a pick and place role - from initial feeding of the oven to final transfer. The baking oven, designed by Petrie, utilises

conventionally heated hot air, and because the system operates in a clean room environment, electro polished stainless steel was used for the construction of all key exterior surfaces. The whole project, from design to installation, was completed within a period of just seven months.

Servicing a wide range of industries, including food processes, consumer electronics, disposable medical products and ceramic fibres, NIS' experienced research and development team includes no less than 6 PhDs.



insight

NSG and BNFL at Hunterston Power Station

As the former Nuclear Power Station, Hunterston A, is undergoing decommissioning, a vital issue is the retrieval and encapsulation of all liquid radioactive waste. NSG, market leaders in this field, are supporting BNFL Nuclear Decommissioning and Clean-Up in the design, supply and operation of specialist plant and equipment to mobilise and retrieve sludges from a number of underground storage vaults. Utilising proven technology and past experience, NSG will treat the sludges using mobile process plant; first, by immobilising the waste using 'in drum mixing', and then encapsulating with cement technology

formulations developed in NSG's Leyland laboratory in Lancashire.

Two further contracts have been won by NSG to develop simulants and build a test rig for sludge pump development, to transfer sludges with very high solid content levels. Tariq Sharif, BNFL Project Manager at Hunterston A in Scotland, commented: "NSG has provided this specialist support to BNFL for over six years, and have proven time and again their ability to overcome technical problems associated with the mobilisation of difficult sludges. By working in stages, the team is confident that we will meet demanding project targets."



Philips' Mexican Flow Coating Mills Completed on Time

The fourth of six CRT flow coat lines, ordered by LG Philips Displays, has been installed at their Gomez Palacio site in Mexico. Using Mexican nationals, NIS supervised the installation of their flow coating equipment for Line A over a period of three weeks, which was completed to programme.

Based on application technology developed by Philips, NIS was responsible for the

design and manufacture of the flow coating mills and the flow coat process stations, as well as the design and development of dosing and suspension reclamation.

The flow coat lines operate on a rotary indexing concept, and are designed to handle both 29"RF and 32"WSSF screen panels at the same time. The three previous lines are installed at Best in Holland and Hranice in the Czech Republic.

Semi-Automated Curing Oven

A curing oven, designed by Petrie Technologies and manufactured by NIS, has successfully concluded a series of client proving trials. Low cost, simplicity and reliability were three major considerations which influenced the original design parameters.

The client's brief was for a compact semi-automated oven capable of processing trays of product, for inclusion within an automated manufacturing process system developed by NIS. Its performance criteria included curing at a specified temperature, for a specified period of time, with temperature uniformity

during the curing process to be maintained within $\pm 2.5^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Using electrically powered forced fan recirculation heating, the double skinned stainless steel oven has an integrated tray handling system.

The operating process involves a timed, vertical tray indexing mechanism, which is loaded at the bottom and unloaded from the top. A lift arrangement accepts the tray deposited by the oven then lowers the tray onto a buffer stack.

