

Premaberg targets new build opportunities



Air filtration specialist Premaberg Manufacturing is aiming to expand its nuclear business into new build. Directors Graham Wadley and Julian Durrant and production manager Bob Whiting explain how Fit For Nuclear supported their development programme.

Premaberg Manufacturing designs and manufactures air filtration systems specialising in the high efficiency removal of water droplets and aerosols from air streams. We have been established for 45 years at Halstead, North Essex.

Our systems are used on many critical air intake systems to protect gas turbines, diesel engines and HVAC plant, often in a marine or coastal environment for the naval, marine and offshore oil & gas sectors. We have an extensive record of export throughout the world, primarily to Europe, Japan and the Far East.

We have some experience in the nuclear industry, providing specially adapted products for decommissioning; air intake systems for HVAC applications; droplet and aerosol removal and protection of filters for emergency exhaust systems; high-efficiency weather louvres on process buildings; and special HVAC applications for nuclear-powered naval vessels.

We have a development programme for our business management systems, along with developing our business in some markets. As part of that, we are working to build on our existing experience in the nuclear industry for new installations. Fit For Nuclear gave us an opportunity to accelerate those processes.

Through the F4N programme, we have successfully improved our established health and safety system, obtaining OHSAS 18001 accreditation in May 2016, and cementing our accreditation with a clean audit in May 2017. We are now working towards ISO 14001 accreditation after carrying out an environmental gap analysis.

We have introduced lean manufacturing, 5S and a continuous improvement programme, engaging staff at all levels



Building on experience: Bob Whiting, Graham Wadley and Julian Durrant (standing L-R) with team members Andrew Shelton, Martyn Cant and Alan Smith, and a filtration unit.

in improvement activities. We have moved forward with an absolute desire to empower our teams, who are now taking responsibility for improving their processes using lean tools and techniques to eliminate waste. We have also trained and appointed two lean facilitators to coach and support the continuous improvement teams.

We are continuing our strategic development utilising lessons learnt through the F4N coaching, and have included many of our leaders in nuclear-related training through the National Skills Academy for Nuclear and other events, broadening our understanding of nuclear culture.

We have absolutely no doubt that the level of staff motivation and involvement has risen dramatically since the start of F4N and the 5S programme. Although we have yet to see new nuclear industry orders, we are working on several projects which now

have a considerably better opportunity to succeed. This includes some interesting export prospects.

We believe that our nuclear business opportunities in the UK will come from the new build programme, and potentially from retrofitting to existing plant. As a relative outsider to the nuclear industry and probably a Tier 3 or 4 supplier, it is difficult to identify the correct contacts, although we are now registering on appropriate supply chain portals and also developing some export potential.

Our business development is now preparing us to become a natural choice for consideration as a nuclear supplier, in the same way that our reputation in marine and offshore oil & gas affords us success in those markets.

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