

QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



# 2020 VISION!

For most businesses and families across the globe, 2020 has been a challenging year. At SPE we are delighted to have ended the year with a number of awards in recognition of our fantastic staff, our ability to adapt to change, and the talent we continue to develop into the engineers of the future.

## SC21 Silver 2 years running

SPE were awarded SC21 silver for the second year in a row, this award celebrates consistent delivery and quality performance over a 2-year period as well as recognising the partnership and relationship built between our key customers. SC21 Silver requires on time delivery of greater than 95% and a quality score greater than 99.5%. Supply Chains for the 21st Century (SC21) is an improvement programme designed to accelerate the competitiveness of the Aerospace and Defence industry by raising the performance of its supply chains.

Launched 14 years ago, it has grown into the largest Supply Chain Improvement programme in the UK Aerospace and Defence sector.



The programme is endorsed by all major UK Aerospace and Defence companies, it is managed by ADS at a national and international level, working with SC21 participants, prime contractors, regions and regional associations, strategic partners, accredited practitioners, training partners, providers, assessors and ambassadors.



## Make UK regional SME manufacturer of the year award

SPE won this award which recognises manufacturers and their apprentices who have done exceptional work in the sector.

Judged by impartial industry experts the Make UK Manufacturing Awards benchmarked our company as one of the leading organisations in the sector.

The award recognises us as being a leader in training and development, innovation, sustainability, and business growth.

# Princess Royal Training Award



**We are delighted to announce that in September 2020 we won the Princess Royal Training Awards 2020.**

SPE are committed to learning and development, it is the life blood of our growth. To seriously play in this space, we invested in our own separate learning college to deliver engineering qualifications internally. Apprentices follow a formal qualification pathway delivered in house by SPE, and approved by the Department of Education.

In addition, all existing employees of SPE's work family are given access to tailored learning and development, at all stages of their career from foundation to expert.

In September 2020 we were recognised for our 'Be the Best you can Be' Apprenticeship programme.

The initiative aims to secure the future pipeline of engineers locally, raise career aspirations and job opportunities in the Ashfield, Mansfield area. Our unique and intensive pathway aims to reduce the time to formal qualification from 3 years to 18 months. By delivering our own formal Apprenticeship Standards in house, we hope to develop the workplace skills required for our company and our partners in the Defence, Power and NHS supply chains. We are committed to leading by example and trying to make a real difference to our people for a company of our size.

## We Are Bugging Out!

**Back in March 2020, the world was changing. Words such as 'Furlough' and 'Social Distancing' were new to all of us.**

At SPE we take great pride on the contribution we make to the submarine programme, the energy markets of the world, the development of aerospace critical components, the defence of our great nation, and our passion for engineering and problem solving. So it came as no surprise to us that we were designated 'Key Workers' and as such had no option but to remain open.

From day one we have implemented and mandated the use of face masks at all times, enforced social distancing measures, applied working from home, and continued to manufacture products for our global customer base. During these difficult times we continued to allow critical visitors on site using our vigorous screening programme. We recruited

and inducted 13 new members of staff, we provided flu jabs to all staff, we tested staff using the anti-body test kits, and above all we kept our work family and their families safe.

We continue to operate an effective and efficient business and continue to welcome critical visitors to site.

## Best companies 2020

**Once again SPE have been awarded the one-star accreditation by the Sunday Times Best Companies.**

This award recognises that our organisation understands the importance of workplace engagement and genuinely values its people.



## Investments

**At SPE we have a firm believe that in any downturn investment should continue, we identified as part of our strategic plan that our customers want more from UK manufacturing.**

We must adapt and change in order to remain competitive in a global marketplace and provide the very best technical support. As part of this we have a commitment to invest in emerging technologies such as additive manufacturing, lights out automation and robotics.

The Fortus 450MC FDM 3D printer has been a critical purchase, developing new skills in our engineers and providing a new capacity for making fixtures.

This has proved essential for providing our customers with flexibility and rapid response times, which has opened up our capabilities for more complex products.



The MX850 5-axis multi-pallet CNC and our robot loading turning centre prove our commitment to greater efficiencies and lights out automation. The Fancu R-2000IC 6-axis robot will load and unload a Doosan Puma SMX 2600S turning centre from a set of pre-loaded pallets. The MX850 has 4 integrated pallets and 120 tooling slots that can be preloaded for autonomous manufacture.

Both machining centres are run by state-of-the-art controls systems that provide essential Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) data that allows the business to make critical decisions. These new investments, along with our existing factory of turning and milling machines, produce greater efficiencies, shorter lead times and reduced costs. They are a testament to our commitment to invest and continuously improve.