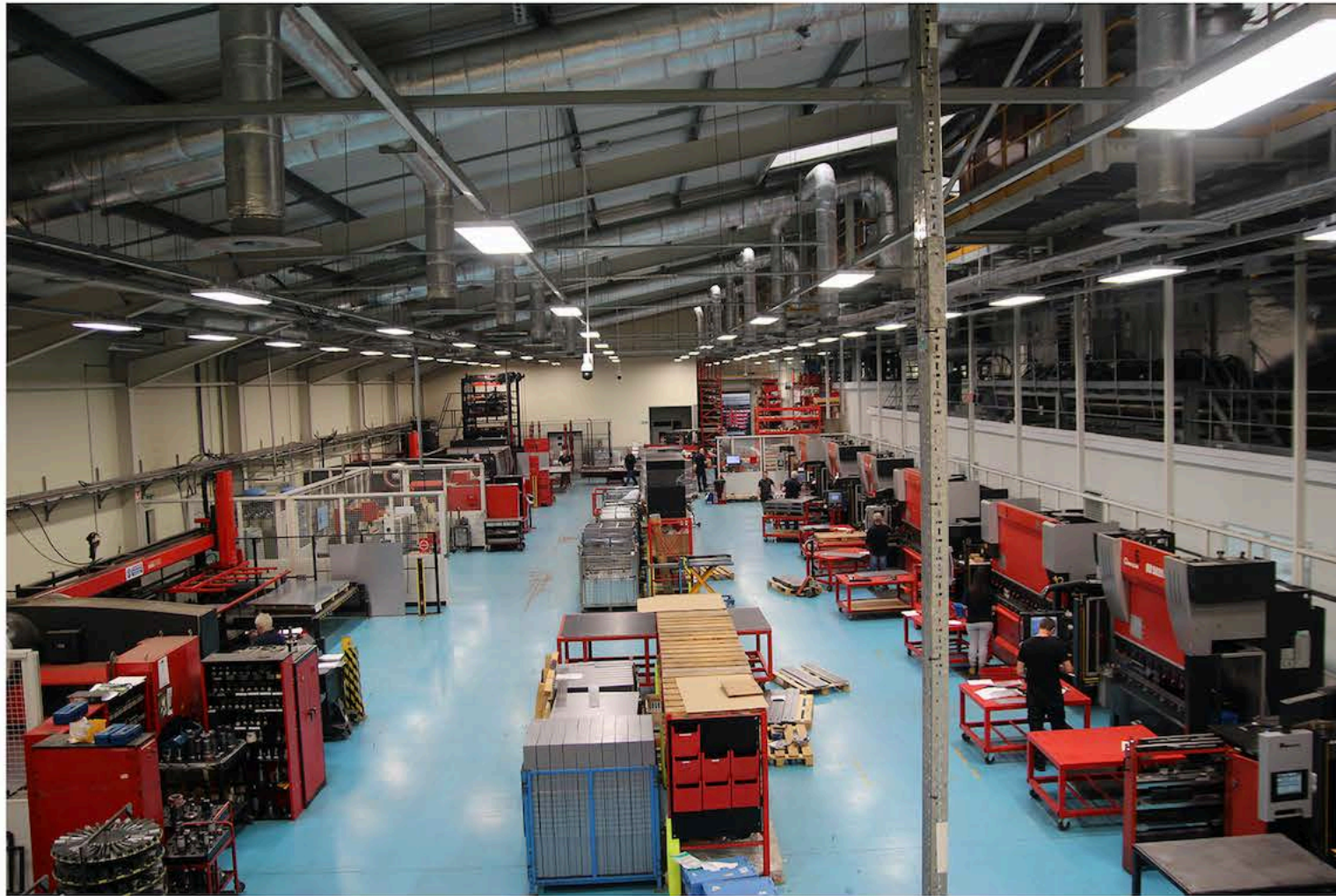


PCE - Precision Components & Equipment

Investment drives progression at PCE



"We need competitive machines to be successful in this industry", states Mr. Bradley.
"Using AMADA technology ensures that our customers get the reliable delivery they require. At PCE, we always deliver when we say, it's one of our many customer promises."

Investment is the driving force behind the success of Greater Manchester-based Precision Components & Equipment (PCE). This forward-thinking subcontract manufacturing business has recently relocated to 146,000 ft² premises and supported the move by investing over £1.5 million in the latest AMADA profiling, bending and automation systems. Today PCE has the largest collective range of AMADA machinery in the North of England.

PCE, which commenced operations in 1970, is part of the Bradley Manufacturing group, a third-generation family business with over 70 years' experience. Until recently, the company operated across four different sites in Heywood. This changed in 2016 when the Group relocated to a state-of-the-art facility in Chadderton, consolidating business functions under a single roof, including John Bradley & Son (Spring) Ltd, a firm that has origins dating back to 1946.

"Ultimately, the new facility means more space, which in turn will lead to growth," says the company's Managing Director Nigel Bradley. "Current Group turnover is around £8.5 million, but we are expecting to see sales increase by 15-20% within the coming 12 months."

For PCE, the retail and lighting sectors are both proving strong at present. While the former demands shelving, racking and PoS (point of sale) frames and fabrications, the latter, typically involves manufacturing a range of different LED lighting products for both the office, factory and on-street segments. In fact, the lighting sector will likely underpin most of the company's growth over the coming year.

On a daily basis, PCE processes mild steel and stainless-steel sheet measuring 0.9-5mm thick. However, on occasions the company handles plate up to 10mm thick, usually for the wood-burning stove sector. Batch sizes at the company are normally 50 to 250-off, although from 1-off to 10,000-off is accommodated. "Our standard lead-time is 2-3 weeks, which is typically what manufacturers in China cannot supply in time," says Mr. Bradley. "We also take on a lot of bulky orders that are too expensive to ship from the Far East. However, regardless of the project, everything we manufacture is precision engineered by our expert workforce using high-specification CNC machinery from AMADA."

Recent investments have been the arrival of an **AMADA ENSIS-3015AJ 2 kW fibre Laser with AS LUL tower and PC-series pallet changer**, which effectively provides an 18-tonne auto-load system. PCE operates

24/7 with three shifts running Monday to Thursday, however, the level of automation serving



the new **ENSIS fibre laser** means the company can enjoy high levels of unattended profiling.

PCE has also installed its first AMADA tube laser, a **FO-MII RI3015 (Rotary Index) CO₂** model with shuttle table. This 4 kW, 6m-capacity machine can profile round tubes measuring up to 210 mm diameter, or 160 mm square.



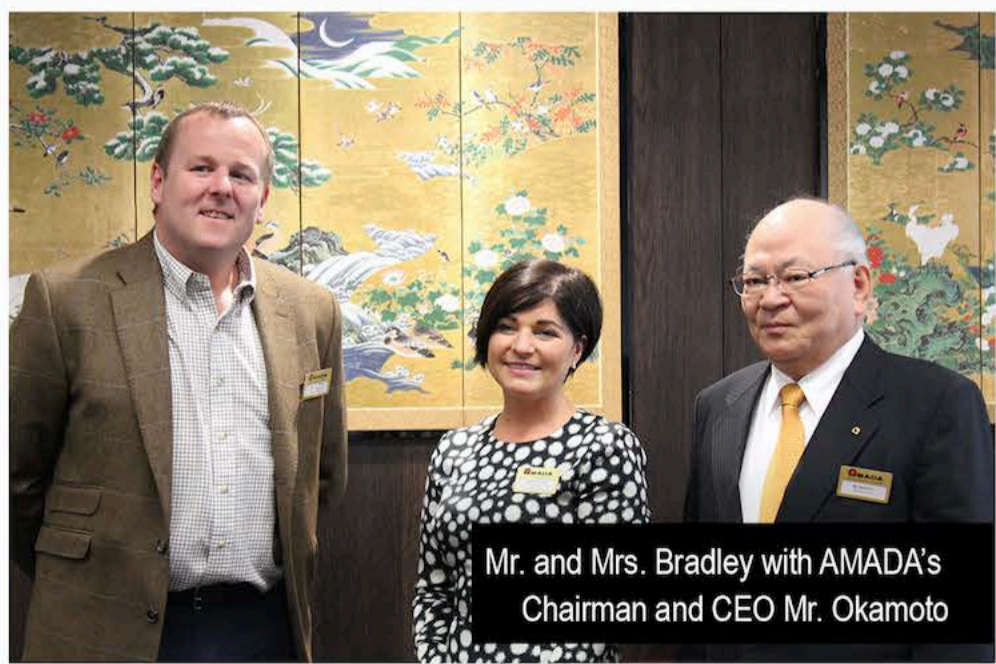
Along with three new HFE series press brakes, this sizeable investment is a clear indication of PCE's commitment to its customers

"We bought the tube laser to introduce more flexibility into our subcontract operations," explains Mr Bradley. "Although the machine can also be used as a flat-bed cutter, it has generated high levels of new tube-cutting work for our business, which means we retain it in tube configuration for the majority of time."

"Many years ago my father made the decision to go with AMADA and such has been the success of the machines that we've never felt any desire to change", says Mr Bradley. "Over the past 15-20 years, in particular, there has been help available from AMADA in all areas of our business, including finance, tooling, service, applications and maintenance. All of our machines are covered by AMADA maintenance contracts to ensure they continue functioning at optimum performance levels. We know that in today's marketplace quality is taken for granted, if quality is below standard, customers don't come back. This means we have trade on factors such as price and delivery, so we need AMADA machines to match the demands of our customers on these issues."

Ultimately, PCE provides a one-stop subcontract shop to a diverse range of customers working to fine tolerances in both ferrous and non-ferrous materials. Also offered is rapid prototyping and design, value engineering, and technical support. Group accreditations include ISO9001 and AS9100.

AMADA and PCE have a long history together. In fact, the company bought one of the **first AMADA punch presses in the UK**, a machine that was only retired eight years ago. Such is the relationship between the companies that Nigel's father, John Bradley, was asked to make a speech on behalf of the



Mr. and Mrs. Bradley with AMADA's Chairman and CEO Mr. Okamoto

customers at the opening of AMADA's showrooms in Kidderminster in 1986. To keep up tradition, AMADA invited Nigel to make the customers' speech at the new Technical Centre opening in 2014.



The ongoing strategy of investing in the latest machinery is clearly serving the company well

Beyond the latest fibre-laser, tube-laser and press-brake technologies, PCE operates a pair of **AMADA EMK-3610NT** 58-station high-speed turret punch presses with auto-load systems. There is also an in-house engineering division on site incorporating power presses from 6 to 250T in capacity, along with milling, drilling and grinding capabilities. Additional services include welding, powder coating via two automatic lines, full product assembly that includes electrical work, and quality product testing to aerospace specification.

"We offer craftsmanship and problem solving, efficiency and expertise. There's no room for compromise as we know our customers only want the best. With this in mind, every job we do begins with a promise, from us to them. And we won't rest until our promises are kept."

AMADA machines:

- ENSIS-3015AJ fibre laser with AS LUL tower and pallet changer (2016)
- FO-MII RI3015 (Rotary Index) CO₂ tube laser with shuttle table (2017)
- Two EMK-3610NT turret punch presses with auto-load systems (2012, 2008)
- Two HFE3i-1003, 8 axis press brakes (2016 and 2015)
- HFE3i-5020, 8 axis press brake (2016)
- HFE-5012M2, 8 axis press brake (2016)

