



David Seabury – Managing Director, MPE Ltd



Underlining the company's commitment to a vigorous, continuing apprenticeship program, here you see six apprentices in the capacitor winding room at MPE. Left to right: Gillam Prescott, Jacob Grosscurth, Jack Gorman, Bradley Reed, Liam Reed, Ben Meadley



MPE proudly receiving the top UK Award for International Trade at The Manufacturer MX Awards held at the Liverpool Exhibition Centre in November 2019. From the left, Henry Anson – Managing Director of Hennik Research, publishers of The Manufacturer magazine; Terry Scuoler – Chairman of the Institute of Export & International Trade; Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, DBE – guest speaker; Tracy Lowe – Procurement Manager of MPE Ltd; David Seabury – Managing Director of MPE Ltd; Alistair McGowan – guest speaker

MPE rounds off decade of major growth

In last year's review I commented that 2018 was going to be a hard act to follow but follow it successfully we did . . . and then some!

MPE entered the year with a solid order book and this, coupled with retirements and increasing levels of orders from around the world, saw specialist recruitments to strengthen MPE's team. Starting in February, Paul Argent joined Quality Assurance, and the process continued throughout the year with Gary Masson coming into Engineering, Jake Bauress and Antony Murray into Production, Emma Clare into Procurement and culminating with Angela Murphy into our Accounts team at the end of the year. Looking ahead, with recruitment in Production currently under way, the team is again set to grow in 2020.

The first half of 2019 witnessed new orders for substantial UK projects including custom solutions for installation at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Skelton. These were swiftly followed by project orders including air bases in Germany and Government buildings in The Netherlands and South Korea. In the second half of the year, as the culmination of several years of design and testing work, MPE secured a very significant communications project in the USA, with first units being shipped in December.

During July, as a result of an innovative research programme initiated in 2015, MPE was granted two families of patents in the UK and Europe. The first family relates to MPE's latest feedthrough varistor system, which has a thermally activated override. The second family of patents relates to a varistor system that can be integrated into many types of power cord or plug. MPE expects to follow this in the next 12 months with the granting of the same patents in the USA.

In September MPE further expanded its apprentice scheme. Now in its fourth year, we saw Jacob Grosscurth and Bradley Reed join our program, swelling the team of apprentices to almost 13% of MPE's total employees. Ben Meadley also progressed onto his HNC studies, and he was a worthy winner in the North West Training Council apprentice awards.

Following the various accolades that MPE received during 2018, I was delighted when, in November, MPE was named winner of the UK's International Trade award at the Manufacturer MX Awards in Liverpool. This annual awards programme for manufacturers is the most respected in the UK, with expert judging being conducted over an intensive four-month period, so that to receive this particular national award really was the icing on the cake for our company.

Also in November, MPE's network of European distributors was expanded once more with the appointment of SACA Europe BV. The geographical coverage that they provide is facilitating the wider distribution of MPE products to Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and means that MPE now has specialist authorised distributors for 26 different territories.



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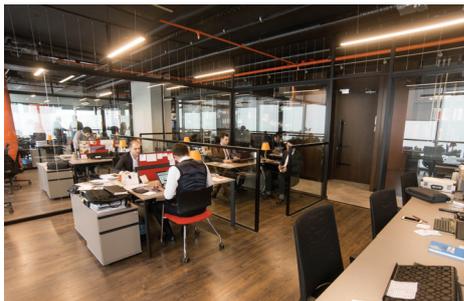
MPE Design Engineer John Lindsay presenting a detailed paper on "Refining HEMP Filter Design to Meet Changing PCI Requirements" at ASIAEM 2019 in Xi'an, China



MPE has provided 66 high-performance EMC power line installation filters of ten different designs for applications on the new HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier



MPE has supplied a suite of Mil-Std-188-125 HEMP filters for the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at Thule Air Base on the north-west coast of Greenland, the northernmost base of the US Air Force



Headquartered at Helmond, Netherlands, SACA Europe BV is MPE's newly appointed distribution partner for the Balkan and Eastern European territories

During 2018 MPE had adopted 100% recyclable and biodegradable non-toxic materials to package many of its products. Building further on our "Going Green" initiative aiming to minimise our environmental impact, towards the end of the year it was great to see MPE eliminate all single-use plastics from every area of its facility, continuing our commitment to reduce waste.

Other activities over the 12 months included MPE's participation at EMV in Stuttgart, Germany and IDEF in Istanbul, Turkey, and our Design Engineer John Lindsay's presentation of an original research paper at the ASIAEM conference held in Xi'an, China.

Support for many high-profile applications such as the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier platform continued, but perhaps most notable were the HEMP solutions which MPE supplied to the Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. This is the northernmost base of the US Air Force, located some 1,207km (750m) north of the Arctic Circle and 1,524km (947m) from the North Pole.

So, with MPE exporting to 28 different territories in 2019 and with MPE's filters now installed within the Arctic Circle, MPE's global reach has continued to grow significantly. This unparalleled coverage worldwide enabled MPE to round off 2019 with its largest forward order book for 25 years and, given the prospect of such healthy manufacturing volumes, the start of the new decade is set to be even better than the last.

