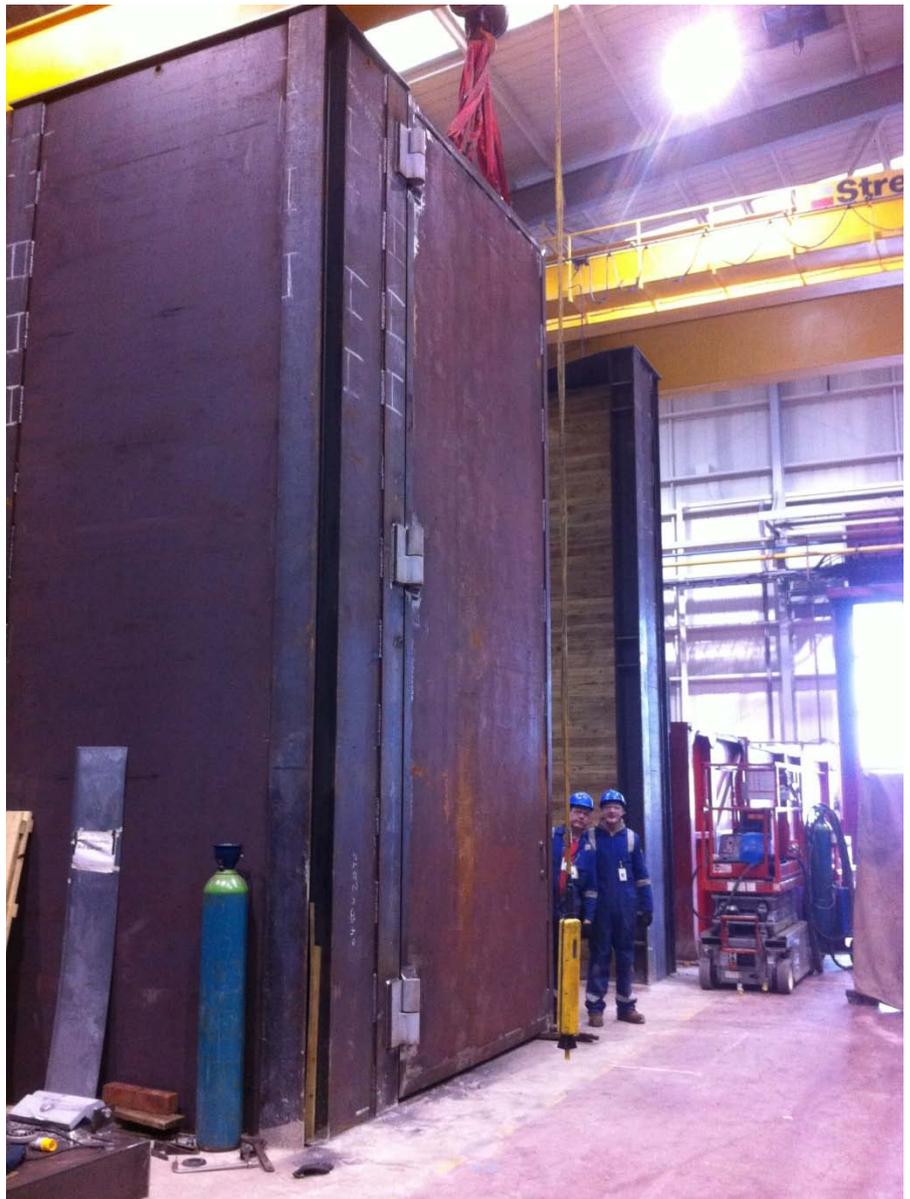


According to the National Statistics Office (ONS) the UK has seen a manufacturing growth of 3.3% from January 2013 to the same period in 2014 and employment is up. Did you receive your letter from 10 Downing Street? Signed by the PM no less, thanking small business for all the hard work we've done in growing the economy? Nice to get some appreciation at least! Don't forget the £2k available to all employers to help with NIC contributions. The PM offers his thanks to us. In return, we would like offer our thanks to all our customers for your business.

In our last newsletter we mentioned important new standards coming into force this July, for all structural steelwork companies. The Construction Products Regulations (CPR) have been adopted in the UK to enforce the European Construction Products Directive. The aim of the directive is to harmonise the safety performance of construction products across the EU and they apply to anything placed on the market, whether imported or manufactured in the EU. As of the 1st of July this year any "series" manufactured structural metal components made in the UK or imported, and to which a harmonised European standard applies, must comply with the CPR & CE marking requirements. The standard that applies to structural metalwork is **BSEN 1090-1:2009** and it will be a criminal offence to supply structural metalwork after the 1st of July unless it conforms to this standard and carries a legitimate CE mark. All steelwork contractors are required to have a documented welding quality management system (WQMS) as detailed in **BSEN ISO 3834**. Also, a nominated RWC responsible for all welding

activities is required i.e. Responsible Welding Coordinator as identified by **BSEN ISO 14731**. This should be a person competent with all the technical knowledge to control and supervise the companies welding activities. **BS EN 1090-2** sets out the technical knowledge required based on the companies declared execution class. The higher the nominated class, the more stringent quality related criteria will apply. We are receiving many calls at the moment from steel fabricators and alike, for assistance to get welding procedures and welder qualifications approved. Although

this may not be apparent to many of our diving clients, we do feel this will filter down to you all and you will need these approvals; so act now. One very important fact we must stress, is please ensure you only use an approved/accredited third party organisation (TPO). We are seeing a number of companies who have engaged non-approved labs and it's very likely these companies will have to do all this work twice! Remember, we are approved by Zurich as accredited welding surveyors and so can offer you fully accredited documentation. We have been very busy helping clients get welding



procedures and their welder qualifications approved.

A recent visit to **Onesubsea's** (formally Cameron's) facility in Leeds, for **S&S Fabtech** was undertaken to carry out welding inspection of a number of hinges and interlocking mechanisms. These new structures are being installed to improve safety for the pressure testing on the blowout preventers (BOP), more commonly referred to as Christmas trees; now those are what we call door hinges! We are pleased to have supplied **Lastek Italy** with Barracuda Gold electrodes to undertake a certified ship repair. The repair, which involved depositing a layer of weld metal in a deep gouge in the ships hull can be seen below. Well done **Gianmarco**; was it the electrodes or the skills of the divers? OK we'll agree, it takes two to tango.



Following the work we did for **Custom Fittings** and TIP trailers writing their SOP and carrying out



their welding operator certification, we are pleased to have supplied them with the portable enclosed tungsten grinder. The **Neutrix tungsten grinder** is not only essential in order to produce a precisely ground tip, which is required when using automated welding systems, but also ensures the harmful thorium dust is kept away for the operator while grinding. If you would like to learn more about this tool, please contact our sales team.

High-Q attend our training centre for intensive welder and oxy-fuel training. High-Q who are largely involved with rope access



operations sent one of their teams in order to develop their all round welding and cutting abilities.

Other clients who have invested in welder training this last quarter include; **S&S Fabtech, Power Therm, PW Adamson, Wm. Morrisons, Northern Combustion, Oakwood AIM Aviation, Crummock, Falcon Crane Hire, DW Scientific, Lambert Engineering, GJF Fabrications, NPS Fabs, NG Bailey, Flexitallic, CE Bennett's, Planet Platforms, Challenger Hydraulics, Easi-Lift, Energas, JBC Industrial Services, Calvert Site Services, TIP Europe, CamFab, APP Lifting, Oldroyd Intec, Precision Pipe Supports and Cumbria Steel Fabrications.**

Remember, we are the only accredited school in the country with our own in-house **Zurich** approved welding surveyor. We offer a wide range of training and certification services to the welding industry; including MMA (both rutile and basic electrodes) TIG, MIG/MAG, FCAW, oxyacetylene welding and cutting and brazing;



including safe operating procedures, so give us a call if you need to train or test out.

We are delighted to announce our distributor network continues to grow. We offer a warm welcome to **Arc Subsea** based in Perth, WA and **Aquatica**, based in Venice, Italy to our distributor network. We look forward to working with you and securing a strong working relationship. You can purchase the full range of underwater welding products from them. Other distributors around the world where our products are available include; **BPN - Poland, Terrossystem – Sweden, Marex – Greece, Advanced Marine – Singapore, Arwell – Finland, Pommec, Dutch Diving, Divewise and ICH Hytech – Netherlands, MMI – Malaysia, Kilf, - Iceland, United Stirling - HK, and Jack Vilas Associates - USA.**

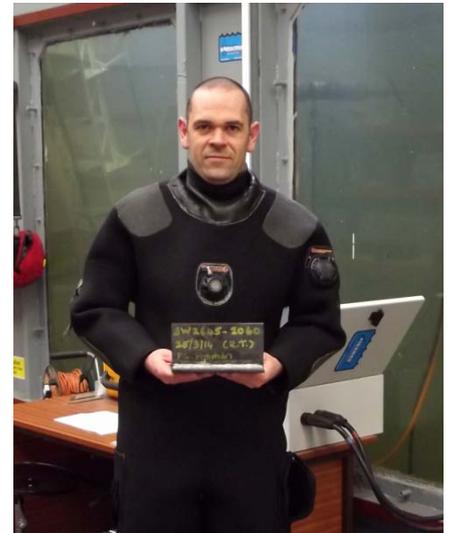
Hydreco-Lonking requested our services to undertake welding operator qualifications for their fully automated robotic welding operations for the welding of hydraulic cylinders. Hydreco, who has offices all over the UK has their main production operations based in mainland China. The qualification

of welding operators for semi or fully automatic, robot welding operations is covered by **BSEN ISO 14732-2013**. This requires all operators of welding robots/systems to be able to follow a standard operating procedure manual (SOP) and complete a functional knowledge test to prove their understanding of procedures. We are pleased to confirm approval; well done guys.

Clyde Commercial recently sent a dive team for welding certification. We have also provided our diving facilities to a number of diver-welders who needed to undertake welder qualification tests. Although we would stress, all **Weldcraft-Pro** underwater welder training enquiries should still be made to



PDA in Dunoon, Scotland, as they are our training co-partner. Any divers who only require a certification weld test may apply directly to us. Congratulations to Clyde Commercial's dive team and Robert and Wayne who successfully completed their weld tests. Any diving schools, outside the UK, that would like to be considered to run the Weldcraft-Pro welding programme, should in the first instance, email us on sales@specialwelds.com but please remember; we will only appoint one school per country!



We are delighted to announce that **Divewise** in Belgium had a satisfactory site audit for their Weldcraft-Pro welding course, with very high standards being maintained with divers reporting high levels of satisfaction for training, instructors and the facilities; well done to **Bart** and **Stanley**. **Marex**, in Athens, also completes another course with equally high standards being achieved in both delivery of training and quality control measures, well done **George**. We are pleased to report all divers passed their weld tests and EAL examinations, so well done to both schools for keeping up such high standards. Of course, as always, we had a very warm welcome from

Mr. Dan Hedberg of the newly named **Gothenburg Commercial Diving School**. A very busy class of 31 hard working men and women; we say more lady welders needed, most definitely.

We are very pleased to see the **Chamfo** range of beveling tools gaining strong sales. These beveling tools offer a low cost, yet very precise method of beveling plate and/or pipe for weld preparation. We offer three models; the largest beveller, which is still a hand held tool, allows for putting a 35° weld bevel on steel, stainless and aluminium materials of over 30mm wall thickness. We carry the full range in stock, to learn more about these tools please visit our website. We would like to say thank you to **D & H Steel Construction** who has just purchased the large GTW2700 model. We know you will get many years of good service from it.

Now, let us introduce you to a new member of the team, Mr. Steve Hill who strengthens our production team and is tasked with control of electrode and Piranha manufacture



and quality control operations. Happy to have you with us Steve. Following a mention in our last newsletter regarding our underwater welding **flip-up**. These are all now ex-stock and we have already started to kick sales off to a flying start. The flip-up is made



from a tough, hardwearing lightweight POM-C plastic (Polyoxymethylene) material and will fit all KM hats and helmets and allows for easy use (even with gloves) to flip-up/down. A very clever press fit system allows for quick and easy fitting of the welding filter/lens, yet will hold it in place quite securely with no danger of it coming out. It's light and strong and is designed to be used with our auto-darkening filters (allows the two UV sensors at the ends of the solar panel to trigger properly), unlike other assemblies on the market, but the best news is the price; just **£99.00** + VAT. Divers are reporting that because it covers the full face plate it's a great improvement over other

flip-up's, as no stray arc light is reflected into the hat and it fits closely to the face plate. Also, no flimsy plastic materials or bungies used; you get a tough hardwearing tool that will last you for many years. Although you may not read this newsletter before the Easter break, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers a very happy Easter and thank you for using Speciality Welds. We will be closed on Friday 18th and Monday 21st of April.

We would also like to thank the following customers for their support over the last quarter; IHC Hytech BV, Submarine Manufacturing Products, PDA, Terrosystems, Sheawater Marine, The Underwater Centre, Marex, Divewise, Angus Heron, Marine Specialists, Chambers Oceanics, Peter Nobel, Valkyrie Diving, Global marine Supplies, Metso, Lambert Engineering, J L George, Intersprio, Svensta Elektrod AB, TPSMI, Drax, Tuukritode OU, MCP (UK), Sia Daivtehnoserviss. Hope we haven't missed anybody, so until next time, happy welding to you all.

