

# Savvy sawing solutions

**Cutting raw material is the first stage in the production process and like all others demands efficiency improvements, as Andrew Allcock discovers**

**R**ainham Steel, Scunthorpe, is recognised as one of the UK's most modern, safe and efficient structural steel distribution centres.

Opened in 2002, this latest expansion phase of the flagship Scunthorpe site is a Kaltenbach structural steel processing line, completed in December. It comprises a 100 m long central conveying system that passes material through the latest Gietart Sprint 1.6 shot blast and automated paint system, which in turn sits between two parallel bandsawing lines, each with a large Kaltenbach KBS1301 DG, CNC mitring bandsaw. One saw line also has an interlinked heavy-duty KDX1215, 3-axis, 5-tools-per-spindle NC drill. Material exiting the paint-drying tunnel can be automatically transferred by cross ways onto either of the bandsawing systems and, if required, onward conveyed to the drill.

"Our new process line gives us a formidable added capability and speed of response", says John Green, works manager at the Scunthorpe site.

The KBS1301 DG bandsaws represent the latest in sawing technology, enabling very accurate cutting to length of columns, beams and hollow sections at 90° or incrementally mitred left/right up to 40°/30°, respectively, via NC control. Infinitely variable speed control with a powerful frequency controlled drive motor, together with automatic electro-hydraulic control of cutting pressures, help ensure optimum cutting conditions for material type and section. The required cut length is automatically selected even when cutting mitres. Sophisticated Kaltenbach DSTV+ and Winsteel software, via each machine's

touchscreen console, enable user-friendly setting of all cutting requirements, with cutting instructions downloaded from the site's production control department.

## DRILLING AND SAWING LINE

Elsewhere, a new high speed drilling and sawing line from FICEP in Leeds can be found at Cleveland Bridge, installed to improve efficiency and capacity and maximise competitive edge.

The FICEP 1203 CNC DJB drilling and bandsaw machine with material handling, has numerous features designed to improve productivity including larger capacity, high speed drilling and cutting, toolchanger, probe sensing, auxiliary handling and FICEP's novel scribing.

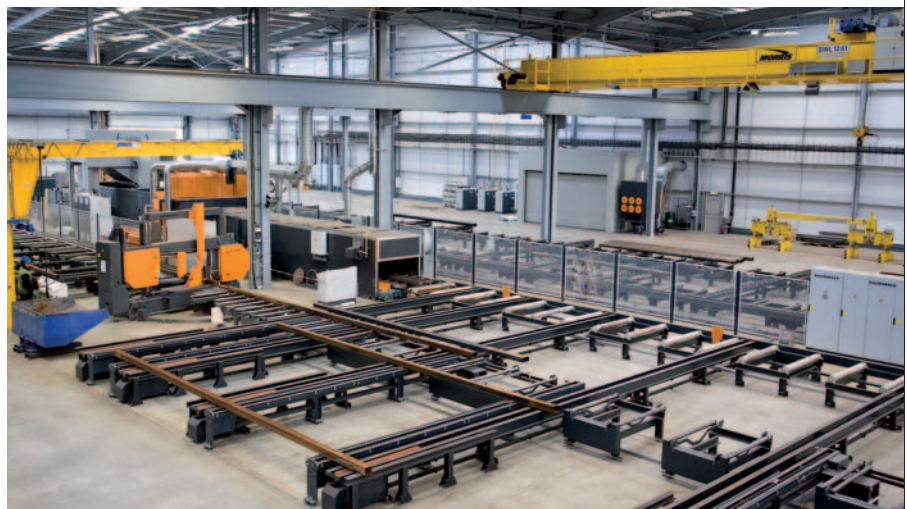
This is Cleveland Bridge's first investment in new production machinery for some time and the company will operate the new 1203 DJB alongside

another FICEP machine, the Tipo B 25, purchased over seven years ago.

"It is essential during a substantial downturn in the construction industry that we should look to invest to offer our clients the best possible prices without in any way compromising quality," says Steve Wright, works manager.

Returning to Scunthorpe, but this time at Locate Supplies, and two new Amada HFA-400 fully automatic horizontal bandsaws, supplied and installed by Birkett Cutmaster, have not only increased the company's cutting capacity for a wide range of metals and plastics but have also helped them to maintain a high standard of customer service.

Locate customers often require material at extremely short notice and sawing facilities have to meet tight deadlines. The new HFA-400s are built to a new design and combine ease of operation with fast quality cutting. □



*Rainham Steel, Scunthorpe has installed a Kaltenbach structural steel processing system*