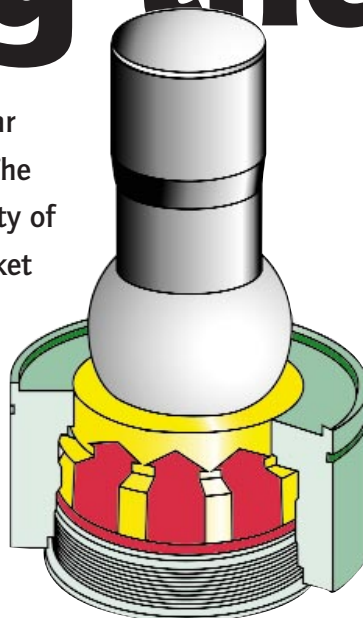


Bray Burners selected AIDA's NC2-250 tonne press to handle new larger programme dies.

Below: AIDA's Hydraulic Overload Protection System (HOLP) responds when an overload occurs - collapsing an oil-filled chamber and triggering AIDA's oil escape system.

Lighting the way

UK-based Bray Burners Ltd has built a 137-year history as a tier one supplier of gas burners. The company supplies gas burners to a wide variety of worldwide manufacturers from the boiler market to swimming pool heaters and fire log sets. The company is about to introduce new developments for new markets and, to support that effort, recently invested in AIDA Engineering UK Ltd's gap frame press technology to expand its current manufacturing capacity.



Located in Leeds, West Yorkshire, Bray Burners is a subsidiary of the Italian-based Findest/OP Controls. The company manufactures the components for its gas burners in-house and operates its factory on a short turnaround and just-in-time delivery basis. Press selection is a critical factor for Bray Burners since downtime due to equipment failure would mean a work stoppage for customer orders. Having purchased an AIDA NC2-250 tonne press to accomplish transfer-type work 13 years earlier, Bray Burners looked at an AIDA NC2-250



Main Picture: Interior Shot.

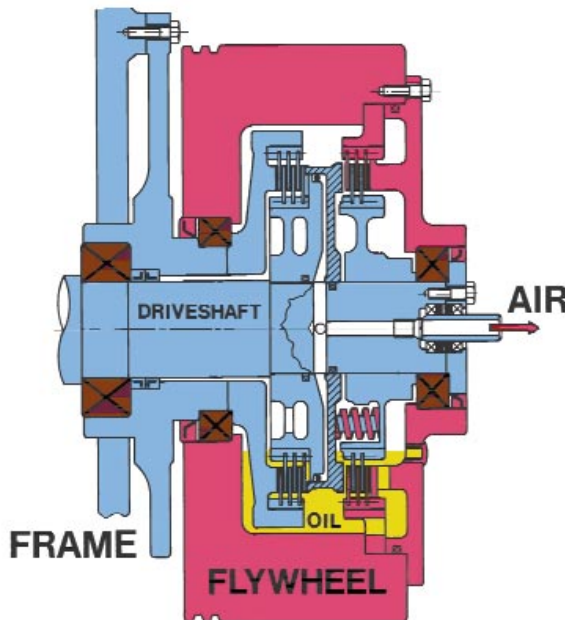
Below: Aida's Wet Clutch reduces the volume of air used with each stroke by 50% or more when compared with the air friction clutch.

tonne press to support its new development needs and handle new, larger progressive dies.

"We examined the press market worldwide and evaluated a number of machines manufactured by other press builders," said Mark Fozzard, Engineering Manager for Bray Burners. "We reached the conclusion that the equipment quality and level of service we received with our first AIDA press purchase outweighed the need for us to consider going in a new direction with another press manufacturer."

Bray Burners finalized the purchase order for its second AIDA gap press at Metalworking 2002 recently. Press installation will take place in September 2002. The new gap press will support in-house production of components for Bray Burners' new development effort. Able to accommodate Bray Burners' larger progressive dies, the press will run thin gauge (0.6 mm) aluminum-coated mild steel. Mr. Fozzard expects the press to run two eight-hour shifts five days a week once production reaches its full potential.

"...our first AIDA press purchase outweighed the need for us to consider going in a new direction..."



"The gap frame's larger bed size, RAM and open C-frame gives us the access we need to load progressive dies and various types of tooling quickly and easily," said Mr. Fozzard. "Closed-frame presses limit you and restrict access." With the purchase of the NC2 gap press 13 years earlier, AIDA developed tooling for the parts produced so that the company did not need to stamp parts on multiple machines with multiple operations. To accommodate the progressive work scheduled for the new NC2, AIDA increased the machine's speed and shut height for faster production rates.

The press is equipped with AIDA's Hydraulic Overload Protection System (HOLP). When an overload occurs, an oil-filled chamber collapses, triggering an oil escape system which responds in 10 milliseconds - the fastest response in the industry, according to AIDA. Recovery time to reset the overload takes seconds, significantly reducing downtime.

A wet clutch allows customers,



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Focus on mechanical press technologies

photo cell loop control with an RF 75 300 servo roll feed on a height adjustable mounting bracket and pneumatic pilot release system.

In addition to key partnerships with suppliers like W.T. Atkins, AIDA UK has a 6,000m² works facility, based in Derby England, along with a new machining center and increased manufacturing capacity for trial assembly and testing. The NC2 gap press, along with

FACTBOX

AIDA is, in units produced, one of the largest press manufacturers in the world. It provides a range of presses (gap, straight side, progressive die, high-speed, transfer systems, and cold forming presses) from 30 to 4000 tons.

the tooling and Atkins feed equipment, was assembled tested and proved before installation at Bray Burners. **ISMR**

like Bray Burners, to achieve the high single-stroking rates associated with gap frame presses in hand-fed operations or with automation. The wet clutch reduces the volume of air used with each stroke by 50% or more when compared with the air friction clutch.

"We are the only manufacturer to provide precision cut gears with hardened and ground pinions - a benefit that reduces backlash and maintenance while extending gear life," says AIDA.

Feed equipment for the new gap press was provided by W.T. Atkin Ltd., in Thetford, Norfolk. Generally known for its feed equipment lines, Atkin has branched out into process line production and most recently added automation capabilities to help customers eliminate manual operations and high labour intensive work processes. For Bray Burners' new AIDA gap press, Atkin will supply a space saving unit that combines a decoiler and straightening head within the same framework. The unit also contains a variable speed drive,