# Cambs Compressors Solution of the second statement of

# The 'new normal' - post-COVID-19 at Cambs Compressors



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# Protecting our customers and employees throughout the coronavirus crisis

**Working to support essential sectors and keep things running** Like every business on the planet Cambs Compressors was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many of our wider team were furloughed during the lockdown, our engineering team were working hard as we continued to provide compressor servicing and compressor emergency breakdown support for essential services. The food industry, hospitals, research laboratories were just a few who relied on their compressed air systems running. At the height of the lockdown meant our engineers had to adapt their safe working procedures, implement social distancing and carry documentation to evidence they were operating an essential role.

### Contributing to the Ventilator Programme

In addition to this the team at Cambs Compressors also got involved in the Ventilator Programme with a consortium of manufacturers throughout the region. As engineers working at the height of the crisis gave us a sense of proactive contribution when our normal services were largely reduced to reactive support.

"I couldn't have asked for more from the team at Cambs Compressors. I feel an enormous sense of pride at the way in which our team conducted themselves during these unprecedented times." Mark Fryer Managing Director, Cambs Compressors

# New Buckminster premises with hi-speed internet

With the need for more video conferencing, video diagnostics and social distancing Cambs Compressors have invested in upgraded command centre facilities.

**Command centre facilities evolve to support customers more efficiently** This facility was designed to support the distribution depot in St Ives with the administration support and become a back-up for call management. During lockdown and the need for minimal travelling it became clear that the call management needed to be located at the Stoke Rochford hub.

### Stoke Rochford hub for Cambs Compressors

The realisation of likely changes in the way the business would need to look, operate and functional space required set us on the path to up-scaling the technology, internet access speed and office space required. The new Buckminster facilities will support the future growth plans in addition to the changes in working practices required for working COVID Safe. The new facilities have super broadband connectivity and over three times the office space to enable social distancing even if we expand the workforce.



# Emergency fix for European based distribution hub

### Cancer Research UK repurposed drug tested in COVID-19 trial



When a compressor failed in a mirror image in a bonded warehouse in Amsterdam in lockdown, Cambs Compressors were on emergency speed dial.

# British manufacturers of compressors, spares off the shelf and Eurotunnel

It was a Thursday afternoon during lockdown when a call came in that a clients' compressor had failed and they needed our compressor emergency breakdown cover. Having skipped its scheduled compressor servicing and preventative maintenance activities because of lockdown, the compressor had developed issues months later. Very much still in lockdown, the challenges were 'what do we need - and how can we possibly get it there?

Problem solving is in every engineers DNA, so by Friday evening a new compressor was on its way to the Netherlands. Fortunately Eurotunnel was still operational for commercial vehicles and the Cambs Compressors emergency response vehicle could make the necessary trip. With Mark and Annthea committed to resolving the issue, they shared the driving into the early hours of Saturday morning.

#### 3.30am Saturday arrived on site for 9.00am emergency breakdown visit

Understanding this needed to be a one visit solution, the client had agreed to the purchase of a compressor to mirror the current set-up. Rather than waste time repairing the broken down compressor the new replacement was installed and tested. As soon as this was up and running, the existing compressor was looked at, firstly to diagnose the fault and then to set-up as a failover compressor to ensure the clients exposure to a repeat was minimal.

### Sunday job done and home!

With the servicing complete by Sunday, the reverse journey was made in time and Mark and Annthea were back in the Buckminster office answering calls Monday - very tired but delighted to have made such a successful trip.



Cancer Research UK know-how was utilised to explore drugs used in cancer treatment could play a part in the battle against coronavirus.

### Heightened proactive compressed air maintenance strategy deployed

At the height of the pandemic here in the UK there were several specialist laboratories whose knowledge of drugs and clinical trials were called upon to support the national effort in the fight against coronavirus. Cancer Research UK and its partners launched clinical trials to test if drug used to treat cancer patients could possibly help people with COVID-19.

#### The laboratories compressed air supply became a critical factor in the race against time

The work being carried out was a race against time, and at the peak of the pandemic, almost half of UK COVID-19 patients requiring critical care did not survive. Scientists around the world agreed finding treatment options available for people affected by coronavirus was a race against time.

### Cambs Compressors provided optimal support on lab compressors and compressed air systems

Any compressor emergency breakdown or failure in the compressed air systems could seriously impact on progress and their potential to save lives. In addition to extra compressor checks, more regular servicing, the proactive maintenance strategy incorporated a greater than usual stock of spare of filters, valves and oil.

### High quality air for labs and research



Cambs Compressors - more than maintenance, experts in developing innovative air systems for the highest quality requirements for application-oriented solutions for laboratories

# Doing our bit in the search for anti viral drug for COVID

The R&D community in Cambridge quickly answered the nations call to direct all efforts at seeking out an anti viral drug for COVID-19. The call Cambs Compressors answered was for adapting laboratories air management systems to meet new demands in quality control.

### Laboratory grade air compressor solutions

A laboratory grade air compressor is required for a vast range of applications in the research, medical, education, and pharmaceutical industries. It is extremely important for the air compressors to be efficient, silent, and reliable because the industries that use laboratory air compressors require clean and contaminant free compressed air.

### Charles River Laboratories Fighting COVID-19

# Testing ventilators a new challenge



Cambs Compressors client Charles River are a company dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives and responded rapidly and collaboratively to try to develop prophylactic and therapeutic agents to prevent and treat COVID-19 infections.

# Hunt for new drugs to treat the deadly coronavirus

Three of Charles River 'early discovery teams' joined the hunt for new drugs to treat the deadly coronavirus. The three teams worked together combining their specific skills to help identify novel hit compounds that could form the basis for drug discovery programs targeting the coronavirus.

# The silent power supporting laboratory compressor systems

It's critical that laboratory compressed air system is efficient, silent, and trusted because the industries that use laboratory air compressors require clean and contaminant free compressed air. Which is why Cambs Compressors are proud to have so many high profile laboratories, like Charles River amongst its client list. The huge efforts of the scientists and research assistances certainly contributed to the saving of lives. We're proud to support these super humans in their battle against the deadly COVID-19 virus by providing enhanced levels of support. Our laboratory compressed air solution design and system maintenance ensured they could keep up the good work.



How Cambs Compressors adapted existing compressed air systems to test ventilators

# Our part in the COVID-19 ventilator challenge

The COVID-19 ventilator challenge tested the ingenuity of to the limit of a whole host of people, including manufacturing business and academic organisations. Jointly facing technical, logistical and regulatory hurdles, the unlikely collaborations stepped outside their respective comfort zones. Academics, engineers, product designers and inventors from industries as diverse as carmakers and aerospace all raced to build hundreds of thousands of ventilators.

# Giants of industry worked together to meet the extraordinary challenge

General Motors, Airbus, McLaren and Dyson all contributed their engineering expertise, technical know-how and volume production line facilities. James Dyson designed and started manufacturing ventilators in under 10 days, with an order from the UK government for 10,000 ventilators to support the NHS to treat coronavirus patients. The achievement was an extraordinary example of what was possible if people, business and organisations get together for the common good.

"The call out for compressed air systems expertise from people who understood the critical nature of air quality, pressure sensitivity and designing innovative solutions for unusual applications - could have been written for us. We were pleased to be able to contribute and provide adaptations to the existing compressed air systems to test the ventilators, and installed a back-up system to ensure nothing held up this vital work." Craig Turner Service Manager, Cambs Compressors

## The importance of proactive maintenance for compressors

# 2020 is the year that changed the face of business, with supply chain disruption and part shortages, you need a robust compressor maintenance strategy

# What's your compressor maintenance strategy?

Having the correct compressor maintenance strategy has never been so important because without compressed air, how would your business operate? Your compressor and air supply system is only as good as the maintenance strategy you've put in place. Effective maintenance strategies can save money, reduce downtime, and increase efficiency.

# Greater redundancy, a stockpile of essential spares and a proactive maintenance programme

Your air compressors are put under mechanical stress to keep up with your compressed air demands, and if not serviced regularly can eventually break down resulting in costly repair bills. Predictive maintenance planning is something Cambs Compressors can help you with, so you know the precise level of spare of filters, valves and oil you should carry.



# Food production compressed air maintenance

### BCAS reiterates air treatment advice for COVID-19 concerns



The British Compressed Air Society (BCAS) provides advice to compressed air users to adhere to air treatment best practice during the Coronavirus pandemic.

# Could compressed air be a potential source of Coronavirus COVID-19?

Early in the pandemic there were claims that compressed air systems may be a potential source of Coronavirus COVID-19, requiring the installation of sterile air filters (or more frequent filter sterilisations and element changes) to prevent the contamination of food, beverage or pharmaceutical products. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidance on Coronavirus COVID-19 included the possibility of airborne transmission of the virus, stating that:

- "Short-range aerosol transmission, particularly in specific indoor locations, such as crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time with infected persons cannot be ruled out.
- "However, the detailed investigations of these clusters suggest that droplet and fomite transmission could also explain human-tohuman transmission within these clusters. Further, the close contact environments of these clusters may have facilitated transmission from a small number of cases to many other people (e.g., superspreading event), especially if hand hygiene was not performed and masks were not used when physical distancing was not maintained."

# Compressed Air Systems, Design, Supply, Installation and Support

systems many food production and agricultural

processes would be seriously impaired. During

engineers kept these vital components within

New guidelines on compressed air in food

It's vital that the purity of the air used

process to safeguard the food against

programmes have adapted to the new

Society (BCAS) in conjunction with the

British Retail Consortium (BRC) produced

new 'best practice' guidelines for use of

compressed air in food and beverage. It

must be implemented in food production,

air systems are used.

outlines a strict maintenance program which

especially where direct and indirect contact

within food processing and production is

maintained throughout the manufacturing

contamination. To ensure the maintenance

COVID-19 threat, the British Compressed Air

this period a silent army of compressed air

food production operational.

production during COVID-19

\*bcas



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COVID-19 has presented interesting opportunities and intense challenges for food production.

### The need for a safe and continuous food supply

Even in the most uncertain times of recent months, one thing that remained a constant was our need for a safe and continuous food supply. As the food & beverage sector battled to combat new daily challenges the global coronavirus pandemic delivered. Whether it was the panic buying when lockdown began, supply chain shortages during, or spikes in COVID-19 infection within food processing plants. The food supply chain responded, with farmers finding new supply opportunities, factories switching capacity to key products, and supermarkets rationing items and increasing home deliveries, especially to those shielding.

# Compressed air supporting food production and agriculture

Although many people realise there's a huge support network within the food supply chain, few realise the critical role played by compressed air. Without compressed air