EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CUSTOMER NAME: James Killelea & Co. Ltd.

INDUSTRY: Design, detail, fabrication, supply and erection in the structural steel industry

LOCATION: Crawshawbooth, UK

CHALLENGE: Finding a machine that could process higher volumes of thicker plate and replace existing drill line for faster production

SOLUTION: Installed the HSFDB-2500/B plate processor and BDL-1250/9D drill line

RESULTS: Killelea can now process larger parts and has tripled their capacity

Located in Crawshawbooth in the county of Lancashire, United Kingdom, James Killelea & Co. Ltd. is a renowned fabricator, recognized for a rich history within the structural steel industry. For nearly 40 years Killelea has provided an array of structural steel work solutions throughout the United Kingdom. Founded by Mr. James Killelea and his son Bob in 1969, the firm remains managed by brothers Bob and Pat Killelea.

Having skillfully navigated the turbulent marketplace of the recent downturn, James Killelea & Co. Ltd. has emerged from the great recession with zeal. During the economic downturn the UK was devastated by rising oil prices and the global credit crisis. Many fabricators struggled to survive, but Killelea’s business tact and longstanding philosophies have ensured a bright future for the firm.

Today business is solid for the company with many sizeable commercial projects surfacing. In other words, steel construction throughout the United Kingdom is on the upswing, and progressive companies such as Killelea are capturing every possible opportunity.

Currently operating 12 hour shifts, 5 days each week, Killelea is capable of fabricating upwards of 300 tons per week. From schools to stadiums, Killelea offers turnkey operations - design, detail, fabrication, supply and erection.
Automation - One of Killelea’s Many Keys to Success
Killelea’s facility illustrates what it means to fabricate large tonnages in a small space. Killelea’s modest building in Crawshawbooth houses 2 plate machines, an angle line, 2 drill lines, an automatic coping machine, and a CNC controlled structural band saw. The modularity of each line has allowed Killelea to expand over time while simultaneously keeping to their tight footprint.

Although their first machines were not from Peddinghaus, their initial Peddinghaus investment taught them what it was like to be a part of the Peddinghaus family of fabricators. Since then they have continually returned to Peddinghaus for their automation needs. “Our first Peddinghaus machine was an FDB-600 in 1995. It was the first machine of its kind for small detail parts and we just couldn’t believe what the machine was capable of for its time. Over the 19 years we have had the machine it took every bit of punishment we put it through and it still operates every day in our shop” stated Bob Killelea, managing director of the firm.

Bob elaborates on why he chooses Peddinghaus over the competition time and time again, “The Peddinghaus machines can take the punishment we put it through. We punish our machines. We run them to the ‘nth’ degree and they don’t stop. We have had other types of machines from other providers, and they just can’t take the punishment.”

Strength and Speed - Peddinghaus Continues to Offer This Powerful Combination
Not ones to rest on their laurels, Killelea learned long ago that technology was a critical component to their success. This means gradually upgrading and improving production over time to meet current standards for efficiency. Peddinghaus has continued to offer technology that has pushed automated production to the next level at Killelea.

The production of small detailed components at Killelea has recently received a facelift as their FDB-600 and FDB-1500 were being tasked with higher volume and heavier plate part production. With projects creating the need to process thicker plate with larger hole sizes, the previous FDB-1500 struggled. By upgrading to an all new HSFDB-2500/B plate processor with an 8 station tool changer and powerful 36 kW spindle, Killelea can take produce bigger parts than ever before with confidence that deadlines will not be an issue.

When it comes to processing structural sections, Killelea re-arranged
their facility to replace their existing BDL-1250/9B with an all new BDL-1250/9D carbide drilling line. Bob elaborates that this was due to the need for faster production. “These days I get bored watching my old drilling machine versus my new carbide drilling machine. They are as different as ‘chalk and cheese’. I would have to say that the new drilling machine has tripled my capacity.” These latest advancements in technology allow Killelea to take on more work, and successfully complete in the UK’s aggressive steel fabrication marketplace.

**Experience Says “Always Look Ahead”**

There is no secret to success, just common sense. Always invest, always improve, always re-evaluate and always be practical. The team at Killelea is an excellent example of what experience means to a fabricator working in today’s global marketplace. It’s the experience to know how to navigate production bottle necks and enhance technology. Beyond just technology, it’s the ability to identify quality business partners. Together, Killelea and Peddinghaus will continue to form a strong partnership for years to come.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To learn more about Peddinghaus Corporation visit: www.peddinghaus.com

**PRODUCT LIST:**

- Beam Drill Lines
- Angle Masters
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- Thermal Cutting
- Automated Layout Marking
- Structural Band Saws
- Ironworkers
- Material Handling