

# *PRESS INFORMATION*

## **EMS celebrates 20 years**

1<sup>st</sup> of September 1985 saw a new company start trading in the small drives market named Electro Mechanical Systems Limited, EMS for short. The concept was to provide electromechanical systems and not just components to the UK small drives market. The range of products to be sold would be limited to a maximum power of about 250 watts. The foundation of the company owes much to the support of Minimotor SA of Switzerland, who appointed EMS as their sole UK agent to sell their range of precision ironless DC motors, gearheads and encoders. After a few months EMS were able to win the UK sole agency for Magnetic Elektromotoren to sell their range of linear actuators and lifting columns.



Over the next 5 years EMS attracted other European manufacturers, and built up a broad portfolio of small drives. However, the system side of the plan was not happening, and competing in what was essentially a small components market saw margins begin to erode. To answer the systems question and counter the margin challenge it was decided to set up a UK manufacturing base for systems and special mechanisms production. Rather than starting from scratch EMS bought HL Instruments (HLI) who manufactured remote hand tooling for the handling and processing of nuclear and other hazardous materials. HLI had the basic machinery and skills to produce the sort of products EMS had in mind, but also had an income stream to ensure it did not become a drain on resources in the early years. From one unit at purchase, this operation has now grown to 7 units, manufacturing custom design mechanisms for industries as diverse as stairlifts to medical devices.

EMS manufacturing division General Manager Martin Seedall presents CNC production manager André Butcher with a bottle of champagne in recognition of his 15 years service to EMS and 40+ to HLI, during the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon celebrations.

Entering their 21<sup>st</sup> year, EMS still represents Minimotor SA, but also represents most of the products from the rest of what has come to be called The Faulhaber Group. Magnetic was bought-out by SKF, but EMS remain a specialized distributor for their products. Other key companies represented by EMS include Japan Servo, Valeo SWF, Kaehlig and Magnetic Autocontrol. Some 45 people now work for EMS, and drive an annual turnover of just short of £10 million.

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