

# CUTTING AUTOMATION PHOENIX STEEL



## Phoenix Steel Elevates Productivity and Quality with ESAB's CNC Cutting Systems

- Initial trials boost throughput by up to 25% on complex jobs
- Simplified maintenance and lower inventory costs

### About Phoenix Steel

Phoenix Steel, a leading steel processing plant based in Hartlepool, UK specializes in gas and plasma profiling for a variety of industries including construction, structural steel rail and fabrication. Managed by Tony Larkin, the company processes a wide range of steel processing including plasma and gas machines, decoiling, drilling, press brakes and is also bolstered by their parent company, based in South Shields, with extensive steel stockholding including flats, channels, beams, sheet steel etc., utilizing advanced decoiling machinery.

Phoenix Steel has been in business for 30 years and prides itself on delivering high-quality products efficiently to ISO 9001:2015 and EN1090-1:2009+A1:2011 Exec 4 standards. The company operates almost around the clock, with day and night shifts ensuring maximum productivity and service.

### Why Partner with ESAB?

The Larkin family has a long-standing history in the steel industry, spanning four generations, and has relied on ESAB cutting machines for more than 40 years. When Phoenix Steel needed a cutting partner, ESAB was the clear choice thanks to their long-standing relationship as a trusted supplier.

Phoenix Steel's operations now benefit from a range of ESAB equipment, including:

- Operating five Combirex and Suprarex gas and plasma cutting machines.
- The innovative SmartCycle™ technology for optimized cutting cycles and increased throughput.



## Key Outcomes

The comprehensive use of ESAB's advanced CNC cutting systems led to substantial enhancements over the years in Phoenix Steel's operations:

### BENEFIT #1

#### Enhanced Performance and Reliability

With the use of ESAB's Combirex™ and Suprarex™ machines, Phoenix Steel experience excellent cutting performance. The advanced technology of these machines offer superior cut quality and greatly increased cutting speeds. Additionally, the robust construction and reliability of the ESAB machines ensure consistent performance, which effectively reduces downtime and maintenance costs.

### BENEFIT #2

#### Enhanced Productivity with SmartCycle Technology

SmartCycle technology currently being tested at Phoenix Steel, is showing up to a 25% increase in cutting speed on specific tasks, leading to a significant boost in productivity. The nearly continuous machine operation further improves efficiency without the need for extra labor. Tony Larkin, General Manager at Phoenix Steel, noted, "SmartCycle technology could help us to increase output without additional labor requirements. Early trials are looking positive."

### BENEFIT #3

#### Improved Cutting Versatility

ESAB's CNC cutting machines allow Phoenix Steel to handle a wide variety of tasks, from bespoke intricate designs to bridges and large structural projects. The dual-purpose plasma and gas units provide flexibility, accommodating different materials, thicknesses and job requirements efficiently. The comprehensive range of machines, from the smaller 5 m x 2 m to large-scale 17m x 3 m machines, ensures that all customer demands are met effectively.

### BENEFIT #4

#### Simplified Maintenance and Stock Management

By standardizing with ESAB machines, Phoenix Steel simplified their maintenance and inventory management. The use of common consumables and parts across the range of machines reduces inventory costs and simplifies logistics. The reliability of ESAB machines means fewer breakdowns and easier maintenance, contributing to uninterrupted production.

### BENEFIT #5

#### Strategic Technological Upgrades

Phoenix Steel's recent trials with ESAB SmartCycle™ technology, demonstrate the company's commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements. These upgrades not only enhance current operations, but have also positioned Phoenix Steel for future growth and greater competitiveness in the market.



#### Summary

Tony Larkin, General Manager at Phoenix Steel, emphasizes the importance of the partnership with ESAB, stating, "ESAB's machines have been a cornerstone of our operations for over four decades. Their reliability, quality, and the service support have been instrumental in our success. With the latest upgrades, we are well-equipped to meet the increasing demands of our customers and continue to deliver high-quality products efficiently."

Phoenix Steel's choice to keep investing in ESAB's cutting systems highlights the importance of reliable partnerships and advanced technology in achieving industrial excellence and fostering business growth.

To learn more about Phoenix Steel, visit [phoenixsteel.co.uk](http://phoenixsteel.co.uk)



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