



A Reflective Year's End



Control & Automation
Complete manufacturing solutions



A REFLE
24

The Stories Behind the Sleeves

Rewind & Press Play on 2024

Rewinding 2024 and reflecting on a year in UK manufacturing that created urgency around the green transition, and brought about a laser focus on collaboration in the light of yet more political and economical headwinds.

PP REWIND is back for its third successive year. Top PP Control & Automation stories published between January and December 2024 are displayed as chart-topping records, with this year's campaign theme a homage to the Compact Disc album, once the most sophisticated way to store and play music.

These are the stories behind the sleeves and the artworks that decorate them.

	
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Forward

The UK manufacturing sector has faced significant challenges this year, including declining output and reduced new orders. The political landscape shifted notably too, with the Labour Party's landslide election victory in July.

This change fostered optimism initially among manufacturers, as 58% of companies surveyed by Make UK and BDO believed the new government would enhance economic growth prospects. However, the sector's contribution to GDP reached a record low of 9.2%, underscoring the need for effective industrial policies, but the Autumn Budget's National Insurance contribution hikes have left a bitter taste as the year closes out.

Opportunities emerged in the green transition, and it is here where UK manufacturers are faced with a 'now or never' conundrum. The UK holds potential in producing green, clean, and climate technology onshore, aligning with global sustainability trends that are only becoming larger priorities. Collaboration will be key, but the community needs to embrace a better blueprint for working closer together.

Trends in digitalisation and automation continued to shape the sector. Manufacturers increasingly adopted advanced technologies to boost productivity and address labour shortages. The integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning for process optimisation became more prevalent, reflecting a commitment to innovation.

Whilst the sector grappled with declining output and economic pressures, political changes and a focus on green initiatives and digital transformation offered pathways for future growth and continued resilience.

This book is our unique way of collecting and reflecting on the stories, themes, and moments that made our year. We hope you enjoy it!



Tony Hague, CEO, PP Control & Automation





Niggling Critters

Artist(s): Richard Spears

Published: 11th January 2024 (PP C&A Landing Page)



Sleeve notes.

Outsourcing apprehensions? We get it. You're considering an outsourcing partnership but you're understandably cautious. You have some 'niggling' doubt, especially given how much there is to consider when choosing a partner or understanding whether outsourcing is even the right solution for you in your current situation. You need reassurances. We're no strangers to the apprehensions people have; intrusive thoughts manifesting like pesky little critters. But you're in the right place. This is where we eliminate those critters!

Tracks.

1. Niggling Critters
2. **BONUS:** The 50/50 Principle
3. **BONUS:** The Act of Letting Go
4. **BONUS:** Making Outsourcing Easy Q&A
5. **BONUS:** Customer Case Studies

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#niggling-critters





Political Headwinds

Artist(s): Tony Hague / David Farraday

Published: 27th June 2024 (Raconteur) / 5th July 2024 (Various Trade Media) / 19th November 2024 (Zenoot Exclusive and Various Trade Media)

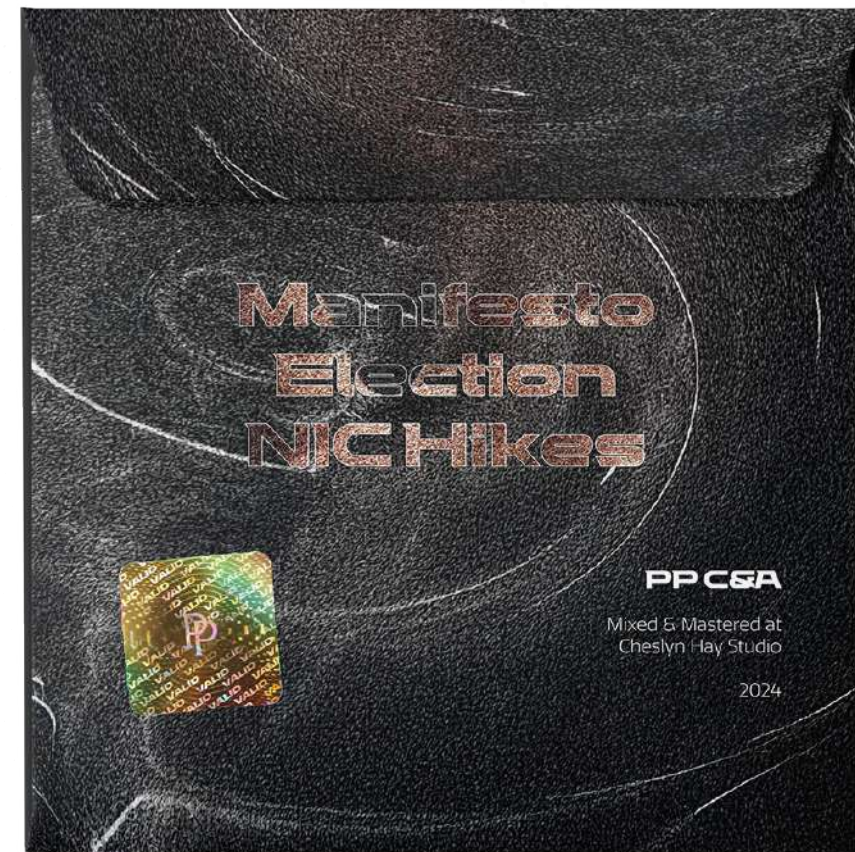
Sleeve notes.

In 2024, the UK manufacturing sector faced key political headwinds. The general election created policy uncertainties, causing hesitancy in investment and strategic planning. The Autumn Budget introduced higher employer National Insurance contributions, significantly raising costs. Meanwhile, party manifestos ahead of the election outlined conflicting plans for industrial strategy, taxation, and trade, deepening uncertainty for long-term manufacturing policies. These combined factors compounded challenges, leaving the industry cautious about growth and competitiveness in an evolving political landscape.

Tracks.

1. Key Manifesto Takeaways for Finance Leaders
2. Tony Hague Election 2024 Commentary
3. NIC Hikes Spurn a New Burden on Manufacturing's Resilience

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#political-headwinds





National Insurance hikes spurn a new burden on manufacturing's resilience

Additional tax measures announced in the recent Budget could help trigger a wave of spending in automation and outsourcing according to an industry expert.

Tony Hague, CEO of PP Control & Automation (PP C&A), expects the £25bn annual rise in employers' National Insurance Contributions (NICs) to test the resilience of manufacturing even further, with companies pivoting strategies to grapple with high operational expenses and widespread skills shortages.

He believes many companies will instead turn to investing in new technology and partnering with manufacturing specialists for non-core competences to alleviate immediate financial pressures whilst also building foundations for sustainable growth.

"Our sector is highly sensitive to changes in employment costs, given its dependence on a diverse, skilled workforce. NICs, representing a significant portion of employers' expenses, directly impact our operational expenditure (OpEx)," explained Tony, who has overseen PP C&A's rise to a £36m business.

"Automation and strategic outsourcing can give management teams some comfort if they can look past the initial investment and instead look at it through the joint lens of long-term productivity and efficiency gains."

He continued: "Automating repetitive, high-labour tasks can lead to substantial savings, including NICs, wages, and training investments, whilst also freeing up team members to take on higher value tasks."

"Machines also offer consistent performance with minimal error, contributing to higher product quality and fewer costs associated with rework or quality control. You can also easily

manage fluctuations in demand, whether that is scaling up or scaling down."

PP Control & Automation has already seen an initial increase in enquiries following Rachel Reeves' tax changes.

The company, which operates from a state-of-the-art facility in the West Midlands, is one of the UK's leading strategic outsourcing manufacturing specialists, helping build machines that robotically milk cows, provide everyday packaging solution, protects your phone from water damage and cut parts that are used in F1 cars and the world's airlines.

It is currently working through a host of enquiries from companies operating in the clean energy, agritech, and warehouse automation sectors, who are all keen to tap into how outsourcing can shift certain fixed costs associated with in-house capabilities into variable, on-demand costs.

This aligns expenses with operational needs and is particularly valuable when NIC increases make the cost of ownership for employees and assets prohibitive.

Tony continued: "Rather than investing in an in-house team for every phase of production, manufacturers might contract with outsourcing partners for supply chain management, engineering and production requirements, from new product introduction (NPI) to final assembly."

"When making this decision, it is important to evaluate which processes are critical to competitive advantage and which can be automated or outsourced without compromising quality or brand value. You'll then be faced with a decision – who do we partner with?"

"Firms should select businesses that align with their strategic goals, ensuring quality standards, compliance with regulatory requirements, and the ability to scale alongside their growth. Finally, conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis, considering not only the initial costs of automation or outsourcing, but also the long-term financial and operational benefits."

"The strategic shifts that I believe will now play out will enable manufacturers to transform traditionally rigid cost structures into agile frameworks, allowing them to respond effectively to both current challenges and future demands."

He concluded:

"She probably didn't realise it at the time, but the Chancellor's employment tax rises could well have given the UK the biggest push towards automation and outsourcing we've seen in decades."



Exclusive full release available at:
<https://www.ppcanda.com/national-insurance-hikes-spurn-a-new-burden-on-manufacturings-resilience/>





Strategic Independence

Artist(s): Tony Hague

Published: 12th June 2024 (Zenoot Exclusive and Various Trade Media)

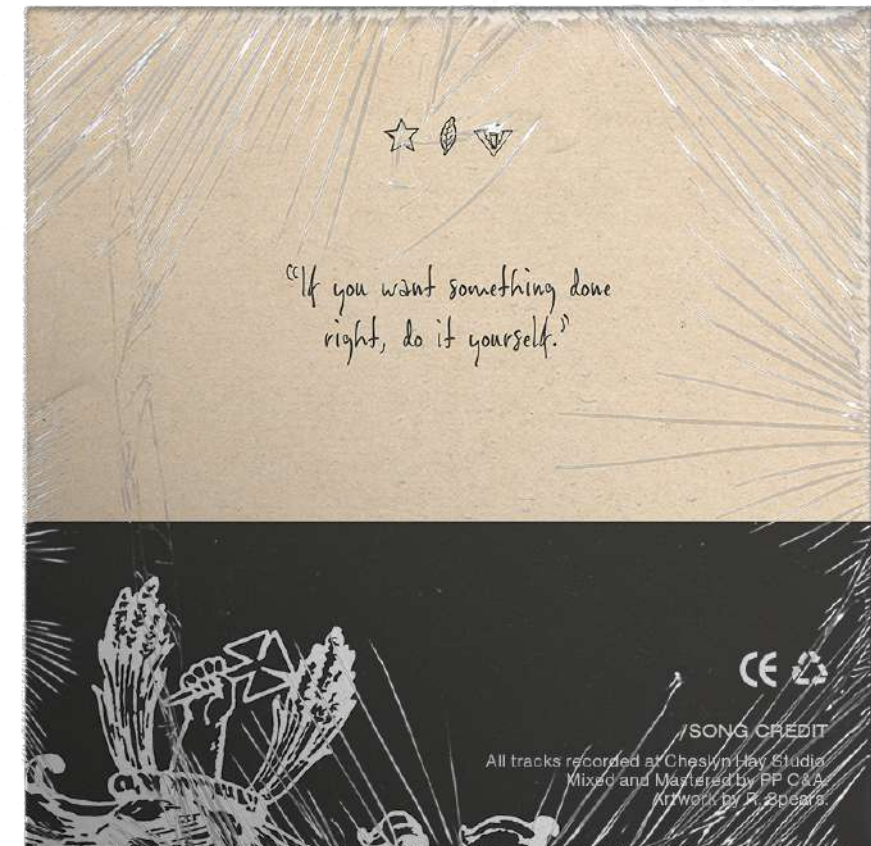
Sleeve notes.

Tony Hague, CEO of PP C&A, emphasises the necessity for UK manufacturers to proactively pursue strategic independence rather than relying on government intervention. He advocates for enhanced innovation, investment in technology, and the development of resilient supply chains to navigate political and economic uncertainties. He argues that by taking control of their own destinies, manufacturers can secure a competitive edge and contribute to a robust industrial future.

Tracks.

1. Manufacturers Should Act Now to Achieve Strategic Independence

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#strategic-independence





Now or Never

Artist(s): Tony Hague

Published: 24th September 2024 (Zenoot Exclusive and Various Trade Media) /
25th September 2024 (Shock of the New)

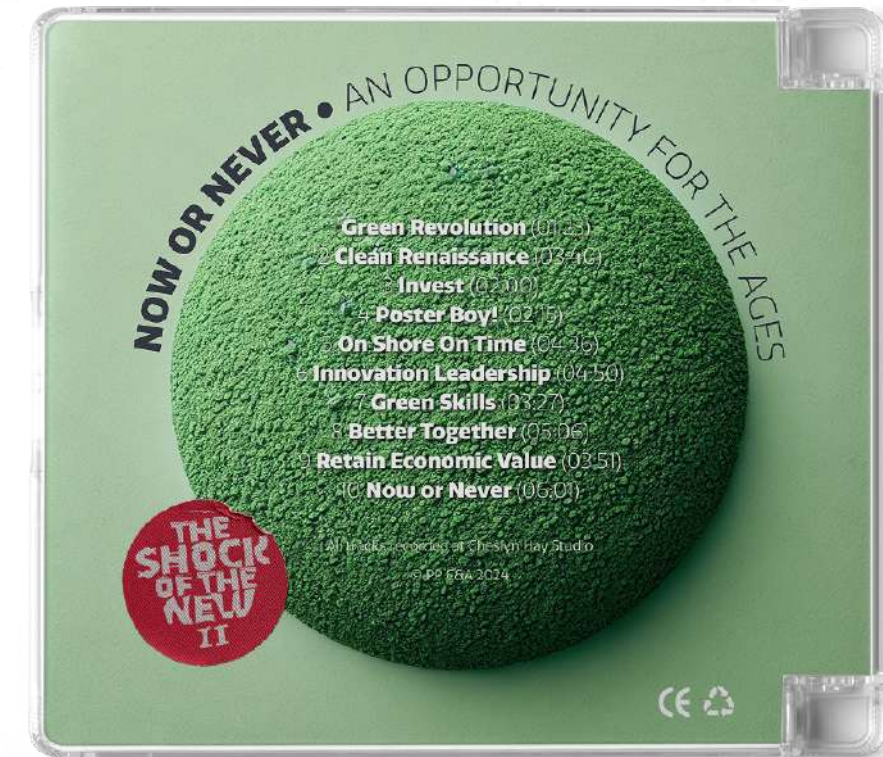
Sleeve notes

Tony Hague, CEO of PP C&A, focuses in on the critical opportunity for the UK to lead in green technology manufacturing. He warns that outsourcing production overseas could result in missed economic benefits and diminished global influence. He advocates for onshoring clean energy manufacturing to capitalise on the growing demand for renewable technologies, thereby fostering economic growth and reinforcing the UK's position in the global green transition.

Tracks

1. Now or Never: The Green Revolution is a UK Manufacturing Opportunity for the Ages
2. **BONUS:** The Shock of the New Campaign

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#now-or-never





PP C&A boss says it's now or never for the UK's green revolution

The UK must commercialise more of its green technology at home if it's going to make the most of a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

PP Control & Automation's Tony Hague made the rallying call ahead of National Manufacturing Day on September 26th and is urging manufacturers to prioritise green innovations onshore as the world moves toward Net Zero targets.

The industrial CEO believes that the country has an unrivalled academic base and a clean frontrunner position when it comes to wind power, power and electrification.

It now needs to focus on commercialising the technology in the UK, helping to create up to 60,000 new jobs whilst reducing supply chain reliance and ensuring we retain critical IP that could be lost overseas.

Tony Hague commented: "We are home to world-class research institutions, a thriving start-up ecosystem, and have the foundations to become a hub for green innovation.

"However, without domestic manufacturing, we risk losing the strategic advantage of being a global leader.

"Onshore manufacturing of green technologies is an economic imperative, but it also aligns with broader environmental goals. To meet our 2050 Net Zero targets, the UK will need to drastically reduce emissions across all sectors and shortening our supply chains can play a key role in this."

Hague believes one of the best ways to take advantage is through closer collaboration and by leveraging each other's capabilities.

A possible blueprint could be PP Plus, a carefully curated collective with over 20 organisations across UK manufacturing, academia, and professional services.

It is acting as a single source for green tech start-ups to bridge the commercial valley of death and scale faster by taking innovators from concept development and prototyping to protecting their IP, contract manufacturing and driving sales through PR and marketing.

Tony went on to add: "Our most recent endeavour is CESPA (Clean Energy Systems Partner Alliance), a pioneering collaboration between six industry leading companies.

"The partnership is harnessing innovation in clean energy systems through an alliance of complimentary design and engineering capabilities, and hardware and software solutions, to drive efficiency and environmental stewardship.

"It is early days, but there has already been a lot of interest and we're expecting the first projects to get underway shortly."

He concluded:

"In short, by manufacturing green technologies domestically, the UK can create jobs, strengthen its economy, secure resilient supply chains, and meet its climate goals."



Exclusive full release available at:
<https://www.ppcanda.com/now-or-never-the-green-revolution-is-a-uk-manufacturing-opportunity-for-the-ages/>



PP Plus

Artist(s): Richard Spears

Published: 12th April 2024 & 9th October 2024 (Various Trade Media) / 1st March 2024 (PP Plus Website) / 1st May – 1st November 2024 (Green Machine Mini Magazine)

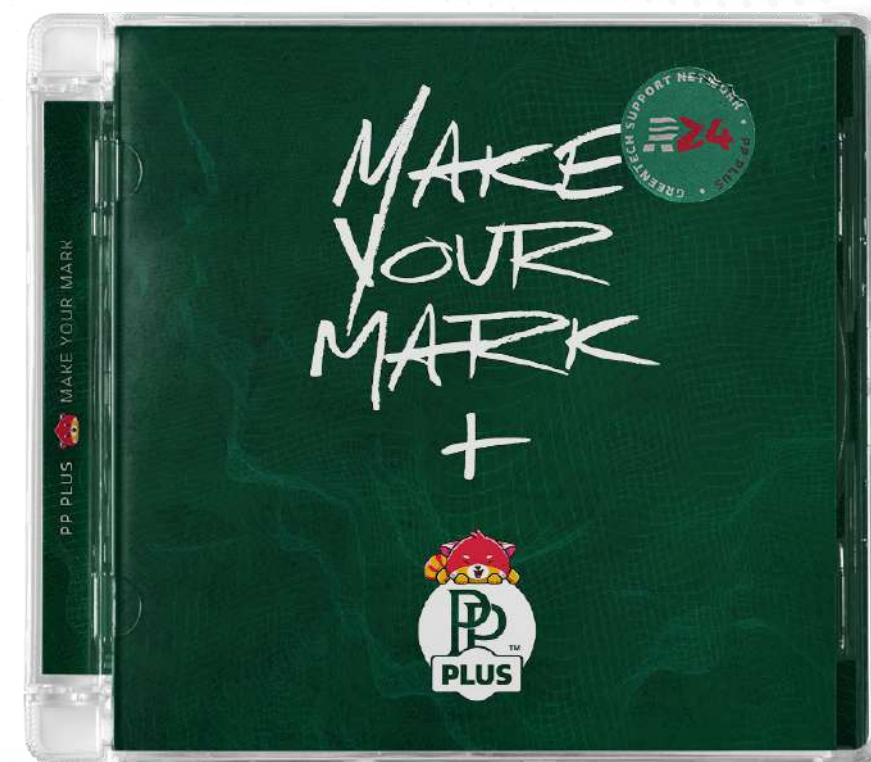
Sleeve notes.

PP Plus is an easy access support network designed to help create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future by supporting the growth of technological innovations in the UK. The PP Plus partner network, founded by PP C&A, is a carefully curated collective of over 20 organisations, sharing a unique blueprint for collaboration. Together, they constitute the most accessible growth support network in UK manufacturing. 2024 saw the launch of the PP Plus website and Green Machine publication.

Tracks.

1. PP Plus Launches to Bridge the UK's Commercial Valley of Death
2. PP Plus Set to Issue 'Commercialisation' Rallying Call at Advanced Engineering
3. **BONUS:** PP Plus Website
4. **BONUS:** PP Plus Green Machine

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#pp-plus





PP Plus launches to bridge the UK's commercial valley of death

The best of manufacturing, business and academia have come together to bridge the £bn+ commercial valley of death in the UK.

PP Plus, which is being led by PP Control & Automation, is delivering immediate access to specialist expertise and knowledge to help support companies looking to develop and scale green technologies.

More than 20 organisations are involved in the biggest growth support network currently available in the UK, including the likes of Brandauer, Centre for Advanced Low Carbon Propulsion Systems, Cleveland Scott York, Product Approvals, Protolabs, Silverstone Technology Cluster and WMG.

Together, they can take innovators from concept development and prototyping to protecting their IP, contract manufacturing and driving sales through PR and marketing.

"PP Plus is all about unlocking and commercialising the ideas that will contribute to a more sustainable future, making UK manufacturing stronger and more successful," commented Tony Hague, CEO of PP Control & Automation.



"It is clear – the UK has a wealth of innovative companies that come up with new concepts and ideas that have true commercial potential and the opportunity to scale. However, they simply don't have the capacity or additional expertise to realise these fantastic ideas.

"Even if they know where to look for this, they often tie themselves in knots trying to find the right route as the traditional support network is convoluted. We know this first hand from working with companies on innovative new technologies, so felt the best approach was to create our own way forward."

He went on to add: "That is where PP Plus was born and the reaction from industry partners, business development strategists and some of the UK's leading universities has been phenomenal. We now believe we have everything in place to take potential customers on and through the entire journey."

PP Plus' initial focus will be on supporting companies developing solutions for clean energy, future mobility, agritech innovation and machinery/equipment that contributes to a circular economy.

This will create sustainable innovations that will answer critical questions about how we are going to feed ourselves in the future, how do 'power' our society and how do we travel without destroying our planet.

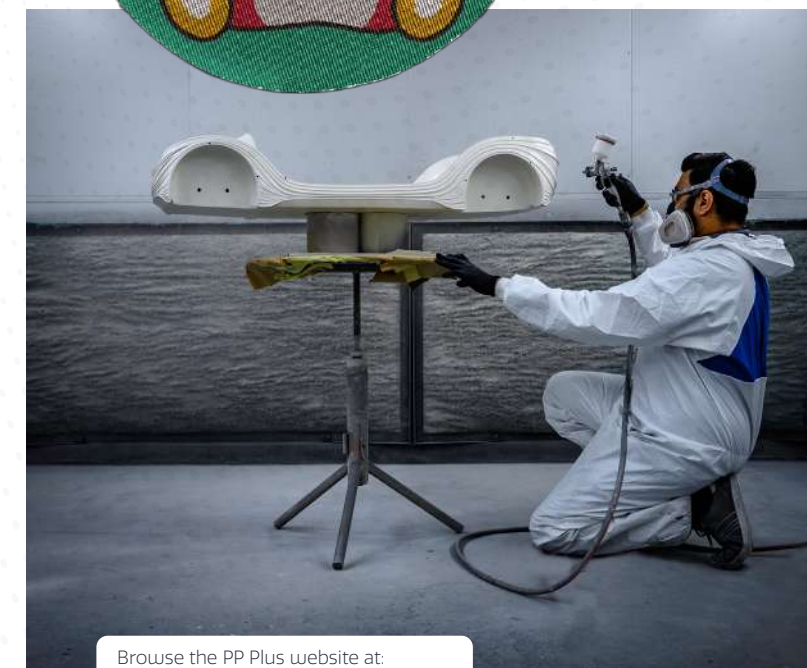
The journey starts with a 1-hour discovery session that is completely free of charge and will identify the next steps and the specialist support required to commercialise and scale up the technologies.

That may see the client access one, two or three of the main pillars (manufacturing, business, academia) covering anything from product approval and manufacturing capabilities to accessing grants and funding, marketing support and collaborative research and testing facility.

Sara Williams, Senior Marketing Manager at Protolabs, added her support: "PP Plus is a great initiative that meets an ever-present need in the UK to bridge the valley of death, pulling lots of commercial, manufacturing, and academic expertise together in one easy to access programme.

"Protolabs is delighted to be one of the founding members and look forward to working closely with all the partners involved to leverage the collective strength of our knowledge and expertise."

Despite only launching in March of this year, PP Plus has already received significant interest and a number of early projects have already entered the 'discovery' phase.



Browse the PP Plus website at:
<https://pp-plus.org/>

Download Green Machine magazine at:
<https://pp-plus.org/green-machine/>



Blueprint for Better Collaboration

Artist(s): Richard Spears

Published: 19th February 2024 (InspirON Exchange Podcast) / 29th May 2024 (SMEFocus Podcast) / 4th July 2024 (Zenoot Exclusive and Various Trade Media) / 30th July 2024 (Various Trade Media) / 17th October 2024 (PP C&A Blog)

Sleeve notes.

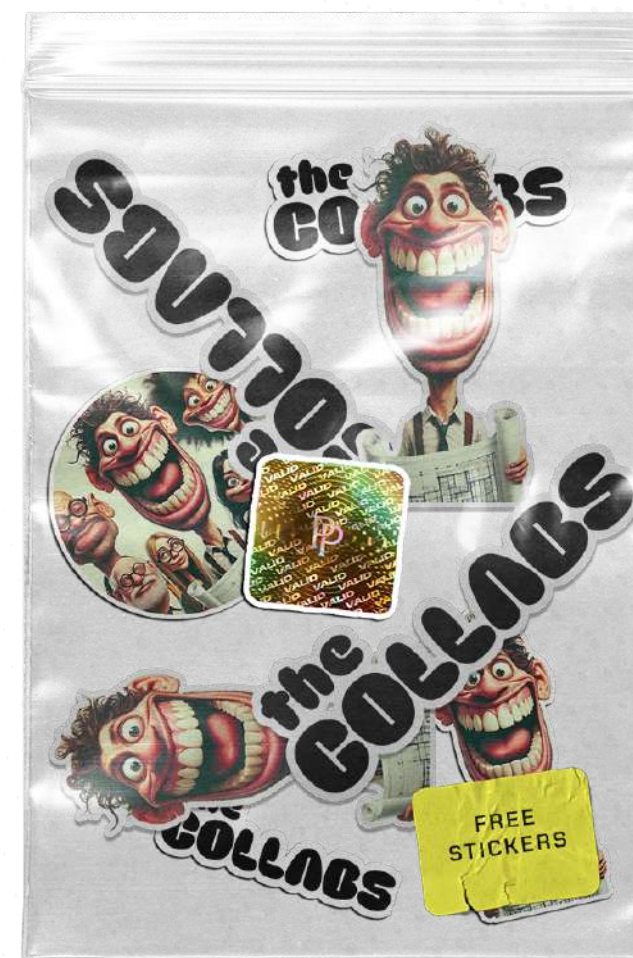
Richard Spears, Marketing Manager at PP C&A and the person behind the formation of PP Plus, believes collaboration has a pivotal role to play in advancing UK manufacturing. Drawing inspiration from Michael Moore's documentary "Where to Invade Next," Richard suggests adopting successful international practices to enhance domestic cooperation, noting a focus on long-term planning and close inter-company relationships. These are considered exemplary frameworks for fostering growth and innovation in the UK manufacturing sector.

Since the launch of PP Plus, collaboration has become a burgeoning theme throughout 2024, inspiring tie-ups with fellow manufacturers and membership to new advanced and green manufacturing alliances.

Tracks.

1. A Blueprint for Better Collaboration
2. Networking & Collaboration: Protolabs InspirON Exchange Podcast
3. Richard Spears on Collaboration: SMEFocus
4. PP and Jaltek Target £4m of New 'Agritech' Business with Tie-up
5. Embracing a Collaborative Future in Battery Innovation

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#blueprint-collaboration





Safety, Sustainability, Standards

Artist(s): Tony Hague / Ian Knight / Phil Murby / Richard Spears

Published: 4th March 2024 (Inside Sustainability) / 9th September 2024 (Design, Products & Applications Magazine) / 4th & 5th November 2024 (PP C&A Blog)

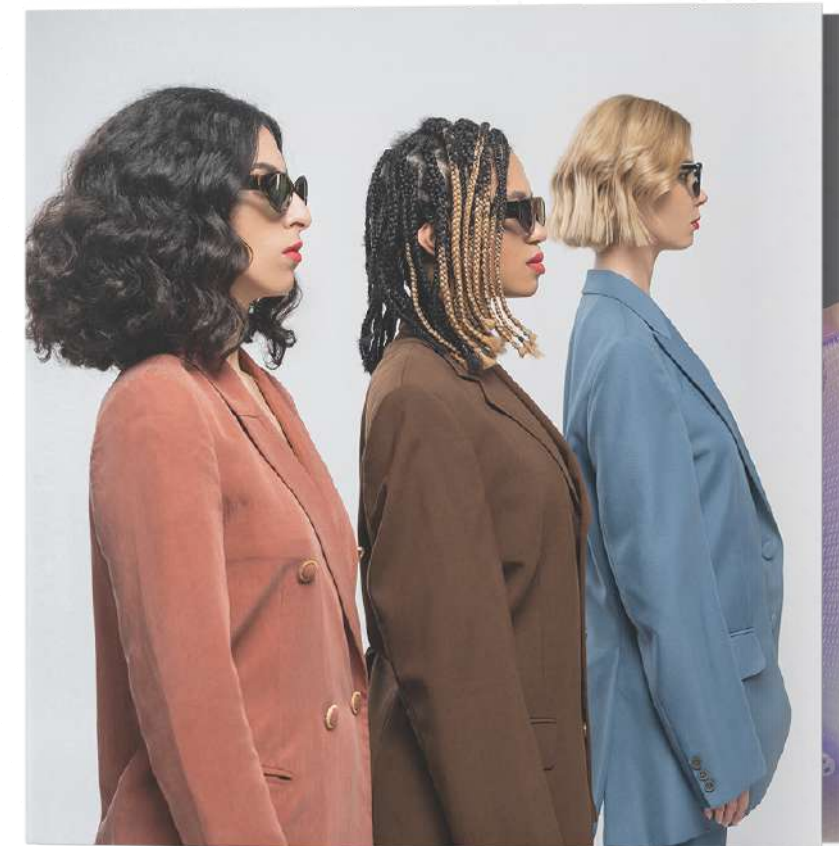
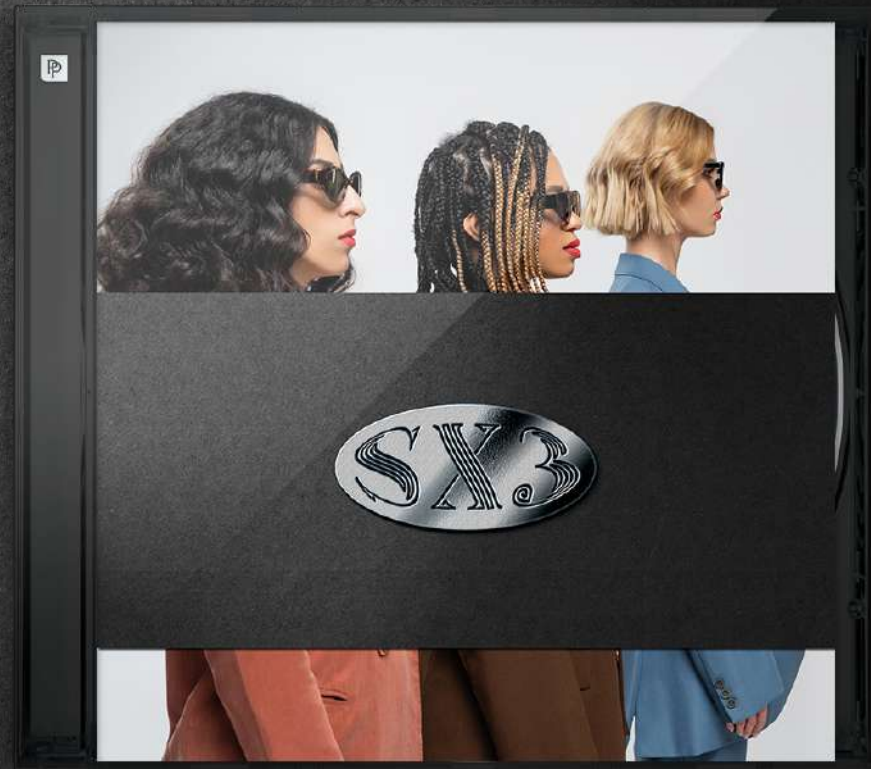
Sleeve notes.

Safety, sustainability, and standards, and also the intersection between all three has become an interesting topic for machine builders and OEMs in 2024. Experts at PP C&A and associated technical partners have teamed up to offer a series of articles on the intersection between sustainability and UL standards, how safety standards can open the door to North American markets, and how the imperative of ESG plays a more significant role than ever before in strategic considerations.

Tracks.

1. Inside Sustainability
2. The Safety Standards Way to Unlocking North American Markets
3. The Future of UL508A as a Caveat of Sustainability Trends
4. The Mindful Way to Wire Your UL508A Control Panel

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#safety-sustainability-standards





Champions of Challenge

Artist(s): Tony Hague / Malcolm Condon / MAN Group

Published: 9th February 2024 (GB News) / 10th May 2024 (Protolabs & IMechE) / 21st July 2024 (Various Trade Media) / 31st October 2024 (Zenoot Exclusive and Various Trade Media)

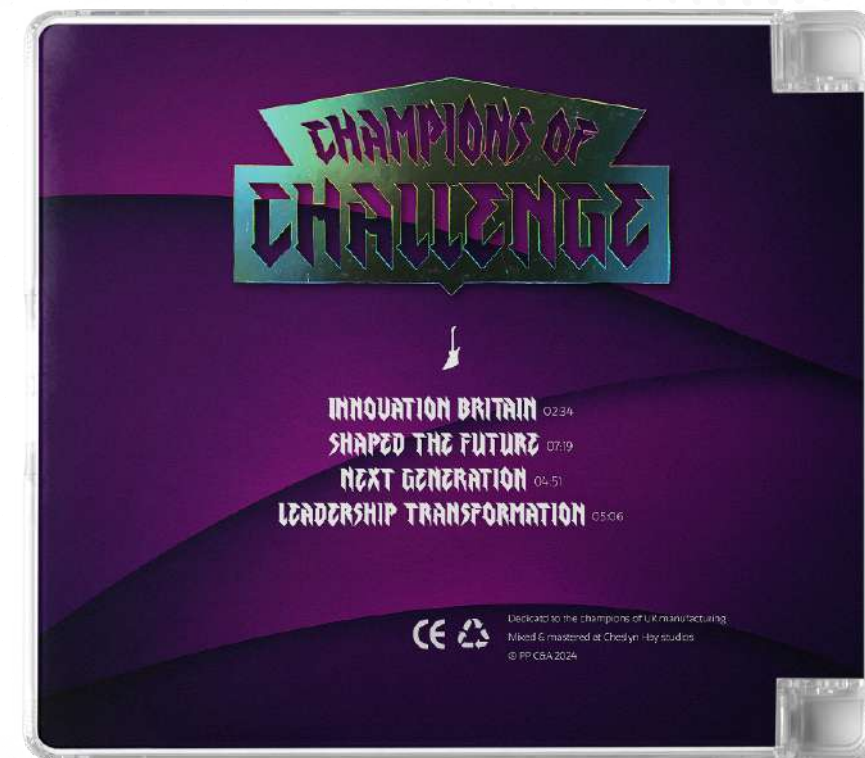
Sleeve notes.

2024 has not been without its challenges. But as ever, the UK manufacturing community has continued to flaunt its resilience. Manufacturing has some of the most passionate champions of any industry and their collective minds are forming innovative responses and thought-provoking opinions on tackling the challenges at hand. This collection includes Innovation Britain's programme series, contributions to a report which shows how the past five years shaped the future of manufacturing, a celebration of one of the largest STEM events in the country for developing next-gen talent, plus opinions on how to bridge the skills gap and prepare for a leadership transformation.

Tracks.

1. Innovation Britain on GB News
2. How Five Years Shaped the Future of UK Manufacturing
3. Future 'Engineers' Recognised as Design & Make Celebrates 5 Years
4. The Talent Gap and Leadership Transformation

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#champions-challenge





Future 'engineers' recognised as Design & Make celebrates 5 years of inspiring the next generation

A major competition designed to get more young people involved in manufacturing has recognised the talented engineers of the future.

The Design & Make Challenge 2024, which is organised and run by the Manufacturing Assembly Network (MAN), attracted nearly 100 pupils from 15 schools in what is one of the largest independent STEM events ever held in the UK.

Southam College, Barclay Academy and Lawrence Sheriff High School took the main prizes, winning the Efficiency, Innovation and Manufacturing Awards respectively for the way they tackled the challenge to use a box of simple materials to build a device that could securely lift a 23kg metal block with nothing more than a pulley system.

The Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 students split up into teams of four to design, test and build their solution, working closely with apprentices from the eight MAN companies and graduate engineers from WMG's SME Group, who were also the hosts for the day at the University of Warwick's Innovation District.

"What a fantastic way to celebrate the 5th year of the Design & Make Challenge, with the biggest turnout of students we've ever had – that really shows the appetite to learn more about a possible career in industry," commented Austin Owens, Managing Director at Grove Design and Co-Chair of the Manufacturing Assembly Network.

"The competition is all about inspiring young people to get hands-on with design and engineering skills, working together to come up with a solution that then competes with other schools in terms of efficiency, innovation and design for manufacture."

He continued: "All of the MAN companies were so impressed with the quality of thinking and the sheer commitment from

pupils to see their ideas through – even though it may have taken several iterations to get there. That's what our sector is all about and I'm sure we've seen tens of potential engineers in the room during this competition.

"We'd love to make it even bigger and are urging other manufacturers, funders and schools to come forward and get involved. Together we can start to bridge the skills gap industry continues to battle against."

Southam College, Barclay Academy and Lawrence Sheriff High School each received a 3D Printer as part of their prize package, which was sponsored by 3DPrint UK. These were taken back to each of the schools and will be used to develop additive manufacturing and design skills.

There was a fourth prize given out to recognise the different careers in engineering, with Thomas Telford UTC beating off competition to win the 'Communications' Award.

This saw the Shropshire school praised for the way it told the best story of the day through the use of social media, with a single post racking up more than 347 likes and over 2000 views in just a few hours.

Dr Mark Swift, Director of SME Engagement at WMG, University of Warwick, whose team supported the students on the day, concluded:

"Design & Make connects young people with dynamic manufacturers whilst they are still at school and making future career decisions – this is critical for addressing the UK's engineering skills gap and fostering a culture of innovation.

"Early exposure and practical experience help to inspire the next generation of engineers, equipping them with the necessary skills to ultimately develop new technology and grow our world leading manufacturing sector."



View the full photo gallery at:
<https://www.ppcanda.com/future-engineers-recognised-as-design-make-celebrates-5-years-of-inspiring-the-next-generation/>



Award Nights

Artist(s): Tony Hague / Malcolm Condon / Richard Spears

Published: 23rd February 2024 (The Business Desk) / 8th March 2024 (PP C&A Blog) / 6th June 2024 (The Manufacturer)

Sleeve notes.

PP C&A's Tony Hague was named as CEO of the Year at the Business Desk West Midlands Awards in February, beating off competition from some of the area's biggest names in marketing, tourism, and leisure. It marked one of four leadership accolades collected over 12 months. In response, Tony issued a statement on leadership. Furthermore, two PP C&A employees were introduced into the The Manufacturer's Top 100: Malcolm Condon and Richard Spears, People Partner and Marketing Manager respectively, received the prestigious honour in front of 250 people at the NEC in Birmingham.

Tracks.

1. PP C&A Boss Named CEO of the Year
2. Four Awards for Tony Hague, Recognising over 20 Years' Leadership
3. Duo Named in the UK's Top 100 Manufacturing Professionals

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#award-nights





Outsourcing Compilation

Artist(s): Tony Hague / Ian Knight / Richard Spears

Published: 30th January 2024 (Various Trade Media) / 16th February 2024

(PP C&A Blog) / 22nd April 2024 (Manufacturing Management) / 26th April 2024

(PP C&A Blog) / 20th August 2024 (PP C&A Blog) / 14th March 2024, 2nd April 2024

& 17th July 2024 (Manufacturing Management)

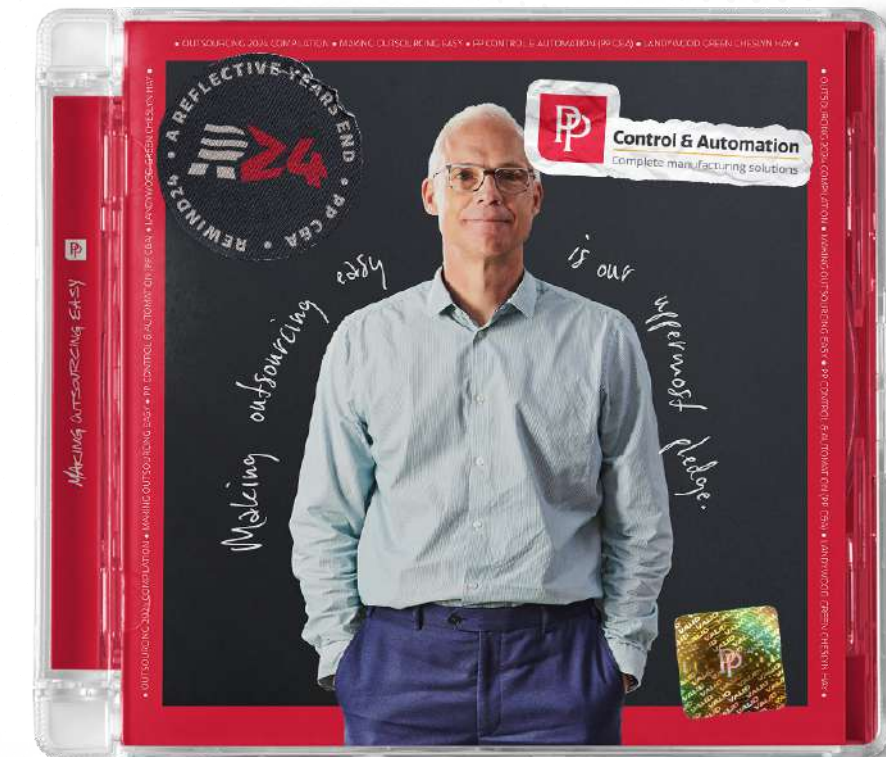
Sleeve notes.

Making Outsourcing Easy is PP C&A's uppermost pledge, and in 2024 a series of articles explored everything from niche topics, specific production capabilities, capacity and investments, and where outsourcing may be an overlooked solution to growth acceleration, to important considerations for any machine builder; whether that's the make vs buy debate, how to unlock design and engineering value, or the hidden features and benefits of a strategic partnership.

Tracks.

1. Investment in Automation and People
2. Leveraging Outsourcing Partnerships to Accelerate Portfolio Growth
3. Designing for Modular Control & Automation Systems
4. Value Engineering: A Cornerstone of Effective Outsourcing
5. Embracing Outsourcing and Strategic, Transformative Pathways
6. Top Trumps: Performance, Reliability, Flexibility, and Scalability
7. Make vs Buy: Strategic Decisions for Machine Builders
8. Complex Electronics and Box Builds Finding Value in the ESD Facility

◀◀ ppcanda.com/pp-rewind/#outsourcing-compilation





Investment in automation and people puts PP C&A on course for £40m sales

A major competition designed to get more young people involved in manufacturing has recognised the talented engineers of the future.

One of the UK's leading strategic manufacturing outsourcing specialists has set its sights on breaking the £40m revenue barrier in 2024.

PP Control & Automation, which works with 20 of the world's biggest machinery builders in automotive, aerospace, energy, food and drink, printing and pharma, has seen sales rise from £23m to £34m over the last twelve months.

It is now looking to add a further £6m of orders by investing in more automation at its West Midlands factory, starting with the £250,000 integration of a new Komax Zeta 640 harness machine fitted with twister, ferrule station and 2-off crimp press.

Utilising improved crimp force monitoring and enhanced quality software validation, this technology can group cables together to simplify build orders, feed cables at up to 22mph and deliver automatic changeover capability, so that 36 cables can be loaded and ink colour changed from black to white when required.

Ian Knight, Chief Information Officer, commented: "We are massive advocates of combining investment in automation with investment in people and this blended approach seems to be paying off with a record year in 2023 and strong growth prospects for the next twelve months.

"The Komax investment brings the latest crimping technology to our state-of-the-art facility and will provide the business with greater capacity, greater speed and the ability to eliminate human error that can prove so costly."

He went on to add: "It will also give us improved inkjet marking capability when it comes to quality, fonts and different sizes."

Record sales wasn't the only thing PP Control & Automation was celebrating in 2023, with apprentice Sophie Young and Chief Executive Tony Hague securing a string of awards for their personal performances throughout the year.

The latter is excited about the future, especially now that global supply chains have begun to settle and lead times on materials have started to reduce, giving the company greater stability to plan for growth.

Exciting new opportunities in clean energy and the circular economy are at the top of the 'potentials' list, along with the launch of a new service that will foster innovation and encourage commercialisation in the UK.

Tony went on to add: "Despite all the pressures we've faced, the country has remained unbelievably resilient and there's a real desire to buy British.

"We must capitalise on this by working together to bring manufacturing back home through design, innovation and by adding value. These are our strengths and now is the time to make the most of them.

"At PP C&A we have already started to benefit by working with international customers to help them launch new technologies in green energy, as well as developing a whole host of new innovations that will hopefully accelerate the move to cleaner transport."

He concluded: "Two major international countries for us in 2024 will be the Netherlands and Denmark – I can see real growth potential in these territories."



REWIND24 GALLERY

Enjoy a series of conceptual artworks from the REWIND campaign, which embodies a new theme for 2024, with a homage to the Compact Disc album, once the most sophisticated way to store and play music.

Artwork and campaign creative by Richard Spears.











Over 150 pieces of coverage,
over 19.4 million people
exposed to coverage, and
over 400 brand mentions



SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you goes out to Russ Cockburn and Cucumber PR, making our stories of 2024 reach millions of people, from trade media subscribers, to national television and prime time news viewers.




Fast Forward

As 2024 draws to a close, the UK manufacturing sector stands at a crossroads. The challenges of declining output, labour shortages, and economic pressures that defined much of 2024 are likely to persist in the near term. However, significant opportunities and emerging trends provide optimism for 2025.

The transition to sustainable practices will gain further momentum. With government incentives and increased demand for renewable energy components and machinery, manufacturers have a chance to lead in producing green technologies. Policies aligning with global net-zero goals will likely prioritise funding and infrastructure to accelerate this shift.

The focus accelerated by the pandemic on building robust domestic supply chains to enhance resilience and reduce dependency on imports is still lingering and 2025 may just be the year where we take more strategic supply chain decisions. And there's no getting away from the labour shortage challenge, or the fact that businesses start the new year on the back foot with NIC hikes a significant concern. Adoption of automation and outsourcing, and industry collaboration with educational institutions and apprenticeships will aim to build a future-ready workforce equipped for digital and green manufacturing demands in 2025.

We'll have to keep a watch for more economic headwinds, with inflation and potential interest rate hikes straining investment budgets. All this and we still need to remain competitive against other advanced manufacturing hubs, especially in Asia and Europe - this will require a strategic agility unseen before.

Tony Hague, CEO, PP Control & Automation





TOP 10

1. Niggling Critters
2. Political Headwinds
3. Strategic Independence
4. Now or Never
5. PP Plus
6. Blueprint for Better Collaboration
7. Safety, Sustainability & Standards
8. Champions of Challenge
9. Award Nights
10. Outsourcing Compilation



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