

## Is your metal supplier future-fit for the agricultural industry?

**To satisfy demand for higher productivity and yields, agricultural equipment is becoming more advanced and complex. This extra demand placed on original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) translates directly to the supply chain, especially those providing structural and functional metal components. Curved metal plate, section and tube is one category where a greater awareness of what advanced suppliers now provide can make a difference.**

*Stuart Anderson, Sales Manager at Barnshaws Section Benders, regarded as one of the world's most capable metal bending companies, explains why capability and capacity is the new king in future-proofing the metal supply chain.*

One of the most important aspects of a reliable, lean supply chain is its flexibility i.e. its ability to respond to spikes or falls in demand. While this is important for many suppliers to the agricultural industry, when it comes to commodities such as metal components, it is even more so.

Even for a specialist service, such as metal bending, continual investment by the supplier is incredibly important. Press braked steel, for example, is often used to manufacture the chassis for powered agricultural equipment. Barnshaws offers the capability to form sheet metal at 12 metres long using multiple press machines up to 1000 tonnes.

Chutes, pipes, arms and chassis members on towed equipment can all be formed from tube that has undergone mandrel or induction bending to improve the shape or performance. By investing in more of these bending machines, suppliers can again grow with the increased demands of the OEMs. For example, Barnshaws has invested in the capability to precision curve pipes up to 32" in diameter, which is much larger than anything currently seen in the agricultural sector.

A knock-on effect of this improved capacity is increased speed of delivery. With a capable supplier, not only is machine capacity soaking up fluctuations in the supply chain, it also means reduced lead times. More machines in-house translate to increased fabrication speed, which provides a fast supply response and is extremely important in meeting the requirements of just in time (JIT) manufacturing. When combined with a metal bending process that already saves time when compared to welding, this reduced lead time is compounded.

### **A wider view**

The production volumes of agricultural vehicles and equipment pale in comparison to the volumes associated with passenger vehicles for example, however, as demand for food rises, so naturally will the amount of powered and towed equipment being produced by the OEMs. To be successful with any large-scale machinery production activity, it must be supported by a lean, efficient supply chain, providing innovative materials that allow design developments to be realised.

To ensure the flexibility needed to meet the demands of future production operations, suppliers of metal fabrications need to be investing in both capacity and personnel. When it comes to selecting suppliers for metal fabrications as an OEM, choosing a business that continues to invest in its machine capacity ensures that growth in demand can be adequately met. This can provide the extra security required to grow production activities, while avoiding any potential bottlenecks and risks to production uptime.

#### **Photo Captions:**

**Photo 1:** Chutes, pipes, arms and chassis members on towed equipment can all be formed from tube that has undergone induction bending to improve the shape or performance.

**Photo 2:** When it comes to selecting suppliers for metal fabrications as an OEM, choosing a business that continues to invest in its machine capacity ensures that growth in demand can be adequately met.

**Photo 3:** To ensure the flexibility needed to meet the demands of future production operations, suppliers of metal fabrications need to be investing in both capacity and personnel.

(Source: Istock Copyright: GordanD ID: 174243147)

## **About Barnshaws**

Established in 1969, Barnshaws has grown to become the world's premier specialist profile bending company; supplying market sectors such as construction, power generation, mining, transport and general manufacturing with shaped beams, tubes, plate and other profile section materials. More recent developments have seen the company's engineering expertise expand from mostly steel to non-ferrous materials including copper and aluminium as well as specialist materials such as Hardox.

Barnshaws has ISO 9001:2015 approval and was Europe's first bending company to achieve CE Marking of curved sections to Execution class 4, the highest standard available.

With facilities in the West Midlands, Manchester, Hamilton and Poland, Barnshaws can provide precision metal bending and profile cutting services, locally, nationally and internationally.

Equipped with the largest capacity bending machines in the world, Barnshaws can deliver curved sections up to 35 meters in length with the capacity to bend tubes and pipes up to 1,524mm outside diameter. In addition, the largest range of press brakes in the UK can accommodate materials up to 12 metres in length and form sections from materials up to 80mm in thickness, this together with a vast range of rolling machines enables Barnshaws to offer rolled cylinders from 350 to 4200mm diameter with wall thicknesses upto 100 mm, all of which can be supplied in the welded condition singly or in multiple belt lengths.

The image(s) distributed with this press release may only be used to accompany this copy, and are subject to copyright. Please contact DMA Europa if you wish to license the image for further use.

## Editor Contact

DMA Europa : Alan Hatch

Tel: +44 (0)1562 751436

Fax: +44 (0)1562 748315

Web: [www.dmaeuropa.com](http://www.dmaeuropa.com)

Email: [alan@dmaeuropa.com](mailto:alan@dmaeuropa.com)

## Company Contact

Barnshaws Steel Bending Group : Matthew Pritchard

Tel: 0121 557 8261

Web: [www.barnshaws.com](http://www.barnshaws.com)

Email: [matthew.pritchard@barnshaws.com](mailto:matthew.pritchard@barnshaws.com)