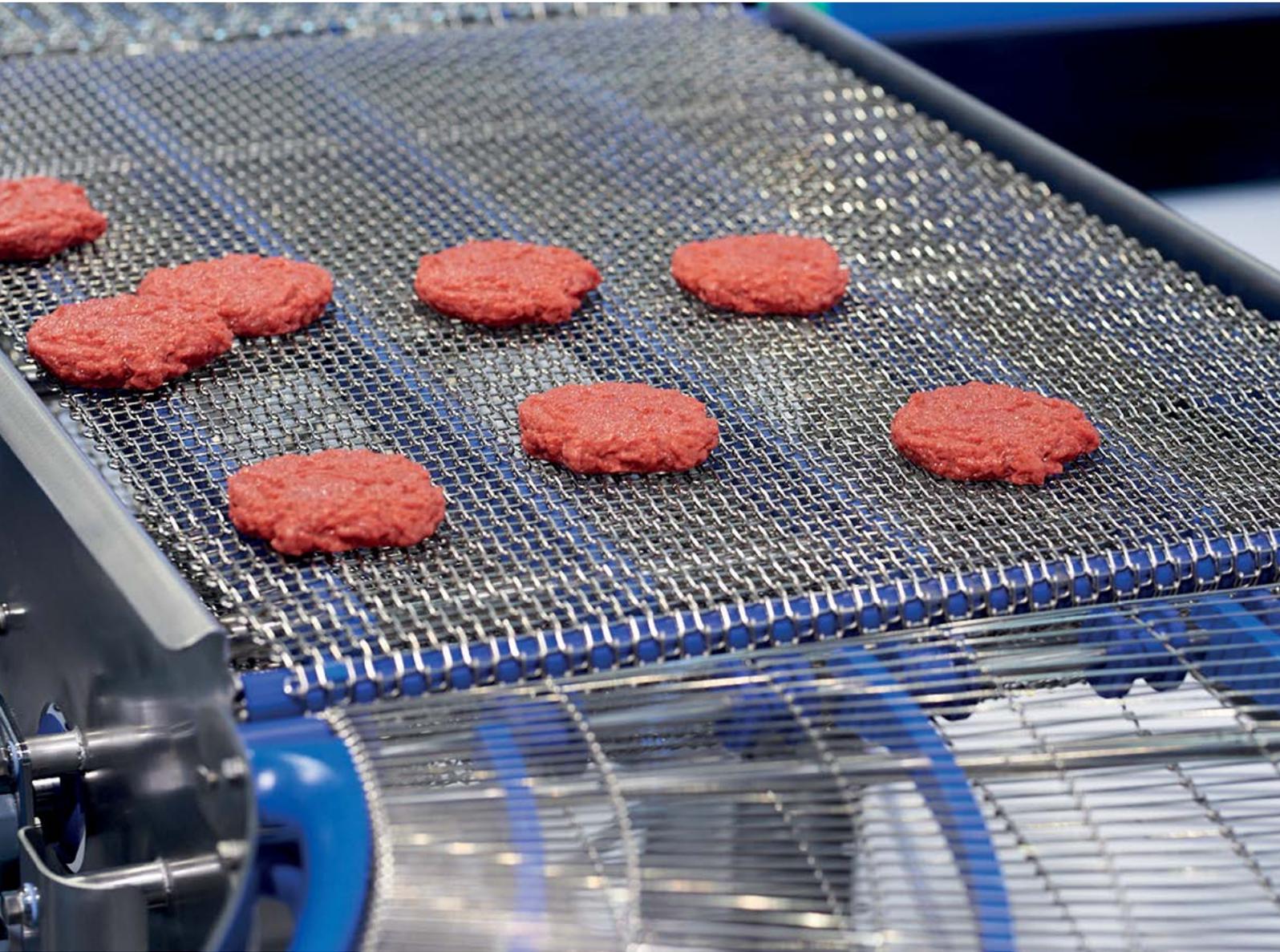




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NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR WIRE BELT CUSTOMERS

DECEMBER 2021



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- The Benefits of Compact-Grid™ Conveyor Belting
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- Applications of Ladder-Flex™ Conveyors
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THE BENEFITS OF COMPACT-GRID™ CONVEYOR BELTING



Compact-Grid™ enrobing application

Compact-Grid™ Splicing Tool

What is Compact-Grid™ conveyor belting?

Compact-Grid™ conveyor belting is a stainless-steel belt and it comes with many benefits. Its primary use is in the food industry, with its wide application including cooking, cooling, draining, freezing, and enrobing.

For this reason, it has been used for bakery, meat, snacks and confectionery products to name a few. It is an innovative new belt from Wire Belt, designed to handle small and delicate products. It also has a great light weight and open mesh belt design.

How can Compact-Grid™ Conveyor Belting improve efficiency?

With Compact-Grid™, the time it takes to heat or cool a product will be significantly reduced, due to its great flow-through capabilities. This will reduce your energy consumption and improve efficiency. Its 70% open surface area means it has an optimal performance for processes involving coating, drainage, and liquid or air circulation.

We have performed tests on Compact-Grid™ which have shown that it has 5 times less resistance to flow-through than most plastic modular belts. This gives Compact-Grid™ the benefit of optimum performance in drying and cooling processes.

Furthermore, another benefit of Compact-Grid™ is that it won't slip, droop or catch fire on a system, unlike some plastic belts. Compact-Grid™ is the best solution for cooling products in a high volume, high throughput environment.

Compact-Grid™ Case Studies

One Wire Belt customer solved their belt surge problems by employing Compact-Grid™. The previous belt was causing surging due to its weight. Compact-Grid™'s lightweight design was used to replace the old belt, and their surging issue on the quick-freezing line was resolved. This also reduced their unplanned and planned downtime.

Another customer found that Compact-Grid™ had benefits for chicken battering applications. The belt caused fewer defects than other mesh belting during the battering process, meaning more quality products.

Products Suitable for Compact-Grid™

Compact-Grid™ can be used for a wide variety of applications. These include conveying meat products, biscuits, vegetables and also non-food applications like parts washers, corrugated cardboard and circular knives.

The belt has a 10x10mm nominal square opening designed to handle small and delicate products. Thanks to the tight mesh of the belt, it provides optimal product support and can handle heavy loads.

Benefits of Compact-Grid™ Cleanability

The Compact-Grid™ belt also has advantages in regard to cleanability. The use of Compact-Grid™ stainless steel belting as opposed to plastic modular belts can increase food conveyor hygiene standards by at least 10 times. In some cases, it can be improved by more than 100 times. Compact-Grid™ has more open area, which

means easier and effective cleaning in areas where accessibility might have previously caused issues. Usually, it does not need to be taken off the system for cleaning. It is easy to visually inspect the drive shafts due to the open design, and dismantling is unnecessary. This reduces the time spent on maintenance.

One customer used Compact-Grid™ to reduce the difficulty of cleaning. They were processing bread and had to remove and clean their belt nightly due to dough seeping to the belt. This cleaning process was reduced by replacing the belt with Compact-Grid™.

Finally Compact-Grid™ meets all the industry standards and has USDA Approval. We also offer sanitation guidelines in the help centre of our website.

Compact-Grid™ ease of Installation

Compact-Grid™ also has the advantage of being easy to install. The installation process is quick and easy, and when it comes to replacing a belt, its design means processors can join the belt on their conveyor by hooking the belt ends together and crimping to close.

Compact-Grid™'s simplified splicing method makes installation and replacement easy, reducing maintenance time and lowering labour costs.

For more information on Compact-Grid™ conveyor belting and how it can help your business, do not hesitate to contact us.

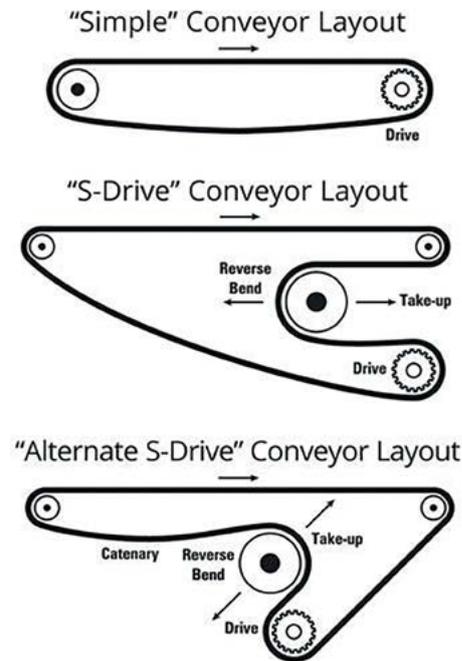
TECHTIP: CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COMPACT-GRID™ CONVEYOR LAYOUT

While a number of conveyor circuitry layouts can be employed using Compact-Grid™, the most practical conveyor circuits are shown in (Figure 1). These will provide for the best performance with a Compact-Grid™ belt. Included are the “Simple” conveyor layout, the “S-Drive” conveyor layout, and the “Alternate S-Drive” conveyor layout.

Optimum performance of the Compact-Grid™ belt can be achieved using the “Simple” conveyor circuitry layout, provided that the discharge of product over the sprocket teeth is not objectionable. The other recommended layouts have advantages in product handling and will eliminate any sprocket tooth contact with the product. Each layout has certain characteristics and benefits, depending on the application in which it is engaged.

Consult with our Technical Service Engineers to determine what process variables will affect belt performance, and work to choose the most appropriate layout for the situation.

(Figure 1)



2021 A WIRE BELT YEAR IN REVIEW



Ross Higgs, Sales & Marketing Manager

2021 has proved to be a better year than 2020 for the Wire Belt family but it has come with its own challenges that our customers, distributors, suppliers, and colleagues have all dealt with admirably to keep production lines running.

Adapting to the fast-changing nature of logistics, material supply and the associated costs has meant that we have all had to look carefully at our own operations, taking steps to ensure stocks of belting had been increased to allow for these factors.

A number of Wire Belt customers have taken the opportunity to review their manufacturing processes and purchased from our enhanced conveyor range. This has helped to improve their production efficiency whilst reducing their labour overhead and the potential for breakdowns.

Our distributors and original equipment manufacturing partners have been implementing belt stocking options to ensure immediate metal conveyor belt availability for their customers, to the extent of arranging container shipments to keep logistics and freight costs to a minimum during these unprecedented times.

2022 is sure to bring its own unique challenges, the Wire Belt family will again face these together and overcome them to keep equipment and conveyors running in factories and manufacturing sites wherever they may be in the world.

Wire Belt would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.



APPLICATIONS OF LADDER-FLEX™ CONVEYORS

At Wire Belt we have been providing businesses with great solutions to all their conveying challenges for over 60 years. One of our many successes is our Spreader/Converger conveyor which we launched 30 years ago, now known as Ladder-Flex™ Conveyors.

Ladder-Flex™ Conveyor Design

At the time, our Ladder-Flex™ conveyors were designed for the confectionery industry. There are instances where products must be separated in lanes to avoid sticking during the enrobing process. In response to this our Ladder-Flex™ conveyors have proved to be the perfect solution for on-the-move processors. Spreading, and converging products on conveyors is fundamental to a variety of industries. With this in mind, the design of the Ladder-Flex™ conveyor is able to resolve many processing problems. For example the need for a change of belt width to suit various proprietary equipment.

Ladder-Flex™ Conveyors in the Confectionary Industry

Ladder-Flex™ conveyors are also put to good use in the confectionery industry for a range of products that require separation and spreading before being processed. Often after processing, the confectionary product may need to be converged to narrower width belting before cooling or packaging. Ladder-Flex™ can also accommodate coated products that need to be separated to avoid any sticking during the enrobing process.

Spreading and Converging

Wire Belt's non-slip Ladder-Flex™ conveyors are capable of spreading or converging through the use of narrow width strands of single space stainless steel belting. The standard Ladder-Flex™ design is a 'fan-type' spreader or converger. This positions products evenly on each side of the centre of the conveyor. We also offer a range of other configurations to fit other requirements. For example chains can be arranged into individual lanes to spread or converge product from specific infeed positions.

The Advantages of Ladder-Flex™ Conveyors

In addition to the design benefits outlined above, here are some other advantages that make our conveyors stand out:

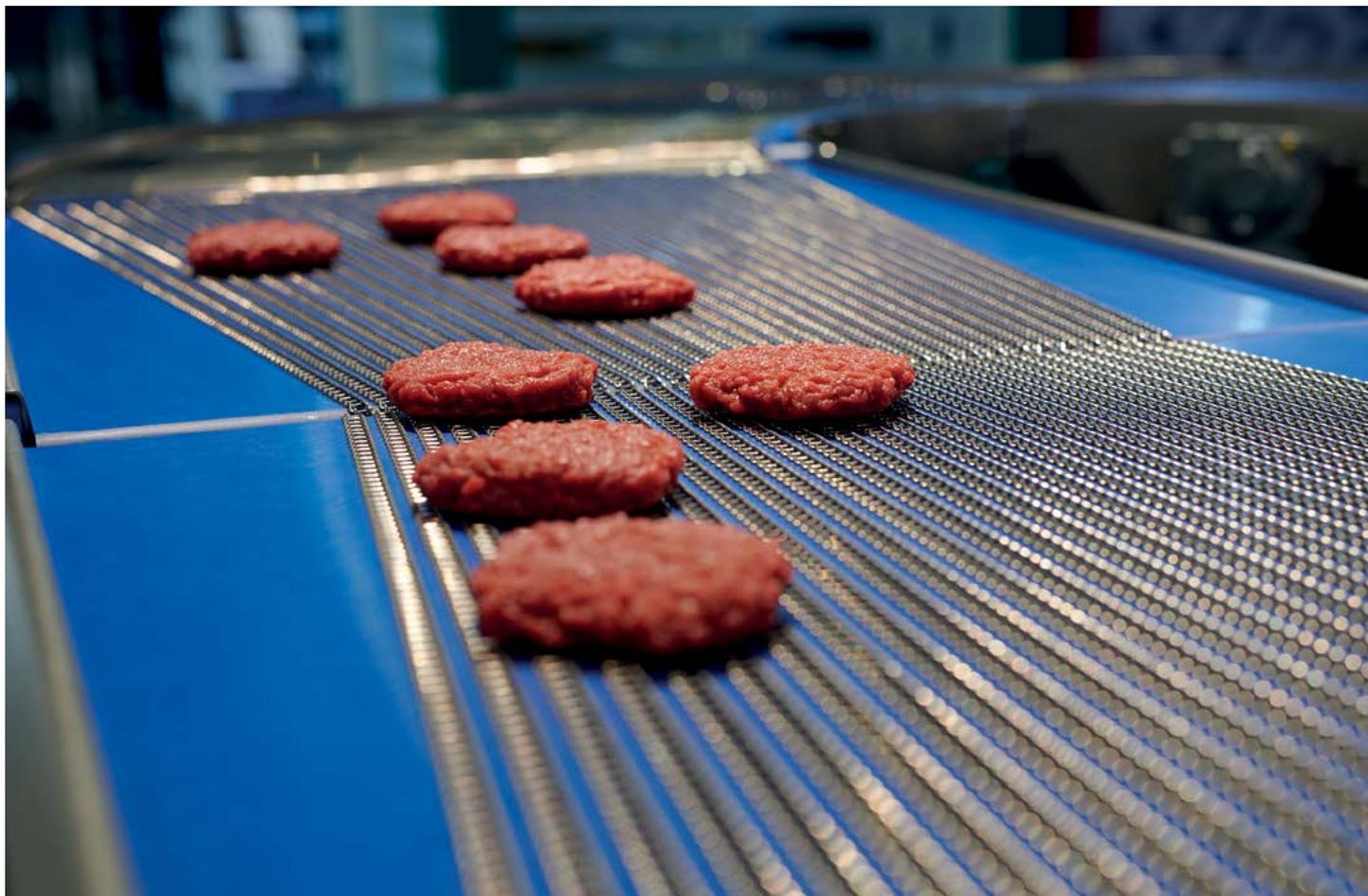
- Custom-designed to accommodate your specific processing application
- Non-slip, positive drive
- Tight transfers with adjacent conveyors and processing equipment
- Easy to clean and maintain
- Smooth, gentle product handling for fragile products

If you would like more information, we have a full list of the benefits of Ladder-Flex conveyors™.

Give us a call today to discuss your requirements or challenges you want to overcome; contact your local representation or our technical sales team on +44 (0) 1795 421771 or email us at sales@wirebelt.co.uk. At Wire Belt we are happy to review your design concepts and sketches, and provide the innovative, problem-solving conveying solutions you need and want.



HOW TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT CONVEYOR: IMPORTANT FEATURES TO KEEP IN MIND



Food processing, automotive, electronics, textiles or other industries – choosing the correct conveyor for your organisation is vital to the overall production and efficiency of day-to-day operations. Here at Wire Belt, we understand that the performance and construction of a reliable conveyor has a great impact on the efficiency of an industry's daily production.

So, when choosing to invest in a specific conveyor, it is crucial to consider the following elements and features so that you can have full peace of mind that your conveyor will always perform to the standard you desire.

Flexibility and Adaptability

Your ideal conveyor will have the flexibility and adaptability that you need when there are fluctuations in demand or an introduction of new products. Here at Wire Belt, we offer a wide range of conveyors that are designed to ensure efficient operation that include optional features to ensure versatility to satisfy most requirements and custom-designs to accommodate your specific processing applications.

Easy Maintenance

There is no time for downtime – which is why your conveyor should allow for easy maintenance. Avoid any unplanned errors or downtime with a conveyor that is easy to clean, maintain and provides easy access to all areas. Our impressive selection of Enhanced Hygienic conveyors features maximum cleaning ability and are specifically designed for use in hygiene sensitive environments.

Environmentally-Friendly

If ever there is an opportunity to lower your impact on the environment, it is always wise to take it. The environment should always be taken into consideration when investing in new conveyor systems for your business. Choosing a conveyor that enables you to reduce waste while being energy efficient, is worth investing in. If you'd like to learn more about how you can reduce your impact on the environment, then discover our super selection of conveyor products by contacting our technical sales team +44 (0) 1795 421771 or sales@wirebelt.co.uk.

WIRE BELT: INVESTING IN BRITISH MANUFACTURING



New signage in Wire Belt reception area

As part of our ongoing investment programme in our manufacturing site at Sittingbourne we've recently upgraded several of our staff facilities. Perhaps more obviously to the outside observer, we've freshened up the exterior and reception areas with bright new signage and branding, to ensure visitors get the best 'welcome' experience!

The old reception area had a bit of an 80s feel to it. A smart new paint job, new carpet, LED lighting and stylish steel bannisters have given it a designer makeover that's fresh, clean and bright. In 2022 we'll further enhance the space with new furniture and a meeting area.

Under normal circumstances, upgrading areas such as canteens and toilets can cause major disruption in a busy factory and office. However, more staff working from home, and thus fewer people on site, gave us the flexibility to undertake renovations inside the building.

The new canteen is a bright, airy space with lots of colour. New, comfy chairs are on the way, along with smart new vending machines offering a wider choice, including healthy options. Fast Wi-Fi, LED lighting and plenty of USB charging points ensure

staff get to relax properly on their breaks. Similarly, the toilets are fresh, clean and light, with fixtures including bright LED lights, new bathroom furniture and energy-saving Dyson hand dryers.

Alongside the reception, main canteen and the washroom and toilet, we installed a new office kitchen area and a new first aid room. In 2022 we'll be carrying out renovations to the offices and upgrading our second canteen.

One of the great benefits of undertaking this work has been the positive impact it's had on morale amongst the workforce. One of our core values as a business is our belief in family. Our success is built on teamwork and fun - we encourage a culture that wants to serve our customers, to help our community, and to support each other. Managing Director Gary Allen says, "The investment in our staff facilities is part of this family ethos. We want to make the workplace somewhere staff are proud of, that they can respect, for them to feel they want to come to, and somewhere they can be comfortable and happy."

Wire Belt: towards carbon net zero

Alongside the investments in the factory facilities, we are continuing to invest in minimising our impact on the environment. Sustainability is a key criteria for every area of our operations. That's why, for example, our new staff canteen and our offices have fresh air intake, reducing the need for air conditioning as well as improving the working (and relaxing!) environment. We continue to invest in making our manufacturing greener – over the last year, our two solar panel systems generated 80% of our electricity requirements. And that's just for Wire Belt's UK site, our facilities in the US and Germany are also solar powered, reducing our carbon footprint internationally. We've also invested in energy-saving resources such as solar flex shading on the windows, which reduces the need for air conditioning, and air source heat pumps, which both heat and cool sections of the building.

"We monitor every area of our operation to reduce our environmental impact," says Gary. "From recycling paper waste in the office to investing in energy efficient plant. Our objective is to become carbon neutral within the next few years – and I believe we're on track to achieve it."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR APPRENTICES

We are very proud to congratulate Joe Warner, Trainee Apprentice Machinist Fitter and Eleanor Wicks, Apprentice Welder/Fabricator our two apprentices, for passing their latest apprenticeship engineering qualifications here at Wire Belt. We are committed to Apprenticeships, which are a key mechanism for us to recruit and develop new engineers for the future progress of the Company.

Joe, started with Wire Belt over 3 years ago after doing a week's work experience with the Company and has since passed his BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Operations & Maintenance Engineering with a double distinction and is continuing with City and Guilds Level 3 NVQ Extended Diploma in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering, Joe says "the course has taught me skills and abilities, such as programming and understanding equipment which aren't given in the workplace. It has helped me be self-reliant in my skillset and assist others at work."

Eleanor has been with Wire Belt for 2 years and has completed the City and Guilds Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations with distinction and said "The qualifications and skills I have achieved can easily be transferred to different areas of the Engineering

department. I'm very excited about my future at Wire Belt and the opportunities the course has given me."

Both Joe and Eleanor have been very successful and have shown to be good

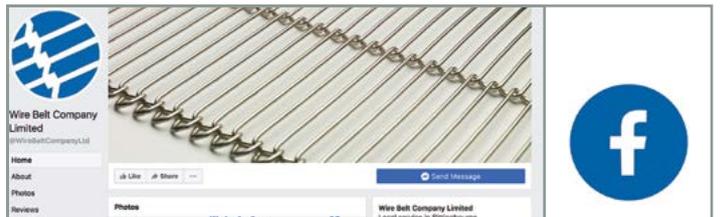
role models for our next generation of Apprentices. They continue to grow in confidence and have shown a very positive attitude to our Apprenticeship programme and continuing their career path with Wire Belt.



Joe Warner receives certificate and gift from Paul Walsh, Operations Manager



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www.wirebelt.co.uk





OUR VISION

Wire Belt will be the most preferred, respected, and trusted metal belt company in the world.

OUR MISSION

Keep manufacturing growing here by being a lean, green, values driven team.

OUR VALUES

FAMILY - Our employees and business partners are a team bound together by a common purpose: to respect, trust, and learn from each other. To succeed together. We have each others ' back.

INNOVATION - We believe change is a way of life fostered by encouraging creativity and learning.

INTEGRITY - We do the right thing in all circumstances.

OWNERSHIP - We build trust and teamwork through effective communication, execution and accountability.

FUN - We encourage a culture that loves to serve our customers, community and each other.

Wire Belt Contacts

Customer Service Team

Jo-Anne Spokes - Customer Support Team Leader
Sylvina Clemons - Order & Quotation Administrator
Sarah Hill - Order & Quotation Administrator
Dominic Johnson - Order & Quotation Administrator
Victoria Hills - Order & Quotation Administrator

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Robert Deane - Technical Sales Engineer
Elena Van Boonen - Technical Sales Engineer
John Wartens - Consulting Technical Sales Engineer & Middle East Development

UK Sales

Ian Hobling - Technical & Business Development Manager
Jim Robertson - Technical & Business Development Manager

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Haby Kamara - Export Sales Manager

Jihong Li - Export Sales Manager – China
Yogesh Yadav - OEM Sales Manager

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Sam Donnelly - Assistant Accountant

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