



## Guttridge

When experience matters

Guttridge celebrates six decades of serving our industry

**L**ocated a stone's throw away from the UK's easternmost seaboard, the English town of Spalding sits upon some of the flattest landscape that the country has to offer. Huddled amongst the town's pancake flat skyline, punctuated only by the imposing twin chimneys of the local power station, you will find the light blue clad British headquarters of Guttridge.

Built upon a solid foundation of six decades of industry experience, Guttridge remains globally respected for delivering well-engineered, reliable material handling solutions whilst continuing to anticipate the market's dramatically changing needs.

In addition to supplying everything from single machines to fully integrated handling solutions, the company also manufactures in both stainless steel and mild steel, producing durable equipment for every material whilst eliminating the risk of contamination.

Guttridge isn't just an off-the-shelf supplier, and it is its ability to design and build bespoke solutions for specific applications that truly sets it apart.

### From tractor store to factory floor

August 1, 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of Dr David Guttridge first registering his organisation with Company's House, with Guttridge Feed Services Ltd established at

his family home in Spalding, Lincolnshire, UK.

Now we all love a great origin story and Guttridge has a good one. The cogs started turning for the company when the late Dr David Guttridge designed the first feed mill and built it himself in the workshop of his local Ford tractor dealer (FOMOCO). This early machine was a complex but effective design with many chain and belt drives from the main 165 hp Perkins V8 diesel engine.

Following Dr Guttridge's eureka moment, the company began its life operating primarily as a mobile feed milling service, assisting the many local farmers to process their feed. Its first mobile feed mill was completed in October of 1962, with its very first sales invoice addressed to Atkinson Bros, Poultry Farmers.

By 1973 over 200 Grindamix and Cubamix mobile feed mills were in operation, producing over a million tonnes of animal feed per year. The company was to sell all feed milling interests to Tindalls of Holbeach the following year.

Then in 1975, the company was renamed Guttridge Services Ltd and drawing on knowledge acquired from the mobile mill days, it launched a new range of bucket elevators, screw conveyors and dischargers.

These days, the company employs 94 people in the UK alone, including 10 design engineers, 12 in sales with 54 employed on the shop floor, with the bulk of the team focusing on production.

Although the company's speciality is bulk material handling, the other main areas that it covers within this are animal feed, oilseed crushing and distilling brewing/malting.

That said, the company's turnover is 45-50 percent animal feed, with its adaptable and specifically tailored solutions created for its customers, who are primarily located in the UK and Ireland.

To date, the versatile and inventive nature of the company's processes and ethos means that it has been involved in the processing of 623 different materials, with projects completed in 60





different countries.

### **The MHA Group is born**

2019 sees Guttridge join the Mitchells Group, with the Mitchells Holding Asia Group (MHA) formed as a result. This pooling of resources created an organisation that has two headquarters, the one that Milling and Grain magazine recently visited in Spalding and a further location in Nanjing, China.

“We are delighted with the acquisition and joining Mitchells

Group marks a culmination of 50 years of hard-work and continued high-quality design and build of bespoke handling solutions,” says Chairman Peter Guttridge, son of company founder Dr David Guttridge, speaking at the time.

“The deal will allow us to support both new and existing customers with a greater range and scope of products and materials, ensuring we provide the highest quality to meet their needs.

Mr Guttridge’s sentiment was shared by Mitchells Group CEO, Mic Mittasch, who adds, “The acquisition of Guttridge is a significant

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milestone in the continued growth of Mitchells and our forever expanding bulk handling capacities.”

Although the person in the company’s top job no longer bears the Guttridge name, the predictions of the last man to do so and his predecessor have rung true. Doug Anderson, Sales and Marketing Manager at Guttridge, states that although the company is still technically family owned, adding that since 2019, the company has won UK£5million/US\$6.119 in new business.

In this time, Mr Anderson also adds that the shop floor has also enjoyed noticeable investments, including new equipment that has seen the scope for manufacturing increase from 500-800-1000 tph, helping the team to produce the next generation of machines that boast the very best of what both Mitchells and Guttridge have to offer.

Included in this huge influx of new business is the company’s successful winning bid for the contracts of three phases of the rebuild of badly explosion damaged Tilbury Docks, as well as the development of a new greenfield site nearby. These new developments will be serviced by the company’s newly developed hybrid dockside technology.

## What’s so special about Guttridge?

The company believes that every project that it undertakes is unique, with each solution tailored to the client’s individual business needs. With Guttridge’s knowledge and resources, it can also handle any project from conceptual design, right through to final use.

This superior level of knowledge is also complemented by the wider MHA group’s ability to supply a broad variety of machines, ranging from standard models to those designed specifically to cater for the bespoke requirements of customers - ranging from a few kilos to 2000tph.

The company strives to manufacture equipment that lasts, with low installation costs that use readily available industry leading

components, with ease of maintenance also forming one of its key priorities.

In addition to this, working towards a better environment forms one of the group’s other main goals. In order to achieve this target, the MHA Group ensures that its components are sourced ethically, whilst also maximising the recycled content within its machines. In addition to this, the group always looks for solutions that offer the fullest potential to be recycled.

These environmental considerations extend beyond recycling, with prolonging the life of components and reducing noise levels forming two further company targets. These goals are achieved through the use of wear strips and plastic flights in its chain conveyors, for example, with the plastic flights connected to drop forge chains on a Hardox wear strip.

The plastic used is by no means flimsy either, which simultaneously prevents both wear and reducing the risk of contamination. The chosen material is high molecular weight plastic, which is extremely hard wearing. In some cases, this material has been known to last longer than the steel that it is fitted to.

The layout of the tension end also stops the chain from moving from side to side, although it is able to move freely on the chain link as well as on the flight. The tension ends are also self-cleaning, as they immediately follow the sprocket, avoiding build-up of material within the casing as the construction that bears the weight of the moving parts is also able to move backwards and forwards.

The quality of the company’s craftsmanship is also evident in its partnership with both the Materials Handling Engineers' Association (MHEA) and Solids Handling and Processing Association (SHAPA).

The company is also fully compliant with the Conformite Europeenne (CE), ATmosphere EXplosible (ATEX), Eurasian Conformity (EAC) standards, as well as being accredited to ISO9001, with all of these measures ensuring that the company are doing the right thing, all of the time.



## Sparing is caring

In addition to sustainable and reliable craftsmanship, Guttridge can also provide spares for both its own and Carrier machines- not just chains and sprockets - but all parts including vent covers, ATEX panels, a new head or boot for bucket conveyor, although the availability of some of the larger parts are limited by space restrictions.

The brain of David Ardron, Spares Manager at Guttridge, contains (amongst other things) four decades of industry experience, having previously been employed by Carrier, a company whose intellectual property and key assets were acquired by Guttridge in 2004.

Mr Ardron's level of experience is something of an increasing rarity. This is because within there is a scarcity of individuals with a wealth of knowledge and experience in our industry, as a large number of these people have retired over the past few years.

Guttridge aims to bridge this skills gap by providing the knowledge and experience that the company has accumulated over the past six decades, placing the company in the fortuitous position of being able to draw on this bank of wisdom and tell the customer what they need and when they are going to need it.

By sharing this wealth of knowledge and experience, Guttridge is able to help its customers to make use of the space that they have available, as well as advising them how their equipment can be adjusted in order to make processes more efficient - as well as assisting with critical issues such as ATEX compliance.

## Nurturing the green shoots

Experience and knowledge are not qualities that happen by accident, they require nurturing as they develop over time. Another

**2019** - Mitchells Holdings purchases Guttridge, forming a group of companies which could now supply conveying materials for all capacities from farm to port.

**2004** - Guttridge acquires Carrier Bulk Handling

2000 - Manufacturing is relocated from its original home to its current site - a new purpose built engineering factory set in a four acre site in Spalding's Wardenree Lane industrial area. 1979 - Dr David Guttridge's son, Peter Guttridge, joins the family business bringing professional engineering skills. Investment in a CNC Punching machine significantly improved sheet metal manufacturing facilities.

**1976** - The original Feedmill was redeveloped as a Straw Processing Plant to manufacture nutritionally improved straw pellets using a Caustic Soda treatment process.

**1975** - Company is renamed Guttridge Services Ltd.

**1974** - Pea cleaning plant installed to clean freshly harvested dried peas for the mushy pea and snack food markets.

**1989** - Launch of stainless steel range of conveyors takes the company into the food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries for the first time.

**1962** - The late Dr David Guttridge designs the first Animal Feed Mill and builds it himself in the workshops of the local Ford Tractor Dealer (FoMoCo). It was a complex, but effective design with many chain and belt drives from the main 165hp Perkins V8 diesel engine.

MHA Group's currently active projects:  
**Peddars pigs** - new feed mill in collaboration with Ottevanger

**Wynnstay** - replacing intake and increasing throughput

**Mole Valley Farmers** - raw material and grain bin storage solutions

**ForFarmers** - New bucket elevators

**Duffields** - Increasing throughput and replacing valves

**Almerai** - Working in partnership to create animal feed solutions

The Guttridge range of bulk materials handling equipment includes:

- Bucket elevators
- Screw conveyors and dischargers
- Chain conveyors and dischargers
- Belt conveyors
- Load and discharge hoppers
- Vertical blenders and live bins
- Ancillary equipment such as spoutings and fittings, slide valves and diverters.

way that Guttridge is aiming to bridge the previously mentioned skills gap is through its blossoming apprenticeship scheme.

Each year the company takes on people to undertake full time, accredited apprentice courses in various disciplines including fabricator/welder, assembly fitter and technician. The company also offers training packages in non-manufacturing based disciplines such as design, finance, IT, purchasing and sales.

The scheme has received a great deal positive feedback over the years, with the company proudly taking home two awards at SHAPA AGM and Solids Handling Awards Dinner.

Held in April 2022, Aiden Heyes, the company's apprentice in welding/fabrication won the 'Apprentice of the Year' award. Aiden Heyes joined Guttridge in 2019 at the age of 16, showing his enthusiasm and talent from his very first day.

The 'Best Newcomer Award' was won by Sam Matthews, Internal Sales Engineer at Guttridge, who was incredibly surprised when he was nominated; "I'm really thankful and wasn't expecting it in the slightest!"

