

ENER·G EFFICIENCY digs out 41% bill saving for JCB Compact

An energy management system from ENER·G Efficiency has helped reduce monthly heating bills by 41% at the Staffordshire factory of JCB Compact Products – the largest manufacturer of compact machinery serving construction and related industries.

Employing over 600 staff at its Cheadle site, JCB Compact Products, part of the world-renowned JCB Group, manufactures 14 models in its mini excavator range.

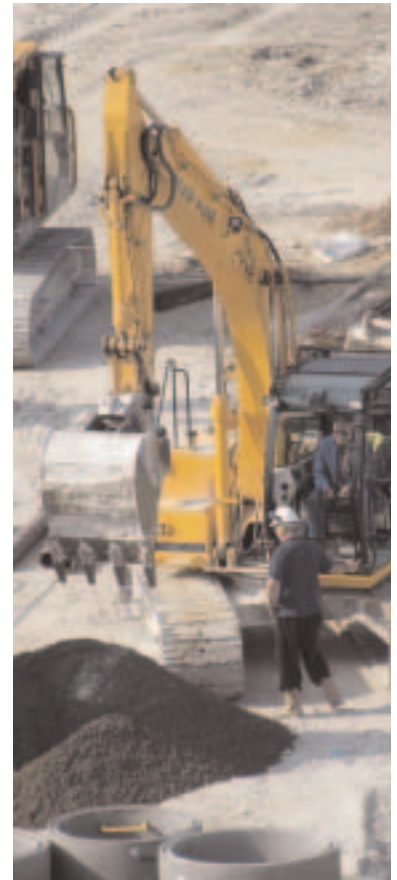
Whilst the open-plan factory building itself is a modern construction, subject to minimal fabric heat loss, JCB identified that improvements could be made in the control of the gas-fired radiant tubes used to heat the open-plan spaces.

JCB Compact Products called in ENER·G Efficiency to advise on how best to maximise the efficiency of this heating system.

ENER·G recommended an intelligent control system which would integrate control of all the heaters to maintain comfort levels and, at the same time, keep fuel consumption to an absolute minimum.

The new control system ensures that the space temperature is always controlled to a level that is just right. This has allowed a reduction in the high temperatures set for the heaters, which typically were in the region of 23°C/25°C, providing a subsequent reduction in energy consumption. Employee comfort levels have also improved as a result.

More sophisticated time scheduling of the heating system has also brought benefits. The existing control system was unable to adapt



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heater operation to the company's flexible zone shift patterns.

Re-programming the controller settings to account for times when workers in different zones were on different shifts, was time-consuming, difficult-to-do, or simply not possible within the limits of the technology.

In contrast, the new ENER-G Efficiency control system is centrally monitored from a PC, eliminating the need for all local adjustment or controller re-programming. The graphical site overview it provides allows any time and temperature adjustments to be made quickly and easily eg to account for shift patterns, plant shutdown or holiday periods. Using a remote connection to the control system, ENER-G is able to monitor system performance effectively from its Head Office and provide savings reports to the client on a regular basis.

Installation of the original ENER-G Efficiency system for JCB Compact Products took place in September 2002. The system was extended to incorporate the ventilation plant in June 2004.

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ENER-G Group is a leading distributed power generation and energy management company, providing clean energy initiatives with visible benefits to the environment.

As well as ENER-G Efficiency, the group's business activities include small-scale combined heat & power, renewable power generation from landfill gas, and, energy from waste.

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