

# Application Success Stories

**South Staffs Industries (SSI) invest in a bespoke powder coating system from Gema Europe to coat gas cylinders**



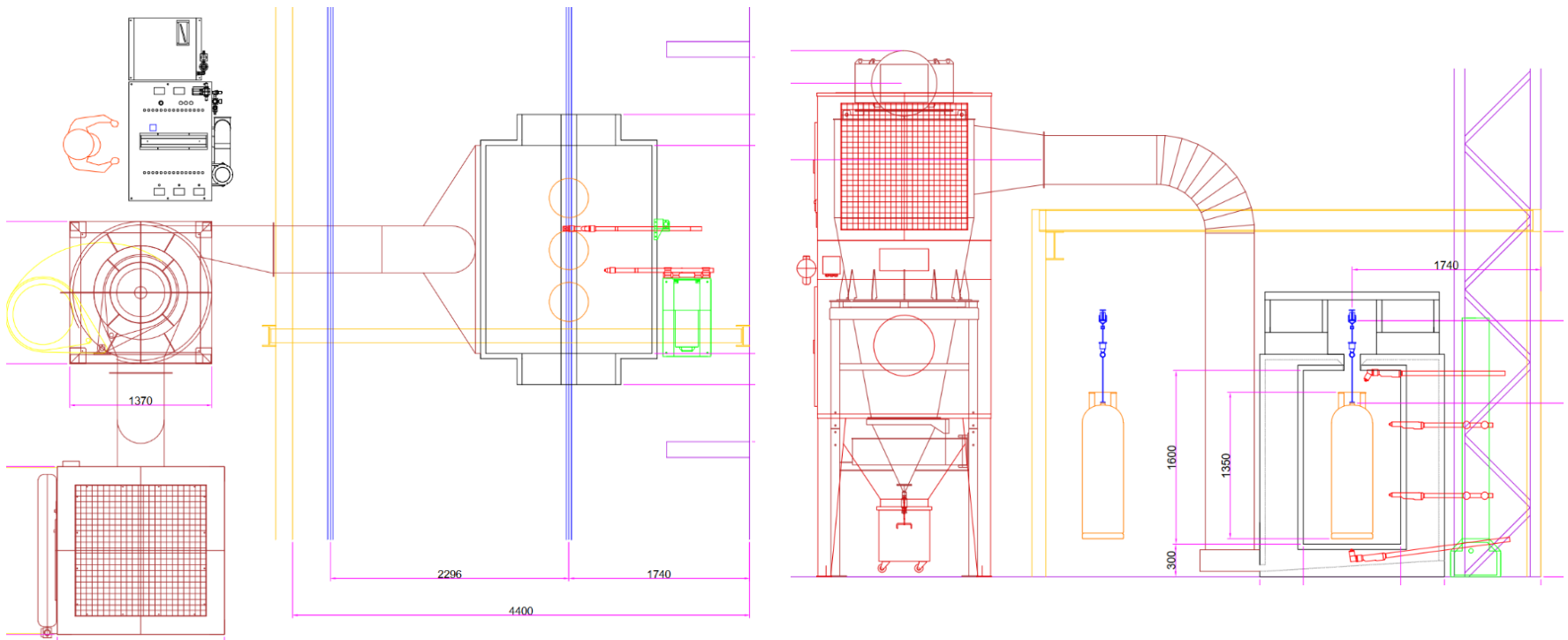
Superb coating  
application

Clean operating  
environment

Environmentally  
friendly

# Application Success Stories

## Layout



# Application Success Stories

## Installation Key Data

### **Parts:**

Refurbished gas cylinders

### **Production data:**

- 1350mm high
- 700mm wide
- 1m per min

### **System Type:**

- Bespoke UK Booth
- 12,000m<sup>3</sup>/h
- 4x OptiGun GA03 automatic guns
- OptiCenter OC04 powder center
- OptiControl CM22 control system
- OptiFeed Box FPS19 powder feed



# Application Success Stories



**Company Profile:** Operating from a tailor-made facility in Tipton, UK, South Staffs Industries (SSI) have over 40 years of experience in the requalification and refurbishment of low pressure gas cylinders and fire extinguishers. 2017 was an exciting year for SSI, after a prolonged period of insecurity, the Company managed to procure the land where their periodic inspection facility has



operated for over 30 years. This has allowed SSI to commit to the continuous improvement of the facility and production equipment with the management team starting an impressive upgrade programme as soon as the site was secured. **The investment:** The Gema powder coating plant replaced a very old competitor system that was producing a lot of waste and undesirable working conditions for the operators, the



decision to upgrade was a combination of efficiency and health & safety improvements. The system was installed in a very tight space to incorporate the existing conveyor system and oven, this required a custom designed booth with a very low floor to fit in the space required. The new system has given more flexibility and efficiency throughout the process.

# Application Success Stories

## Customer feedback:

Chris J Hickman, SSI Managing Director commented, "Our primary objective for SSI is to ensure we continually meet the demands of our customers. The current facility included a significant number of 'legacy' machinery that was temperamental at best. Without substantial investment we would not be in a position to meet our customer demands; to ensure their cylinders are periodically inspected on time, on budget and most importantly, safely."

Ryan Cummings, SSI General Manager commented, "Our aim for the new powder coating facility was not only to increase the productivity, but also to increase the quality of our paint finish and to provide a cleaner working environment for our team. The new paint plant needed to fit within the same floor space as the existing system and incorporate the existing conveyor system. We approached the market and it became clear that a bespoke system from Gema would meet not only the space restraints but also comply with all health and safety legislation. It was specified that the plant needed to be fully installed and commissioned during our week-long shutdown with full production starting on the first day back to work, this was completed by the Gema team without any issues, their engineer stayed with us for the first

week to complete training and fine tune the system as we completed production. With the new powder system from Gema, a colour change can be completed far quicker than previously and does not require an operator to enter the booth, this has given us more production time and flexibility to complete smaller batches and less frequent colours more efficiently."

Chris also commented, "The Gema powder coat system has been in full production for around 3 months and we are already seeing significant tangible benefits including reduced downtime through machine reliability, faster colour changes and reduced waste produced through efficiency savings. We are also benefitting from an improved surface finish on the cylinders with the added advantage of the cleaner working environment. This is a win/win for efficiency and for the ongoing occupational health and safety of our team"

## Recognised benefits:

- Considerable reduction in powder waste
- Improved final finish
- Cleaner working environment
- Faster colour changes allowing more efficient production planning for smaller batches