

production, making process development easier while eliminating errors and improving final product acceptance.”

Outlook

Looking ahead at machining's future in the medical device space will sure to continue to bring challenges to the experts who offer the service, but it will undoubtedly continue to help bring about fantastic innovations in the healthcare technology space.

Carmein predicts, “There will most likely be an even closer customization of product design with patient. Soon it will be common to scan a joint to be replaced, build a CAD file from the scan, and then manufacture the new joint as the procedure is in process. You can also expect an increased focus on very small devices, whether implantable or end-of-arm robots to conduct the actual surgery.”

“I'd predict components will continue to get smaller and machining will rely more on micro-sized tools and additive manufacturing to produce these small components. In five to ten years, there could be more cloud-based applications for CAD/CAM systems and improved remote access for machine attendance. Collaborative robots could continue to evolve and may replace much of the human-machine intervention,” concludes Altman. ●



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Vapormatt Employee Celebrates 50 Years in Blasting

PHIL DAWES has celebrated an incredible 50 years in the blasting sector and 20 years as an employee at Vapormatt in December. Vapormatt specializes in wet blasting for surface preparation and finishing.

Phil began his journey in the blasting industry in 1965 as an apprentice at Abrasive Developments, which coincidentally was also owned by the family that founded and continue to operate Vapormatt today, the Ashworths. He rose through the company to a sales engineering role and after knowledge-boosting stints elsewhere in the blasting industry, he joined Vapormatt in the autumn of 1995—bringing with him 30 years of valuable experience.

During his time at Vapormatt, Phil has spearheaded the development of the company's composites business and played a key role in the growth of its aerospace offering, among other valuable contributions. Despite his anniversary landmarks, he has no plans to retire just yet and will continue to pass on his extensive experience to his Vapormatt colleagues.

“I've greatly enjoyed my half-century in the blasting sector and more recently at Vapormatt, playing my part in growing both industry knowledge and the use of wet blasting over the past 20 years,” said Phil Dawes, Sales Engineer at Vapormatt. “I'm now looking forward to what is in store for Vapormatt and the wet blasting process in the future.”

Commenting on the Phil's anniversary, Robin Ashworth, Managing Director at Vapormatt, said, “Phil has been a wonderful member of the Vapormatt team throughout the time he has been here. He has an excellent grounding in all things wet blasting and is a fountain of knowledge for the rest of the team, especially for his young colleagues who are able to further develop their own skills thanks to his advice and knowledge. His reliability, dedication, loyalty and willingness to share his knowledge over the past two decades has been and continues to be truly appreciated by all here at Vapormatt.” ●



2015 marked the 60th anniversary in the blasting industry for Phil Dawes. Mr. Dawes is a Sales Engineer at Vapormatt.