

HRH The Duke of York unveils a revolution in Yorkshire.

The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, visited the award winning company ATB Morley on 11th December. A Yorkshire based designer, manufacturer and exporter of high voltage electric motors for the global coal mining markets, ATB Morley recently manufactured the largest electric motor ever to be used for underground coal mining.

The Duke of York, unveiled this historical industrial motor at the ATB Morley offices in Leeds.

Ian Lomax, Managing Director, ATB Morley said,

“We at ATB Morley, including our suppliers and customers had a great opportunity to meet The Duke of York yesterday. It was a great boost for all our staff especially when the Duke unveiled the 11kV AFC motor.”

Historically, most large electric motors supplied for underground coal mining have been manufactured suitable for a voltage of 3300V. This motor, weighing in at 10 tonnes, was designed and manufactured by ATB Morley for the Xstrata Blakefield South mine in Australia. This has been manufactured to suit an electrical supply of 11000V. The increase in supply voltage reduces motor currents at these higher than normal power levels leading to reduced cabling and voltage transformation issues as well as reducing the likelihood of the motor causing issues with the electrical supply in other parts of the mine, particularly during starting.



Duke of York and Ian Lomax MD



Duke of York, Prince Andrew

In respect of the supply voltage, the first pair of 1600kW motors manufactured by ATB Morley are particularly unique as they are the first motors of this Voltage supplied to any underground coal mine in the world. Together they drive through a variable torque coupling, into a gearbox and onto chain conveyor at the coal face. This AFC (armored face conveyor) is the primary device used for removing coal freshly cut from the face and transporting it towards belt conveyors and out of the mine.

ATB Morley continues to expand in other sectors including the water, power, steel, oil exploration and petro-chemical industries and if the success they have achieved in the coal industry is considered as evidence of their capabilities, it will not be long before they are generating the same figures in these newly ventured areas.

HRH The Duke of York's visit serves to highlight the presence of niche market manufacturing businesses producing high value high technology product for export markets. ATB Morley export some 80% of their product to destination such as China, Australia, Russia and the US.