J. H. Fletcher & Co., manufacturer of underground mining equipment, has expanded their production into a facility in Wurtland, KY. A ribbon cutting was held March 14th, 2011 with special guests including KY. State Sen. Robin Webb and Greenup County Judge Executive Robert W. Carpenter.

The 72,000 square ft. Raymond F. Parks Manufacturing Facility is located at 1033 Port Road, Wurtland, KY. J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been based in Huntington, WV since 1947 and the main headquarters will remain there. Greg Hinshaw, President and C.O.O., says “Expanding into the Wurtland, KY facility will allow us to increase our production ability by 20% initially with the potential of nearly 50% increase over time.” Starting out, J. H. Fletcher & Co. will have about 20 employees at the Wurtland facility and could possibly add additional employees with growth.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. is the leading custom designer and manufacturer of roof bolters, mobile roof supports, tractors, drill jumbos and scaling vehicles for underground mining in both the coal and industrial minerals industries worldwide. The company has been serving the mining industry since 1937 by providing the safest and most productive equipment available.
New Vacuum Tester

J.H. Fletcher & Co. now has a new vacuum gauge. The new vacuum gauge (Part Number: 132155) has many advantages over the old gauge (Part Number: 132121). Some of the new features you will find are:

1. The face plate is color coded with red field up to 12 in Hg and from 12 to 22 Hg it is marked green, for recommended range.
2. The new gauge should be more durable. The new rubber protective boot around the gauge will protect the gauge from hits and drops.
3. The old gauge had a rubber pad on the top of the gauge that had to be pierced with a wire to release trapped pressure in the gauge. The new gauge has a valve that can be pulled up by hand under the rubber boot on top of the gauge.
4. The new gauge has a manufacture date on the stem of the gauge. Under normal usage the gauge should be accurate for up to two years beyond the manufacture date on the stem. The number on the stem will have four digits, the first three signifies the day of the year and the last is the last digit in the year, for example 3480 would be 348th day in 2010.

Although recalibrating the gauge would be possible it would be more expensive than replacing the gauge, therefore Fletcher does not offer this option.

Along with the gauge you will receive vacuum gauge usage instructions that will inform the user how to use and interpret the information on the gauge, document part number 500202. This gauge will be a valuable tool in your effort to keep your dust system compliant with MSHA regulatory standards. For information on obtaining this gauge, contact J.H. Fletcher & Co. or one of our authorized distributors.

Positioning Controls

Q. THE OPERATOR’S MANUAL HAS A SECTION ABOUT POSITIONING (INCH) CONTROLS. WHERE ARE THESE CONTROLS AND WHAT DO THE CONTROLS DO?

A. The position controls are located near the front of the chassis and are at least 5 feet toward the rear of the machine away from the drill head. This is the only machine mounted tram station design accepted by law that does not require an operator canopy. This distance from the drill head ensures that the position controls are always under supported roof. The controls in this area are for positioning in the working place, setting the ATRS and utilizing the diversion valve to provide power to the drilling functions. Specifically, the tram function will not allow the machine to exceed 80 ft. per minute. These controls also allow the operator to position the ATRS without going up to the drilling controls. On outside control dual boom machines the off-side operator should be located directly across from the operator during the positioning and ATRS setting procedures. For further information on these controls see 30 CFR 75.1710-1.
J. H. Fletcher & Co. is very excited to announce the creation of our new wholly owned subsidiary Fletcher Mining Equipment Pty. Ltd. The new company is based in Unanderra, NSW and will provide sales and service to the mining industry throughout Australia. The establishment of a dedicated Australian sales and service staff will produce a much higher level of technical and service assistance than previously available. In addition to HDDR bolters which have been imported and used for 15 years, mobile roof supports, long hole drills as well as semi-automated and fully automated mobile roof bolters, will now be available through Fletcher Mining Equipment Pty. Ltd.

Phill O'Meley is the Managing Director for Fletcher Mining Equipment. Many of you already know his depth of knowledge regarding underground mining and his very strong background in automation, engineering and design of roof bolters and long hole drills. Phill's commitment to excellence sets him and Fletcher Mining Equipment Pty. Ltd. apart from the competition. Phill's contact information is attached below.

J. H. Fletcher has also assigned Bill Kyslinger to a new role as International Engineer. Bill has worked in the R&D Engineering group and has also been the Product Manager for our arm feed mobile bolters. He will now concentrate on specific designs for our International customers.

In addition Fletcher Mining Equipment Pty. Ltd. has formed an alliance with Becker Mining Systems to provide repair and rebuild of equipment and also to distribute spare parts throughout Australia. The central distribution and repair center for Becker Mining Systems will be their Moss Vale facility (formerly Vale Statutory & Mining Services). Other Becker facilities will be used to provide spares distribution close to the various mining areas.

Fletcher Mining Equipment Pty. Ltd., J.H. Fletcher & Co., and Becker Mining Systems look forward to working with you to provide a solution for your ground control and gas drainage machinery needs. Please contact us with any of your needs.

Phill O'Meley
Mobile +61 0438 100-863
pomeley@jhfletcher.com

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**AIMEX**

Asia-Pacific’s International Mining Exhibition
September 6-9, 2011 Sydney, Australia
Booth 3111-2
Taking Australian mining to the world and bringing the world to Australian mining.

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**Tram Deck Chain Curtain**

Fletcher has previously introduced the tram deck chain curtain. The chain curtain is mounted from the tram deck canopy. This device provides additional lateral protection for the operator while tramming the machine by deflecting debris and large rocks from entering the tram deck as well as creating a barrier to deter the operator from inadvertently placing any body part outside the deck. Some machine operators have reported that they do not like the tram deck curtain because it is a barrier and requires some experience with it to minimize the visual distraction created by the curtain. Fletcher recognizes that this additional curtain does require an operator to be conscious of it and the pathway ahead while tramming and still concludes that the utility of the tram deck chain curtain outweighs the minimal visibility and egress accommodation necessary to tram the machine with the curtain in place. All customers are encouraged to purchase this component.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has a kit (part number: 226565) for this device. If you are interested, please contact us.
We want to welcome Russell D’Angelo to J. H. Fletcher & Co. Russell was born and raised in Florida. He obtained a bachelor’s in Industrial Engineering in 2006 from the University of Central Florida and continued on at the same institution to secure a masters degree in Engineering Management in 2008. He helped oversee the development, manage costs, and direct engineering design teams on a wide range of projects. He is very excited to join the Fletcher Team and is looking forward to learning all facets of the Mining Industry and applying continuous process improvement initiatives to benefit the Company.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. on the Web:
www.jhfletcher.com
Now Available On Line:
Literature, Newsletters, Bulletins, Published Papers

Currently we are only sending the Fletcher Newsletter to a select readership. If you know of someone in your company who wishes to be placed on our mailing, please let us know. Below is a form for a free subscription to the newsletter. Just fill out the form and return it to J. H. Fletcher & Co., Risk Management, Box 2187, Huntington WV 25722-2187.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION FORM
Name_____________________ Job Title_____________________
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