



Welding and cutting products

Sales	£581.9m
Adjusted operating profit	£36.0m
Operating margin	6.2%
Employees	6,900

Overview

Esab is the world leader in welding products and advanced cutting systems. Esab has a product and geographical spread that is unrivalled and occupies a leading position in the majority of the world's major markets.

Key products

Welding consumables	65.0%
Welding standard equipment	20.6%
Automation systems	5.6%
Cutting systems	8.8%

Esab has a leading position in technologies such as cored wire welding, aluminium welding, friction stir welding, inverter-based welding equipment and advanced cutting systems.

Major markets

Esab serves customers across a broad range of industries including shipbuilding, transport and off-road, offshore, power, process and construction.

Manufacturing

Europe: Czech Republic; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Netherlands; Poland; Sweden; UK

North America: Mexico; US

South America: Brazil; Argentina

Rest of World: China; India; Indonesia; Russia; South Korea

Growth prospects

Welding remains the principal means by which pieces of metal are joined and its use is expected to increase with levels of economic activity. Esab expects to improve market share in those product and geographic areas in which it has a leading market position.



Air and gas handling

Sales	£267.4m
Adjusted operating profit	£1.5m
Operating margin	0.6%
Employees	3,228

Ancillary equipment includes gas cleaning equipment, electronic controls and instrumentation and pumps.

Major markets

Howden serves a broad range of industries, including power generation, steel, cement, mining, construction, petrochemical, process and transportation.

Manufacturing

Europe:	France; Germany; Netherlands; Spain; UK
North America:	Canada; Mexico; US
Rest of World:	China; South Africa

Overview

Howden is the world's largest and longest established manufacturer of air and gas handling equipment. Howden has unrivalled experience of air and gas handling technology, a comprehensive product portfolio and a pattern of global operations that is unparalleled.

Key products

Howden is a world leader in fan, heat exchanger and compressor technology.



Specialised engineering

Sales	£51.2m
Adjusted operating profit	£5.4m
Operating margin	10.5%
Employees	320

Design Howden. Products include fans, compressors, integrated cooling systems, pumps and ammunition handling systems for customers in the defence, civil aerospace and other industrial markets.

Overview

Specialised engineering comprises the US defence and pasta making machinery businesses and the Hong Kong based drilling equipment business HD Engineering, all acquired by Charter in 1997 as part of Howden Group PLC.

US Defence

Following the sale of Bauer Howden in December 2002, US Defence comprises Howden Airdynamics and Western

Food equipment

Following the sale of the Solbren business in February 2002, Howden Food Equipment, Inc. comprises Demaco which produces pasta making machinery.

Drilling

Hong Kong based HD Engineering is a manufacturer of geotechnical engineering crawler drills and other equipment including grout pumps and tools for pile boring.