

BIENVENUE À GYS!

From north west France to north east England, this is a tale of two, long-established family businesses with a combined 109 years of successful trading, coming together.

To highlight a recent partnership, Northumberland-based Stanners invited a group of UK journalists on a trip to France to visit the GYS factory, a welding manufacturer for which Stanners is the UK distribution partner. In 2009, Stanners decided to seek an alternative welding manufacturer to the Elektron brand, which it has sold for almost a decade. Although Stanners is able to support existing Elektron customers, the company is now the sole distributor for GYS equipment in the UK.



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Founded in 1964, the GYS headquarters and manufacturing facility is located in Laval, between Le Mans and Rennes. The family run company manufactures three product ranges: arc welding machines, body repair spot welders, MIG welders and plasma cutters and battery chargers.

With 350 employees in a 16,700 sq m factory, the GYS business is an impressive one. In 2009, the company’s turnover reached €47m, with exports accounting for 45% of this. With cutting edge production technology and advanced

engineering skills in-house, it’s clear to see why vehicle manufacturers such as Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, Nissan, Peugeot, Citroën, Volvo and Ford give GYS equipment the stamp of approval. The GYS BP inverter welder also has the thumbs-up from Thatcham’s rigorous TQA awarding body.

The factory and R&D centre at GYS house a vast array of high tech machines and skilled laboratory engineers. Impressive bits of kit include a 3D printer, which produces plastic models of components pre-manufacture at the touch of a button, and a robotic spray painting production line. Surely all this comes at a cost? Surprisingly, no, thanks to the early decision by GYS to concentrate on inverter technology, its products are both cutting edge and price competitive.

‘In GYS we have found a forward thinking manufacturing partner with facilities and technical capability second to none,’ said John Stanners, Director. ‘GYS has more than 40 years’ experience, an internationally renowned R&D department, numerous manufacturer approvals and a competitive pricing policy. In the 12 months that we have been working together, we have been delighted with the quality of welding equipment that we can now offer UK customers and the level of service that GYS provides.’

Bruno Bouyges, Directeur Général, GYS, welcomed the UK visitors to the business. ‘In Europe, GYS is the largest manufacturer of car body equipment and in the UK, Stanners is not only the market leader but also the most knowledgeable company, and we believe that both have found in each other a good partner.’