

Helix Tool Company partners with MRO+ Solutions and Cairngorm Capital to advance national growth plans

Leeds, 9 October 2018

Helix Tool Company Limited (Helix), the North of England's leading independent cutting tools specialist, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a partnership with MRO+ Solutions and Cairngorm Capital Partners, to accelerate its ambitions to become national player in the cutting tools market.

Founded by Charles and Louise Robinson in 1994, Helix is a leading independent cutting tools specialist offering both consultancy and supply to clients across the aerospace, automotive, medical, oil & gas and power generation sectors. It has built its reputation and long-standing relationships by providing clients with expert technical guidance and working with them to refine and optimise their processes, which deliver increased productivity and reduced costs. As an independent with relationships across leading OEM brands, it is able to select the best possible product to deliver a solution that is bespoke to a client's needs. Headquartered in Leeds, Helix employs 17 staff and is the market leader in the North of England.

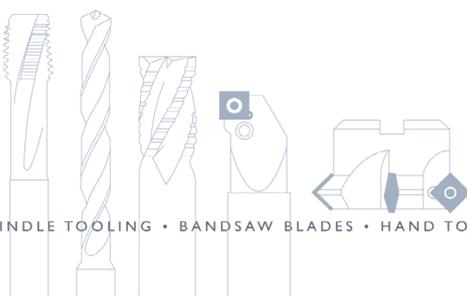
This partnership offers Helix the strategic opportunity to increase market share; diversify the industries that it serves; grow and extend its relationships with suppliers; allowing it to scale its business and broaden customers' experience. Charles and Louise Robinson will continue to lead the business going forward.

MRO+ Solutions is a team of highly experienced industry executives led by Ian Ritchie, Chief Executive of MRO+ Solutions and former managing director of Brammer UK. Cairngorm Capital is a specialist private investment firm with a focus on the UK manufacturing, distribution and services sector. Together, they partner with strong, ambitious management teams providing capital, strategic advice and operational best practice to help them transform the growth potential of their companies.

This is MRO+ Solutions' and Cairngorm Capital's second investment in the Maintenance & Repair, Reliability and Operations (MRO) industry, following their partnership with process instrumentation provider, MJ Wilson, earlier this year and supports their strategy to create a new national and full-service MRO distribution group. In parallel, they are delighted that Michael Kerins, former President & Chief Executive of Cromwell Group, the leading UK broadline Industrial distribution company, has joined the board of MRO+ Solutions, to support its continued expansion. Mike held a variety of roles at Cromwell and led the sale of that business to WW Grainger Inc.

Discussing the opportunities that the partnership will bring, **Charles Robinson, Helix's managing director** said, "We are proud of all that we have achieved to date, in particular having developed our supply and technical support service into a collaborative methodology that delivers increased productivity and reduced costs for all our customers – it has made us the first choice technology supply partner. Nevertheless, we knew that with the right partner there was much more that we could offer. We are excited by the prospect of being able to pursue further innovation and improvements, which ultimately will benefit our customers, suppliers and employees."

Louise Robinson, Helix's finance director added, "We have ambitious plans so are looking forward to working with Ian Ritchie, Mike Kerins and Cairngorm Capital to benefit from the considerable expertise that they have to offer. It heralds a new phase in Helix's development, allowing us to accelerate our growth and work with customers in new industry sectors."



Ian Ritchie, chief executive of MRO+Solutions explained, “Charles and Louise Robinson have built an excellent company that we are excited to help grow into the future. At MRO+ Solutions, we look for focused specialists that add-value to their customers and who partner effectively with leading industry suppliers; Helix fulfils both important characteristics and we look forward to supporting Charles and Louise going forward.”

Cairngorm Capital were advised on this transaction by PwC (financial and tax), Gowling WLG (legal), and JLT (insurance). Helix shareholders were advised by Dow Schofield Watts (corporate finance), and Walker Morris (legal). Barclays Bank Group provided bank facilities to support this transaction.

For further information, please contact Katherine Ritchie on 020 8347 6183 or 07941 040021

Notes to editors

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www.helixtools.co.uk

Cairngorm Capital Partners LLP is a specialist private investment firm providing equity capital and management expertise to leading UK companies. It invests in well-performing, private mid-market growth companies in manufacturing, distribution and services industries. The firm’s goal is to build and realise value through growth and performance improvements. Cairngorm Capital’s unique mix of sectoral expertise and investment skill enables it to be actively involved in the strategy and operational focus of portfolio companies, partnering with management teams to grow revenue, enhance margins, improve cash flow or consolidate industry leadership positions.

www.cairngormcapital.com

Cairngorm Capital’s current portfolio includes majority owned stakes in:

[**BSO**](#)

[**Customade Group**](#)

[**MRO+ Solutions**](#)

[**Parker Building Services**](#)

[**Stevenswood**](#)

[**Thornbridge**](#)

MRO+ Solutions is a team of highly experienced industry executives led by Ian Ritchie, Chief Executive of MRO+ Solutions and former managing director of Brammer UK. With Cairngorm Capital, it is working to create a new national full-service Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) distribution business providing precision engineering components, specialist ancillary services and in-depth technical expertise.

