

## DISAB HELPS SHEFFIELD FORGEMASTERS DEAL WITH SWARF COLLECTION AND REMOVAL



### THE WORLD'S LARGEST STEEL FORGEMASTER

Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd (SFIL) is the world's largest independently owned forgemaster, and specialises in a broad range of heavy steel forgings and steel castings, besides stocking steel ingot and bar. Dating back to the Industrial Revolution, SFIL has produced some of the largest bespoke engineered products in the world. It has the capacity for steel castings of up to 350 tonnes and steel forgings of up to 200 tonnes, and continues to supply an increasing global demand for high quality engineered products to key industries such as defence, nuclear, oil and gas exploration, power generation, marine and construction.

Milling with equipment used in their very heavy machine shop can mean upwards of 40 tonnes of swarf. Normally, this is collected by a conveyor that is part of the milling equipment system, but with the work it has to do to shift such amounts of swarf, breakdowns are inevitable. That means there's going to be swarf gathering around and under the conveyor creating a Health & Safety issue and extra housekeeping duties.

### COMPVAC™ DEMONSTRATES ITS CAPABILITIES

Paul Birch of Sheffield Forgemasters had the task of finding a solution that was easy and simple to deploy whenever one of the conveyors broke down. But with swarf getting into all sorts of nooks and crannies as well as the more open areas, the cleaning and removal solution needed to be able to access all areas.



A demonstration of a CompVac™ at nearby Davy Markham, another heavy engineering group, showed Paul what the CompVac™ could achieve:

*“We saw what the CompVac™ at Davy Markham’s could do with similar sorts of swarf material, and soon realised it was exactly what we needed to deal with the swarf when a breakdown occurred.”*

The CompVac’s advantage over other vacuum machines lies in its powerful suction, flexibility due to its 20m extension hose and its ability to be lifted and manoeuvred around by forklift. With an internal hopper and fully enclosed suction system, collecting waste material is a safe and simple operation. This kind of suction power, combined with portability, makes the CompVac highly versatile around complex and large scale equipment and plant, such as that operated by Sheffield Forgemasters.

### **USER BENEFITS OF THE COMPVAC**

Paul has seen the benefits of the CompVac for himself over the period they’ve been using the machine:

*“The CompVac’s power was ideal for us, given the weight of the swarf that needed to be cleared away. The long hose and extension pieces also meant we had just the tool for getting all the scraps and swarf out from under, over and around the milling equipment, once it was safe for someone to go and clean it up. This means poking around in all sorts of places too narrow for someone to access normally, so the hose and extension was just the tool for the job. It was pretty obvious that there was no loss of power at the business end either, a benefit we particularly appreciated given the weight of the swarf.”*

*“Disposal was easy as well, as it just had to be forklifted to wherever we wanted to tip the swarf, and then emptied straight into a skip.”*

### **HAVING A COMPVAC ON SITE CAN SAVE TIME AND MONEY.**

Cleaning and dust or waste removal is faster, safer, easier and more efficient, less time is spent by operators cleaning, so any potential downtime is significantly reduced.

If the material that needs to be recovered is highly valued the machine will pay dividends. It will also improve Health & Safety – there’s no need for back-breaking manual collection, and highly advanced filters ensure harmful dusts are safely contained. If regular clean ups are a necessity, to pass inspections or comply with regulations, then our machines are a must.

