Our world class after sales service is second to none and includes installation, commissioning, training, spare parts, contract maintenance, calibration to National Standards, upgrades and refurbishments.
Cambridge Vacuum Engineering (CVE) designs and builds process solutions and has more than 40 years experience manufacturing Electron Beam (EB) systems and Vacuum Furnaces (VF’s) from its base in Cambridge.

In collaboration with TWI (formerly known as The Welding Institute) CVE’s range of equipment includes systems ranging from 50 to 200 kV with beam powers up to 100 kW.

All EB welding machines are tested in accordance with BS EN ISO 14744 parts 1-6 Acceptance inspection of electron beam welding machines.

CVE operates a Quality Management System which complies with the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001:2008.

Advantages of EB welding include a high power density with very low overall heat input and therefore minimum distortion. EB welded parts require a minimum of post weld machining and heat treatment and unlike other fusion welding processes EB requires no shielding gases.

The weld quality is exceptional, the process is extremely efficient (typically 95%), all the process parameters are carefully controlled and the process fully automated.

Characteristics of electron beam welds include:
- Deep penetration
- Narrow fusion zone
- Inert atmosphere (vacuum)
- Near parent metal strength

Rapid deflection technology
- TWI has developed and patented a technique using electron beam called Surf-sculp™ that enables the creation of a wide variety of surface textures through the manipulation of the electron beam.
- TWI is developing Comeld™ - an advanced technique to exploit this potential for composite to metal joining

Reduced Pressure EB (RPEB) Welding
- Compared with conventional EB Welding performed in high vacuum (10^-6 mbar range) RPEB welding is performed at pressures ~ 1 mbar. This means evacuation times and capital costs can be greatly reduced by having small, localised vacuum chambers.

The key components of the system are TWI’s high-powered diode gun and RF excited cathode.

The picture compares a multi-pass arc weld compared to a single pass RPEB weld in 100 mm thick C-Mn steel.

Summary of RPEB Welding:
- Thick section capability in a single pass - up to 200 mm in steel
- Fewer constraints compared with conventional high vacuum EB welding
- High process tolerance with standoff distances of 50 - 500 mm
- Robust system with high reliability
60 kV Machines

Commonly used for the manufacture of small components including battery cans, medical components, aneroid capsules, latches, bellows, relays and electronic parts including transducers.

The low heat input means that sensitive internal electronics packages may be sealed in the device without harm.

Applications in the automotive industry include airbag inflators, gearbox components, transmission parts and turbocharger shaft wheel assemblies.

Examples of fast cycle machines for automotive applications include:

- Turbocharger welder (TW) includes a 2 station rotary indexing table for high productivity and can be configured for both passenger car and commercial vehicle turbos.

The New Generation (NG) for passenger vehicle turbos has an even shorter takt time.

For EB welding a family of gearbox components for off-road vehicles the machine includes the heavy-duty electron beam column and a range of tooling inserts for rapid change over between parts.

Electron beam columns

The standard 60 kV beam column is designed for beam powers up to 6 kW and a heavy-duty column for beam powers up to 15 kW. A range of directly heated tungsten filaments are provided depending on the power, weld profile and duty cycle.

Standard features

- Turbomolecular pumping system
- Isolation valve maintains vacuum
- Down beam illumination
- Viewing prism (pneumatically operated)
- Beam focus and deflection system (static and dynamic deflection in X & Y ±3°)
- Low cost tungsten filament that is quick and easy to change
- Cathode replacement does not affect mechanical alignment of the column
- Filament jig ensures accurate and repeatable filament change in less than 10 minutes

Higher productivity is achieved using rapid beam deflection to “split” the beam to reduce the welding time and reduce distortion of the welded gear.

A comprehensive range of manipulators, tooling and fixtures is available including:

- XY tables
- Rotary Manipulator
- Rotary Tilt
- Carousel Tooling
- Indexing Unit

Switch mode power supplies

- Oil free high voltage system
- Standard powers for 4, 6, 8, 12 & 15 kW

Control options

PLC/CNC/PC based control systems are fully integrated with either rack mounted touch screen or keyboard based Human Machine Interface (HMI).

Viewing system

CCTV & conventional optical systems can be provided with a splitter box that enables both to be used but not simultaneously.

Note: These dimensions are approximate and intended for guidance. Other chamber sizes are available on request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Chamber Sizes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenth “X”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width “Y”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height “Z”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The major components are described below and can be used to configure the desired system specification.
150 kV Machines

150 kV machines are used extensively in the aero engine, aerospace and power generation industries. With 150 kV systems it is possible to weld at distances up to 1.5 m.

At the heart of the 150 kV machine is the electron beam column.

Features include

- Up to 30 kW beam power at 150 kV
- Twin turbomolecular pumping system
- Long filament life, easy and quick to change

Work piece manipulation

CVE has a comprehensive range of standard and bespoke systems to manipulate the piece part under the electron beam including:

- XY tables
- Run out platforms
- Rotary manipulators with or without a tailstock
- Rotary tilt, 0-90° or 0-180° manual or motorised
- Multi-station carousel
- Custom designed tooling

Control system

Typical desk mounted PC based control system with conventional keyboard and mouse

- Colour monitors for PC and CCTV (conventional optics are optional)
- CNC controls
- QA data logging and printer/plotter options
- Ethernet connection enables network connection and remote diagnostics

Power supplies

- Switch mode IGBT technology operating at 20 kHz frequency
- High stability output with low ripple
- Low stored energy with automatic shutdown in the event of over voltage
- Powers up to 30 kW with 6 kW, 8 kW, 15 kW as standard

Pumping systems

Sized to suit the size of the chamber, operating vacuum level and performance required. The picture above shows the mechanical and Roots type pump within an acoustic enclosure and a conventional diffusion pumped chamber. Alternative pumping systems are available on request.

### Standard Chamber Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber Size</th>
<th>Length “X”</th>
<th>Width “Y”</th>
<th>Height “Z”</th>
<th>XY Table Size</th>
<th>XY Table Stroke</th>
<th>Maximum Weight including Manipulator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55”</td>
<td>39”</td>
<td>43”</td>
<td>26” x 19”</td>
<td>24” x 19”</td>
<td>1100 lb</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1400 mm</td>
<td>1000 mm</td>
<td>1100 mm</td>
<td>660 x 475 mm</td>
<td>610 x 480 mm</td>
<td>500 kg</td>
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<td>79”</td>
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<td>4400 lb</td>
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<td>2000 mm</td>
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<td>2000 mm</td>
<td>900 x 900 mm</td>
<td>1000 x 1000 mm</td>
<td>2000 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>236”</td>
<td>83”</td>
<td>94”</td>
<td>118” x 46”</td>
<td>110” x 28”</td>
<td>6600 lb</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6000 mm</td>
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<td>3000 x 1180 mm</td>
<td>2800 x 700 mm</td>
<td>3000 kg</td>
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<td>118”</td>
<td>102” x 47”</td>
<td>47” x 39”</td>
<td>8360 lb</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4000 mm</td>
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<td>3000 mm</td>
<td>2800 x 700 mm</td>
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<td>2600 x 1200 mm</td>
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<td>2200 x 1000 mm</td>
<td>2200 x 1000 mm</td>
<td>4000 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>118”</td>
<td>3600 x 1200 mm</td>
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Complete 150 kV system configured with beam column, power supply, work piece manipulation and control system. The customer at Cambridge witnesses assembly and testing before delivery and installation on the customer’s site.