



SPAL
AUTOMOTIVE



CASE STUDY

SPAL's stock is high
with Stocks Ag

Stocks Ag, the UK's leading manufacturer of applicators and seeders, has always used SPAL on its equipment, and is harnessing the attributes of our advanced technology brushless centrifugal blowers in the development of a new applicator to be unveiled at agricultural showcase LAMMA in 2024.



We caught up with Tim Farrow, the very busy Technical Director at Stocks Ag, to find out more. Tim confirmed: *"We don't use any other electric blowers on our machines, and I don't see that changing; so, if you see a Stocks Ag machine out in the field it's definitely got a SPAL blower on it".*

SPAL on the Stocks Ag range

Stocks use a variety of SPAL fans in the manufacture of its applicators; Starting with a single blower in the Rotor Meter Air Force, where the smaller size of the unit allows optimum power-to-weight ratio, regardless of the number of outlets on the machine.

For its middle of the range applications, such as the Turbo Jet VS-2, SPAL's brushed double centrifugal blower being low noise and having a longer operational lifetime, it delivers excellent performance for this model.

Tim explains, *"As manufacturers we have found a new application for SPAL brushed blowers. We have tested and explored what their electrical blowers can do in our products, and employed a part which is predominantly used for cab air recirculation as an air source for a Granular Applicator/Seeder."*

Based on its track record and performance a twin brushed blower will also be used for a new control system for an applicator that has just come out of the development and testing phase.

On the heavy-duty Turbo Jet 8 & 10 i-CON, Stocks fits a brushless double blower unit. These blowers run at a slightly higher capacity with 2-stage soft start and self-diagnostic functions.

"As the Stocks Ag range has evolved, SPAL's smart controlled brushless blowers have been instrumental in creating the next generation of our machines. We have maximised SPAL's brushless technology, using its advanced design and capabilities to develop our new applicator, which enables us to exploit a new market," Tim says.

Reliability is worth the extra cost

He continues: *"We've used SPAL from the very beginning and having seen first-hand some of the issues experienced by our competitors, we believe that the slightly higher cost is worth it for the guaranteed performance and reliability."*

Globally, Stocks has gained a reputation for strength and durability, and no doubt this is due to the robustness and reliability of its construction and components – including the range of SPAL parts.

SPAL - Flexible to requirements

One of the other attractions of a SPAL blower to Stocks is its flexibility in meeting requirements. This matters because the manufacturer doesn't supply stand-alone machines, rather those that are fitted to other agricultural vehicles, such as tractors with other attachments such as a cultivator, harrow or seed drill. If that equipment has a hydraulic fan and a different fan is



Stocks Ag is also the UK's largest manufacturer of specialist and bespoke wheels for agricultural and horticultural machinery. Unique to Stocks is the Dual and Heavy-Duty Flange Rowcrops.

introduced, that creates complexity. However, by contrast a SPAL electric blower simplifies the fitting of Stocks kit to other machines, keeping their customers happy.

SPAL Customer Service

Keeping customers happy is a key aim for SPAL too, and Tim Farrow is quick to acknowledge the value of the agricultural background of his contact at SPAL Automotive UK, National Sales Manager, James Bowett. ***“James understands the market and the mindset of Stocks Ag’s customers,”*** he says. Tim also pointed out that the complete reliability of SPAL products means he has never had to test the SPAL warranty process!



About Stocks Ag

Stocks Ag is a British engineering company founded over 40 years ago by agricultural engineer, farmer and inventor, Richard Stocks, who built a simple but effective broadcast applicator and set up production in his farm workshop in Cambridgeshire. The company is dedicated to the manufacture and supply of granular applicators and seeders, and specialises in the production of wheels and tyres for the agricultural, horticultural, forestry and amenity sectors.

In 2020, James Woolway owner of agricultural distributor Opico limited was keen to establish a manufacturing base in the UK and acquired Stocks Ag. The investment expanded the customer base, established an R & D facility and the Stocks Ag range now extends from a simple, gravity-fed, Fan Jet to a precisely metered range of pneumatic applicators that are suitable for accurately spreading small seeds and granules.

Alongside supplying a healthy UK market in the agricultural and horticultural sectors, Stocks Ag supplies seeders and applicators to several national and international OEMs, and has export customers around the globe, including in New Zealand, Africa and Japan.

Tim concludes: ***“Over the last three years, James Woolway’s drive and vision has helped the business evolve into this new version of Stocks Ag and made way for investment in laser cutters and robot welding to enable us to produce a new generation of agricultural machines. We are excited to work alongside SPAL for the next phase of our development.”***



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For quality, reliability and outstanding performance,
always fit genuine SPAL parts.



sales@spalautomotive.co.uk

www.spalautomotive.co.uk

tel: +44 01905 613 714