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we opened the doors, while waiting for demand that equated to constant utilization would have resulted in turning away too many customers. It's not a precise science but we're confident the timing is right to make this commitment to the local marketplace, buoyed by favorable conditions in the heavy-lift sector, in particular.”

Hutin is well equipped to make that

assessment having overseen the installation of equipment at other depots—RSS has locations in Heathrow, London; Aylesford, Kent; Rotherham, Yorkshire; Grangemouth, Scotland; and Bridgend, Wales, the company's de facto headquarters—that have taken similar journeys. There are 120t test beds in Pyle and Grangemouth, while Rotherham and Aylesford each have

60t units, which cover most of the company's tensile testing requirements on chains and wire rope, for example.

The new tensile test machine will enable RSS to conduct proof load, destruction, and long life cyclic testing of samples. Utilizing a modular construction the machine can be made to any length required and, importantly, can be extended at a later date if required. A rolling carriage is included to give the advantage of multiple test lengths along the entire machine length. The 100t 'Samson' test rig, meanwhile, is a compact, vertical machine, manufactured specifically with lifting equipment service and supply companies in mind.

Until now, the company's splicing capability is limited to the Pyle site, where a 1,000t Sahm Splice hydraulic press produces 55t capacity, 64mm diameter slings, while 35t capacity, 52mm diameter slings are made by a smaller Talurit unit. However, Hutin said expansion of the fleet is inevitable—at Warrington and other facilities in due course.

He concluded: “Business [in Warrington] is progressing in line with our expectations; it can take up to two years to get a new depot fully up to speed so to commit to a major installation of testing

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The new 60t capacity fixed, horizontal test bed from AJT Equipment Ltd.