

INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS UK

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AN EPITOME FOR EXPERTS IN THE MEDICO-LEGAL INDUSTRY

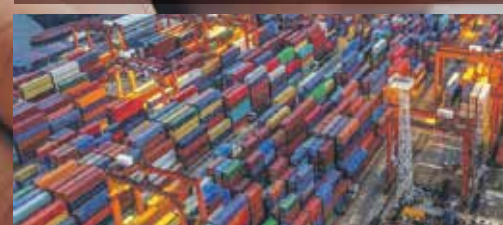
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OBE MD

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**Manosun set to launch
eco-friendly glove range**
**Hand Protection Company of
Choice 2023**

See them on page IV in **BUILDING UPDATE**

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Including BUILDING UPDATE

Featuring a wide variety of companies from across the UK and Europe, from Builders to Landscaping.

Editors Comments

Hello & Welcome to Issue 662 of Industrial Solutions UK!

The team at Industrial Solutions UK has been working extremely hard to bring you an issue that is full of innovative and exhilarating companies and we are very excited to share their success and achievements with you.

We have searched the length and breadth of the UK to bring you some of the most groundbreaking innovations and this month, we are overjoyed to be highlighting the activities of Peyton Medico Legal and Service Sealing Solutions.

Firstly, we would like to focus on the accomplishments Peyton Medico Legal who this month features on our front cover!

Secondly, we are featuring Service Sealing Solutions with the 'Sealing Solutions' profile following their impressive performance over the years. For more information, turn to page 6.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Industrial Solutions as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you. Happy reading and we hope to see you for the next edition!

Ian Hayward, Editor
INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS UK

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Deep Hole Drilling

Leading the way in deep hole drilling

Originally founded to provide deep hole drilling machines, accessories and related services to the US market, UNISIG is one of the largest producers of deep hole drilling machines, and an industry leader in technology, innovation, support, and service. From small job shops looking to expand their capabilities, to large OEM's that need to drill millions of holes, UNISIG has the capabilities and the strong understanding of the deep hole drilling process, drilling tools and their applications, to accommodate any specific requirement.

Since its establishment, UNISIG has built up a trusted reputation amongst its broad range of customers. As the leading producer of gun drilling and deep hole drilling machines, customers of UNISIG rely on its deep hole drilling technologies for the powerful, intuitive capabilities they offer.

Serving industries such as aerospace, energy, firearms, hydraulic cylinders, medical, military and defense, molds, oil and gas, and automotive, UNISIG has a strong presence all over the world with installations in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

By offering a complete deep hole drilling solution that includes machines, tools and automation, customers will receive the upmost, highest quality service from engineers that hold extensive experience and expertise on deep



hole drilling machines. Throughout the years, UNISIG's impressive drilling capabilities have propelled the company to the forefront of the industry offering a service that goes completely unrivalled amongst competitors. Setting the standards of the industry high when it comes its technological advancements, UNISIG doesn't just manufacturer deep hole drilling machines, it can also develop machines for other deep hole processes such as BTA, gun drilling, counterboring/reaming, pull boring,



trepanning, skiving and roller burnishing, bottle boring, bottom forming and many more.

Pushing the limits of BTA drilling, with on and off-centre capabilities that offer intuitive operation, UNISIG manufactures high power BTA drilling machines and trepanning that enable BTA drilling of 25mm to 500mm up to 20m deep.

The B-Series machines handle an impressive range of on-centre BTA drilling and are the ideal solution for a



majority of BTA range diameter deep hole drilling applications. This series uses BTA and related tools to produce centreline holes on parts up to 20m deep and are supported with training from UNISIG throughout the process.

The larger swing B-Series machines have



virtually limitless capabilities, giving manufacturers the most in power and dimension requirements. As part of the deep hole drilling system, this range combines rigid deep hole drilling with durable components and powerful drives with smart controls, allowing manufacturers to get the most out of their deep hole drilling investment.

It is evident that UNISIG is at the top of its game, manufacturing some of the highest-quality machines in the deep hole drilling industry. With its team of dedicated experts all pulling together, the company is really showing how anything is possible when you work together to solve problems, not create them.

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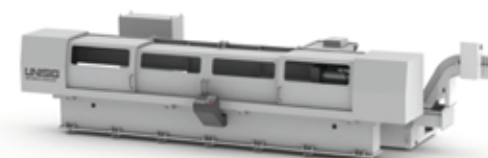
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How has global conflict affected freight?

2022 has seen the world sadly troubled by global conflict. The war in Ukraine has had shocking scenes with lives lost and buildings destroyed. It has had a massive impact on the world, and has also had a detrimental impact on the movement of freight.

It hasn't been the best year for freight regardless. Although recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic with restrictions all over the globe, whether it be warehouses with staff isolated to entire port closures in which vessels



could not call it has all made it more challenging to be able to import and export goods. The cost of living crisis is massively affecting the supply chain, consumers not being able to afford to buy goods, which means suppliers then cannot afford to import & export as many goods as they usually would. Port strikes in the UK at Seaforth and Felixstowe has led to port congestion at various ports around the country, making it that little bit more difficult to move goods efficiently. Finally, with the full effect of Brexit now kicking in, it is now a more

time-consuming process to import & export with the European Union.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had various impacts on various different industries, freight & logistics being one of them. The port of Odesa was shut down for almost 6 months after the city was hit with Russian missiles. Ukraine is a big part of the global food industry, exporting grain via sea out of Odesa. With this coming to a temporary halt, global food prices shot up with the limitation of grain available to make food. Other methods of transport have been used, but the difficulty of travelling through a war torn country, as well as then having to take a longer route to the final destination, is coming at a cost to the consumer.

Metal Improvements

A major development in the war was the battle of Antonov Airport, which led to the sheer destruction of the world's largest cargo plane – the Antonov AN-225 Mirya. This was a significant event in the war and which has caused major consequences in shipping out-



of-gauge and heavy cargo. The aircraft's last mission was shipping 90 tons of COVID-19 testing kits from Tianjin, China, and delivering in Billund, Denmark. It shows the big humanitarian impact the plane had on the world. The plane was set to be evacuated on the day that Russia invaded the airport; it was seen as a key target by Russia. Several other aircraft that were part of the Antonov family were destroyed by Russia in what seems like was a purposeful attack. Russia is clearly trying to hurt Ukraine's air cargo sector, which in turn will hurt consumers all over the world.

The lack of gas and oil in the industry is solely responsible for by this war. Russia is one of the main suppliers of gas and oil to the rest of the world, most countries of the world are mercifully standing with Ukraine and looking to aid Ukraine in some way to help limit the damage



the country is taking, physically and economically. This has led to Russia not supplying gas and oil to Europe and instead sending it to India and China. European haulage is effected by this hugely. Rising fuel costs due to the lack of gas and oil have been passed onto importers, as this is impossible for hauliers to absorb the charges themselves. With some hauliers charging up to 35% extra in fuel surcharges, the cost-efficiency of transport isn't what it used to be. A solution needs to be found and it needs to be found sooner rather than later if transportation costs have any chance of reducing to a more reasonable cost for manufacturers to be able to confidently move freight worldwide.

Europe, along with many parts of the world, are cracking down on Russia, to the benefit of Ukraine, and morally it is more than the right thing to do. The industry is trying once again to flourish after it has survived several hurdles the past few years, many other industries haven't been able to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, but with freight struggling through it and now slowly picking back up, the question we really have to ask is – will the world ever be normal again?

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Service Sealing Solutions Ltd provide a number of different sealing solutions across the UK to both the public and private sectors. As the sole UK distributor for the sealing industry's top manufacturers; DOYMA, FRANK and HKD, Service Sealing Solutions Ltd offers the UK the most extensive range of products that are German manufactured and far outweigh that of any competitor.

Service Sealing Solutions Ltd specialises in high-quality service duct sealing systems for utility services and watertight seals. The company's ever growing market range can benefit from its broad scope of innovative sealing solutions alongside receiving the highest level of expertise.

In 2018, DOYMA granted Service Sealing Solutions Ltd the exclusive rights to distribute their products in the UK. DOYMA stands on the front line when it comes to the development of innovative, practical solutions for sealing



and fire systems. Providing the very best in German engineering, DOYMA is used to seal penetration points in walls and floors to permanently prevent any infiltration of gases and water into the building. All DOYMA products are designed to solve all watertight duct sealing requirements, prevent against structural damage and incorporate rubber mouldings that ensure all gas and watertight features.

Demanding building types, such as power plants, large industrial plants, reservoirs or airports, often require highly specialised custom-made constructions. They place high demands on the fact that building penetrations such as cables and pipe work need to be permanently sealed. In the case of extraordinary pipe dimensions or special thermal, chemical or physical requirements, sealing systems in the form of a special construction are the required solution.

DOYMA have the expertise and an experience of over 50 years to develop and produce the best solution for any building or project, using state-of-the-art design and manufacturing methods as well as professional simulation methods to ensure safety when using DOYMA special constructions.

Suitable mostly for builders of commercial properties, Service Sealing Solutions Ltd has a large range of DOYMA products that come with a 25-year warranty. DOYMA product brochures are available on the website and include products that have been supplied to some of the UK's largest projects such as HS2

and Kings Cross in London. DOYMA has recently released its new generation Curaflex Nova® gaskets which are the perfect solution for any professional tradesman instantly looking to solve sealing problems and can be adapted to multiple applications.

As a UK distributor for FRANK puddle flanges, Service Sealing Solutions Ltd provide assured watertight sealing of pipes through concrete walls, foundation plates and manholes. The FRANK puddle flange is an extremely flexible product and comes in a range of versions. Made from EPDM, the puddle flanges act as a barrier which are also chemically resistant to a wide range of acids and bases. Depending on the diameter, they are proven to be tight and to hold pressures between 8 to 10 bars. FRANK puddles flanges also offer exceptional



resistance to ozone and weathering conditions, and can be installed during construction resulting in a perfect cost-effective alternative to conventional sealing systems.

Lastly, Service Sealing Solutions also supplies HKD products, which are now owned by DOYMA. HKD manufacture a large range of pipe sealing systems and service conduits that are guaranteed to withstand up to four bars pressure. HKD systems have a sealing solution for service conduits cast into concrete without the sleeves. They are supplied and ready to use, requiring no site preparation work prior to installation. With options such as KE Socketless service conduits, KG Wall Ducts and Floor Ducts, together with KG Twin Sockets for installation in pump sumps, HKD products are ideal for situations where suitability for thin-walled concrete structures is vital.

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Service Sealing Solutions Ltd



Service Sealing Solutions are the sole UK distributor for pioneering the sealing industry's top manufacturers; DOYMA, FRANK and HKD.

Service Sealing Solutions are the sole UK distributor. Wherever services are installed through walls, ceilings or floors, penetrating water may cause damage to buildings. Lack of attention to the points of entry of pipes and cables into the building can have serious results: damp cellars, equipment damaged by water ingress and high repair costs.

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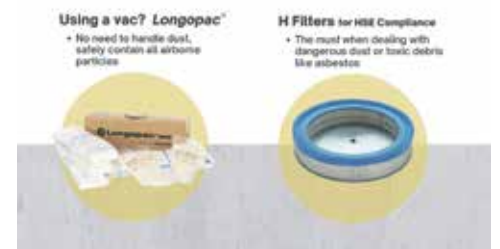
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Their offering includes design, manufacturing, installation and maintenance of conveyors and conveying systems.



The Challenge

At Okura Kogyo, the staff would manually load and unload workpieces (rollers) from the processors to trolley. The manual process needs to be done carefully to avoid damaging the workpiece. Like other manufacturers globally, the company is also facing labor shortages. As such, the company was looking for a way to optimize their current resources and to increase productivity and efficiency.

The Solution

Collaborative application is a clear choice for Okura Kogyo.

Combining OnRobot VGC10 gripper and Omron robot, the manual processes of loading and unloading workpieces are fully automated.

The VGC10 gripper has a customized fixture with 4 suction cups and is programmed to handle 2 rollers at a time to match the production cycle. With unlimited customization to fit various needs, the compact, lightweight VGC10 gripper is perfect for tight space and is able to lift small, odd-shaped, and heavy objects even with a smaller robot arm.

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Click the video on the case study page: <https://onrobot.com/en/increased-productivity-with-collaborative-application>

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to its constant commitment to quality, has maintained the company's position as a reputable leader in the industry.

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BUILDING UPDATE

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Southside Waterjet
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Delta Tower Cranes
see them on.....XII

CheckedSafe
see them on.....XIV

Sewage Treatment Systems

H.D. Services Ltd: Sewage Treatment and Water Boreholes

Founded in 1984, H.D. Services Ltd. aim to provide the highest quality percussion drilled boreholes, sewage treatment systems and Open-loop ground source heat pump installations in the Southeast. Feasibility of any project can generally be confirmed upon receipt of a site postcode.

We offer a one stop shop for self-builders, developers, contractors, consultants and architects, providing waste and drainage solutions, independent water supplies and renewable heating options – all specifically tailored to

meet individual needs and suited to the geology of the Southeast.

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We have been involved in the design, supply and installation of sewage treatment systems for over 30 years. We can either provide package solutions or we can design bespoke systems to meet individual client needs.

Projects undertaken throughout the southeast range from

small solutions for single households to larger scale solutions for estates, business parks, farms, schools, caravan sites, hotels and public houses.

We offer a support service for consent to discharge applications to the Environment Agency – a requirement when installing sewage treatment systems.

Ground Source Heat Pumps

We are award winning installers of Open-Loop GSHP

installations. These systems utilise ground water as a heat source. Groundwater is pumped from a water supply borehole directly to the heat pump where temperature is extracted.

For more information, please visit: www.hdservicesltd.co.uk



Restoration

Traditional brick production specialist



The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, based in Suffolk, is a family-run business established in 1936. With over 80 years' experience in the industry, the English company truly is a master of its craft.


The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company is renowned for its traditional handmade bricks which, fired in a down draught kiln, have a distinctive finish that blends well with the original London clays bricks. The beauty of the Suffolk company's bricks lies in their traditional production method. The bricks are made from clay dug from the same clay seam used since Tudor times. The wealth of experience amassed by the company coupled with their respect for the process is what separates The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company from the competition.

Having produced bricks for reputable clients such as the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, the company is able to lend its services to both private and commercial developments. Its facings and specials can be made with almost any texture; with 150 different sizes of facings and a range of over 5,000 special shapes, including all standard plinths, squints and copings and extends to purpose made chimney bricks, terracotta, mullions, jambs, floor bricks, pampments, decorative plaques, garden edgings and a full range of rubbing blocks.





Aside from offering a wide range of clay brick solutions, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company further offers a select number of additional materials. It is a stockist of Singleton Birch Natural Hydraulic Limes and Lime Putty, available in a range of strengths – NHL2, NHL3.5, and NHL5 – and sold in 25kg bags or 1 tonne bulk bags. Lime has proven to be the material of choice when laying the brick specialist's bricks, with its natural strength and tendency to give 'movement' in the construction process favourable.

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on the market, to produce products that are highly robust and technically better than that of any competition, and to accelerate its efforts towards keeping the maintenance of all products risk free and easy to install.

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Manosun set to launch eco-friendly glove range

In this issue of Building Update, we have chosen Manosun as our Company of Choice for January 2023.

Since the company was established in 2020, its mission has been to bring change to the end-user experience in selecting and buying industrial gloves, gauntlets and sleeves (PPE). As the designer and manufacturer of such an innovative range of quality industrial hand protection that is available for all industrial applications, Manosun is breaking the mould of traditional offerings with a core range of hand protection that are safe and the perfect fit for anyone that requires PPE.

"Manosun is a provider of Industrial Hand Protection (Gloves), and we work with all end-users including globally known brands such as Nissan, JDR Cables, and SUEZ. As part of our service, we also survey the work environment, advise on the correct level of hand protection needed or if needed, we can even develop a brand-new product to the exact requirements of the customer. Manosun have the ability to work on small MOQ's from our sponsor factory in China and the ability to develop new products for an ever-changing work environment offering products where 'not all solutions are off the shelf.' From ARC, Impact, FR, CUT and General handling applications, our products are the ideal solution for the building industry," stated Steven Patterson, Owner.

Of course, it's not just its versatile application that makes Manosun's products stand out. Their long-lasting durability is down to the high-quality materials that are used for all its products. Every product offers extra flexibility and dexterity that ensures minimal hand fatigue, and because of its 360° breathe technology, all products have the ability to keep hands cool while working.

Soon to launch in 2023 is the Manosun Basic Range. The



range is a fantastic response to the current climate delivering a highly sustainable and eco-friendly profile as all products are made of a more sustainable yarn using recycled materials such as industrial polyester, where 36% of the ingredient derives from plastic bottles. Steven commented, "This economic yet high-quality range of Eco products are targeted towards high volume users like the construction industry and smaller white van industry and tradesmen. The range will include several lightweight general handling styles with alternative Grip Palms, a heavyweight latex grip palm glove, and two mid-range cut gloves aimed to target almost all aspects of trades undertaken with construction First-Fix to Finish."

'Good Quality, Low Cost, Sustainable Material' is what Manosun is known for across all its products. Product samples of its Basic Range were sent to a range of customers within the building industry and feedback has been nothing but positive. "Production samples were received in November 2022 with sales stock arriving at



the end of January 2023. The feedback we have already received has been "GREAT!" and we look forward to some healthy growth with the Basic Range this year," added Steven.

Of course, competitors within the building industry do offer similar products but we asked Steven what makes the Basic Range unique, he answered, "My competitors do offer a similar range, however, because I work directly with the factory and they sponsor my business we have agreed to offer a premium, high performance product that is one of the lowest priced available on the market. The Basic Range offers Comfort, Longevity, and Value for Money and Aesthetics which I believe will dominate the current low-price competition."

So far, Manosun's products have been revolutionary across England and with the Basic Range, the hope is that it will increase Manosun's overall brand awareness to further places across the UK. "This has been a personal goal of mine for some time, seeing the glove would



make the story have meaning. It goes against all of my manufacturer's current business but they have supported me and this product range and the visuals of it. We have only just passed the two-year stage so are still very fresh. My experience spans for more than 16 years in hand protection and my drive is to simplify the development of more new products (product development at the factory). Traditionally this takes months and can be very expensive but the relationship and support from my factory partner allows Manosun to develop new products much quicker without an unachievable MOQ (minimum order quantity)," said Steven.

Another way to expand its brand presence is by taking part in trade shows. Currently Manosun is committed to the BSIF/HSM Publications Safety Expo in Scotland on the 16th November 2023, as well as some other local popup exhibitions supporting its two new member groups: The North East Automotive Alliance and the Advanced Manufacturing Forum.

Contact Steven Patterson,
T +44 (0)7468 904409
steven.patterson@manosun.co.uk
www.manosun.co.uk

Roofing

Waterproofing you can rely on

Carlisle CM Europe (CCM Europe) manufacture high quality EPDM waterproofing membranes for flat roofing, façade systems and building solutions for the construction industry.

CCM Europe is a dynamic company with ease of installation and durable roofing systems including EPDM & Liquid Waterproofing. As a leading manufacturer of waterproofing membranes and sealants, our market leading products are suited for a wide range of flat roof substrates for both new build and refurb.

The market leading advantages of Resitrix® is the unique combination of materials: the synthetic rubber EPDM and polymer-modified bitumen – making it a durable hybrid membrane. Our extremely flexible, single-layer waterproofing membrane can thus be applied on almost all substrates. The membranes are welded together quickly, easily and safely using a hot-air device without any need for naked flames," stated Shail Chauhan, Marketing Manager.

One particular product worth noting is the ARBOFLEX® PU, a single component liquid made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a seamless elastic membrane without any joints. The material properties of ARBOFLEX®



PU enable it to be air tight and waterproof on a range of substrates.

Alongside its high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface: uneven, curved or irregular, and with its fast-curing properties can be walked on in 24 hours. Comprised of one component that can be applied straight out of the tin, it allows for fast and easy installation, is green roof compatible and weather resistant, so it can be used all-year round.

CCM Europe is not only dedicated to offering state of the art EPDM flat roofing seal solutions, but to also extend its expertise and knowledge to other professionals through its dedicated EPDM and PU Liquid system roofing

training courses at the CARLISLE® ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, with a view that knowledge is sustainable material. The more you share it, the more you get back. The training content is intended to enable attendees to learn of the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions relating to roofs, façades and building in an up-close and hands-on manner. For more information, visit: <https://academy.ccm-europe.com/en>

Allowing for change creates space for continuous growth and a new perspective. We have recently strengthened our sales and distribution network covering the UK and the ROI market. We have also welcomed a few new members to our sales team, Charlie Patrick and Crawford McAllister. Charlie looks after our Eastern region and Crawford looks after the North and Scotland.

With ambitions to continue their impressive growth, CCM Europe plans to keep collating together more opportunities for further development. As a dynamic company that aims to support and motivate its people as much as possible, it is continuing to review and develop new products all the time.

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Forward

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883 Vandecasteele Houtimport specializes in the import, trading and export of Tropical Hardwood from Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, Scandinavian and North-American Softwood, North American and European Hardwood.

"Vandecasteele Houtimport is fully committed to certified timber," says Isabelle Polfliet, Compliance Manager at Vandecasteele, "We're living in challenging times. But, it's for times like these we exist."

With over 140 years of experience, we know there's only one way: forward.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport's DNA. The company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. Isabelle Polfliet, "As far as softwood is concerned, we are at 100%. The challenge, however, lies with the hardwood and especially the tropical hardwoods. Today we are at 80% certified!"

Vandecasteele Houtimport has a clear vision: only certified timber has a future. Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realize this future perspective.

"You cannot achieve this goal overnight. This is a long-

term job, in which all partners must be included. If we want to assure our customers that we keep our promise to only trade timber that comes from well-managed, certified forests, we need to be sure that all our trading partners share the same strictest certification and sustainability processes as we do."

This has resulted in several actions within the company. "First of all, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in order. Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with 2 forest engineers in Brazil.

"That way we can keep a finger on the pulse of every



shipment and we are able to accurately apply the ever-changing legislation in Brazil with great precision."

This sends an important signal to our suppliers. They know that doing business with Vandecasteele Houtimport means: complying with a procedure that is continuously refined and adapted. All timber transport requires our approval. When in doubt the timber is not accepted."

Masters in diversification

Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. The family business imports more than 130 different species of timber coming from 40 countries and has over 105,000 cubic meters in stock, mainly certified hard and softwoods.

"We support the LKTS program of FSC® Denmark with which we want to help promote the use of lesser known species. We keep these lesser-known species in stock and offer them as alternatives. Everybody is looking for alternatives for Siberian Larch since the ban on Russian imports.

We have over 15 timber species that we can offer as alternatives, such as FSC® Certified Niové, Movingui, Mukulungu, Tali, Padouk, Jutai, Angelim Amargosso, Red Louro, Sucupira Preta, Sucupira Vermelho, Jatoba, Mandioqueira, Cumaru, Basrolucus, Guariuba, Tatajuba, European Oak, Muiracatiara, Purpleheart and Louro Preto.

Timber is too often prescribed from a specific well-known species, but from the point of view of responsible forest management, we must dare to choose the right durability class for an application instead of a specific type of timber, says Geneviève Standaert, export manager at Vandecasteele Houtimport.

Preservation of the forest

In a well-managed forest, only mature trees are harvested, which amounts to one to three trees per hectare. After that, felling will not take place for at least 25 years. In this way, the forest is preserved for the future.

Rethink everything

We notice a positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour says Geneviève. Customers are increasingly asking questions about certification and the origin of the timber.

Buyers are becoming more and more aware of the need to use certified timber. "Importing tropical wood goes further than just asking for certified timber. There is a continuous evolution, because of new insights, new legislation, etc. We work together with external experts, we are broadening our internal knowledge and we continually make progress."

Making progress is an ongoing process. Considerable steps have already been taken with the arrival of the EU Timber Regulation, but we can and should do better. "We want to see and monitor a stronger application and support for certified timber. Vandecasteele communicates continuously with the users via the website and campaigns in order to spread that Message. This is necessary, because the purchase of FSC® certified wood contributes to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (or SDG's) of the United Nations'. Since the year 2000, Vandecasteele Houtimport has committed itself through the Corporate Durability Charter by signing up to environmental objectives exceeding the applicable legislation.

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The seriously multi-purpose GRP Roofing System

Established in 2012, Tuff Waterproofing Ltd is the UK's premium designer, manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty GRP waterproof flat roofing systems. TuffStuff® has a dedicated product development team that work closely with customers and its own UK based manufacturing facility to produce an evolving product range that is suitable for multiple flat roof applications.

From its base in Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, TuffStuff® is the UK's premier GRP flat roofing system and supplies its products through a dedicated stockist network throughout the country.

The advanced TuffStuff® formula uses the latest liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible trims, to create a fully integrated waterproof, seamless attractive finish with a 25-year guarantee on materials.

Tuff Waterproofing has further expanded its TuffStuff® product range and is now offering its latest GRP roofing innovation; TuffStuff® flexible GRP. This is a single resin solution that provides an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. It is extremely quick to lay and does not require stripping or re-decking of the roof, saving customers both



time and money. It can be applied to a variety of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

Managing Director, Greg Gimenez commented, "Standard GRP is rigid when it is cured, and it is specifically designed for flat roofs. However it can only be applied to OSB3 (Timber), and while this has been very successful, contractors have been looking for overlay systems which can go over other substrates." TuffStuff Flexible GRP can go onto many substrates including felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber and metal.

While other companies have standard GRP, TuffStuff® knows that this flexible GRP provides



an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. TuffStuff® flexible GRP has become a very important product already, for a number of reasons. It is a one-pot system, whereas standard GRP comes with a base coat as well as a top coat, and this saves a contractor plenty of time and, comes with a 20 year product guarantee on the full system.

However, the major advantage is that while it is curing, it is actually showerproof, and Greg commented, "If contractors experience a rogue shower while installing, they may have to go off-site, but upon returning they can carry on knowing that their work is not ruined (showerproof whilst curing), as it would be with standard GRP. This aspect of our product will really excite contractors that work with GRP regularly." This plus the fact that it is crack resistant, with no weak points has meant that facility



companies have also begun using the flexible GRP for patch repairs too.

TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane – an ideal solution for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic.

Tuff Waterproofing Ltd will be exhibiting at the UK Construction Week in October in Birmingham, during which clients can find out more about this amazing new product.

For more information, please see below:
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www.tuffstuff.co.uk



SCAN ME



FLEXIBLE GRP

Providing an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. Quick to lay, with no need to strip or re-deck a roof, this fast-curing system saves time and money.

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TUFF STUFF FLEXIBLE GRP



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Quality, bespoke joinery since 1991

Joinery experts, Bluerun Ltd, was originally established by the current Managing Director, John Jones, and Peter Clayden back in 1991. Peter Clayden resigned a few years later and the company is now owned by John's family – his wife Doreen, son Jeremy, and daughter Dee Newman, and Dee took over the reins in December 2019, when John semi-retired.

Based in Wimbish, near Saffron Walden in Essex, Bluerun manufactures quality, bespoke joinery items, and everything is made to order, nothing is 'off the shelf.' Dee commented, "We manufacture items for the commercial market from door and window packers,



to shopfronts, reception desks, mainframes, pub doors, and years ago we even made a trebuchet for Stansted Mountfitchet castle!"

In the 7,000 sq. ft. factory, Bluerun can produce work using both hard or softwoods, and veneered and painted panels. It has a modern spray paint and lacquer facility, enabling products to leave the factory in a fully finished state.

For domestic clients, Bluerun manufactures everything from windowboards to windows, thresholds to doors, shelving, wardrobes, bi-fold doors, French doors,

staircases, indeed most things in a property that are made of timber. It has even made a child's Wendy house and a mansion for cats!

Bluerun will take on projects of almost any size, Dee continued, "The only size limit is whether a finished item can be removed through our workshop doors! Staircases for example, would be made in a kit format, for ease of delivery and installation. We use couriers for deliveries, and they have access to all sizes of vans and lorries." The only thing that is sometimes out of range are installations due to a small workforce, but Dee keeps a list of recommended installers for anything, which is manufactured.



Bluerun Limited

quality bespoke joinery since 1991

QUALITY, CUSTOM MADE JOINERY



In a crowded marketplace, Bluerun works very hard to be at the forefront of the industry. It is a supplier to Dovista for items such as packers and mainframes, and the company corporate branding is on its vans, emails, and social media presence, along with promotional items, and this has helped recognition and growth of the company in recent years.



Dee remarked, "We are still working old school, and everything is designed using pencil and paper with a dash of imagination. We don't use CAD or CNC, and most items are completed using hand tools for the finishing touches. A lot of love and care is included within our work, and this has really helped our customer base to grow."

So whether you are looking for a one-off custom made gate, a staircase, or a production run of doors and windows for a new housing development, or a new interior for your pub, restaurant or office, Bluerun can deliver exactly what you are looking for.

For more information, please see below:
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The power of thoughtful design

Southside Waterjet is a fabrication company that delivers a bespoke design and manufacturing service like no other. Combining new perspectives with innovative design, Southside Waterjet is at the leading edge of material CAD technology, offering unparalleled precision with endless creative possibilities.

Lending its services to decisive and visionary clients who are ready to cut through in their industry, Southside Waterjet provides all the technical support and technical solutions to ensure your project is effortlessly completed to perfection.

Founded in 2012 by Peter Noyce and Scott Faulks, Southside Waterjet is a family friend run fabrication company located on the South side of the river Thames in London. Delivering exceptional design and meticulous attention to detail, Southside Waterjet has built a reputation of being industry leaders based on its quality, reliability and fresh approach. Boasted as the number one choice for architects, interior designers, contractors, and customers across the UK, the company is made up of a small team of professionals who have decades of experiences in custom fabrication techniques ensuring quality is never compromised.



Its services are available to customers for residential projects, so whether you're looking for an island that will take centre stage in your kitchen, or to add that certain wow factor to your living room, each requirement can be specifically met to every customer's wishes. No matter what your design, Southside Waterjet will get on board to make that dream a reality. Looking for inspiration? Just some of the company's recent projects have included customised flooring and wall coverings, luxurious workshops and splash backs, bathrooms, wet rooms and vanities, bespoke furniture and artwork, outdoor kitchens and much more.

Furthermore, the company has successfully won contracts with large numbers of contractors, architects, designers, and stone and tile distributors for a number of different commercial projects. "We can provide commercial cutting for tile and stone distributors and contractors, as well as fabricating material to their exacting requirements creating architectural solutions, bespoke and customised wall, floor and staircase designs, furniture trends and even swimming pool solutions. We also have the capabilities to produce branding for our commercial customers in the form of signage, fit-out solutions for retail, leisure and hospitality sectors," said Peter.

Changing a concept into reality is what Southside Waterjet do. No matter what the requirements may be, the company will experiment with new ways to inspire and deliver that 'wow' moment. Each member of the team is expertly trained in CAD-3D rendered and technical drawings which enables a clear visualisation of your project, allowing you, the customer to make as many changes as needed. The company also utilises the use of digital templating, which is the most accurate, reliable and efficient templating solution when it comes to measuring and fabricating stair coverings, as well as allowing for a complete finalised template of kitchen worktops and splashbacks. In order to eliminate any uncertainty before installation, measurements are reviewed, changed on-site and exported as ready to use production files for the CNC waterjet machines. Also by using digital slab creation, everything is possible as it allows the team to transform an ordinary picture of a slab in the correct and realistic representation. This is particularly useful when the intention to use the slab for a vein or book matching in creating waterfall worktops continues down the sides of cabinetry or as a feature wall covering.

The company's fabrication service enables its highly skilled team to seamlessly transform any idea into a one-

of-a-kind project. At the leading edge of CAD technology, precision CNC waterjet cutting enables the craft of raw materials into high-quality design solutions with unparalleled precision and endless creative possibilities. To support this, edge profiling is all about adding visual detail to your project. Southside Waterjet can design three edge profiles; Mitred, Bevelled, and Semi Bull Nose. Some examples of how edge profiling can be applied by the company include:

■ **KITCHENS:** Whether you have opted for a contemporary or traditional kitchen the edging profile of your worktop should complement the finished outcome.

■ **SWIMMING POOLS:** Anti-slip grooves and finger grips can be cut into tiles surrounding swimming pools, with pool side grating fabricated from the same material to seamlessly carry away standing water from the pool's edge.

■ **STEP TREADS AND STAIRCASES:** In high traffic areas of commercial and retail environments anti-slip features can be added to stair treads or for a higher end look finished with metal inserts in a metal of your choice.

Surface profiling can also be useful when it comes to abrasive blasting as it is used to smooth a rough surface

or roughen a smooth surface. Abrasive blasting is commonly used by the in-house team to create decorative embossing and as a lasting branding solution. Or for an alternative finish, with stone now being the most popular choice for worktops and flooring, Stone Polishing can be applied, and because of its durability and longevity the polished finish is inherently high-end and is often referred to as the height of luxury.

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High quality, high capacity mowing systems

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to announce that we have selected L S Products BV as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its dedication and innovative design of the best mowing systems for the maintenance of large area turfgrass.

As a response to the increasing market demand for an upgrade to the 15-year-old electrically driven rotary mowers, the company started working on a newer, more improved version. Combining his years of experience and expertise, Syb Leijenaar – L S Products BV owner and Eco Clipper® inventor developed a new line of electric mowers that graced the market in 2018, and this was when the Eco Clipper® was born.



Built from experience, the Eco Clipper® Mowing System has evolved from the mowing system that was originally developed in the nineties on the turfgrass farm of the Leijenaar family in the Netherlands. Since the first electric mower product launch in 2002 to the latest Eco Clipper®

range, L S Products BV has developed an extensive portfolio of machinery and equipment that has grown rapidly and been revolutionary to the turfgrass industry.

"Eco Clipper® is a range of large area mowers with a high productivity that help field managers to minimise their mowing costs, while producing a professional cut. Our mowers are electrically driven and use a special mowing deck design with small mowing blades. The mowing decks have good contour following capabilities and disperse clippings well, even in wet grass. This means we have a few important advantages over other mowers. These include delivering the highest mowing speed possible thus producing a higher productivity, they are quieter and

more fuel efficient because of the small blades and electric drive, and they are more versatile to schedule because they can deal with wet grass and any other adverse weather conditions," said Syb.

The Eco Clipper® Mowing System offers many advantages over traditional cylinder and rotary mowers. Because it consists of an independently suspended 106cm wide deck section, it is cleverly linked together in larger, flexible contour following mowing decks. The entire design and development of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System delivers a clean cut, even clippings dispersion and excellent following of the ground contours with minimal soil compaction.

The system also caters for bespoke requirements so customers can attach the decks to different frames, whether it be Carried or Towed. Offering three options, the Front Mower consists of a single deck with 2-6 sections, a Towed Mower consists of three separate decks of 10-14 sections wide, and a Carried Rear Mower is combined with a Front Mower and consists of 10-14 sections wide.

We asked Syb if he were to describe the company in three words what would he choose and why, and he answered, "Innovative, we believe that it is always possible to improve. Secondly, our serving. What we offer our customers is ultimately a solution to the problems they are facing. Our products are designed to help our customers to do their job better. And thirdly, we are agile. Every member of our team has the ability to act fast and adapt to the ever-changing industry. We are also quick to react to any problems our customers may be facing and work hard to do what needs to be done to help them."

One particular product to note is the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport for sporting grounds.

Similar to the entire Eco Clipper® Mowing Range, the goal with the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport was to maintain the cutting performance of a properly tuned cylinder mower, but without the high maintenance required for mowing conditions such as wet grass and weeds.

The smooth cutting decks with fast rotating small blades ensure a high quality of cut and a good distribution of the clippings. The clippings are also well spread in wet grass, which makes it possible to schedule the mower almost independently to all weather conditions.

Due to the electrically driven blades, the mower is very economical and quiet. The large wheels and clever deck linking system ensure good contour following and enable high mowing speeds.

Municipalities, sports field and park managers have taken delight in the advantages that the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport brings. The EC-FM4 Sport is a 4.11m wide mower that has four independent cutting decks. The forward position provides excellent visibility and comfort for the tractor operator.

Previous users have reported high productivity gains, a factor two compared to 5-gang self-propelled cylinder mowers, and showed a large appreciation to the low maintenance and the mowers ability to schedule the mowing even under less favourable mowing conditions such as early morning dew and wet autumns.

"We started our focus on increasing mowing productivity in turfgrass production. With a few adjustments, this mowing system has proven to be a major step forward in reducing mowing costs on sports fields and large recreational grass areas. Some users have cut their mowing costs by more than half since using it!" stated Syb.

Going forward, L S Products BV is looking to continue its successful start in the sports field market in the Netherlands and is keen to now debut this line of products here in the UK to British sports field managers so they can also enjoy the benefits of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System.

With the development of a robotic mower for turfgrass production in the pipeline, L S Products BV has a busy yet exciting few years ahead. In closing, we asked Syb what a commitment to excellence means to the company, "We feel we achieve excellence because we are completely committed to offering the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass which is of course, achieved by our Eco Clipper® Mowing System."

For more information, please see below:
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Make your project possible

DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers leading health and safety consultancy and construction statute advice services. The company prioritises and specialises in the highest levels of informed and intelligent advice, senior project resource allocation and compliance assurance. Informed by industry expertise, DCON Safety Consultants Limited knows that every project has potential risks, no matter what its potential benefits, so its team of highly



experienced construction professionals helps to ensure clients' statutory conformity.

Upon gaining understanding of the specific needs, goals and desires of each client and their project, DCON Safety Consultants Limited is dedicated to implementing a design and construction management plan that will meet or exceed these requirements. And, DCON Safety Consultants Limited ensures that there is honesty, integrity, trust and professionalism underpinning every project.



Moreover, the company's services are centred on three delivery principles:

- **Maximising Quality:** The company implements proven health, safety and wellbeing strategies to help clients achieve high quality and cost-effective work commensurate with the design of their projects.
- **Minimising Risk:** The company effectively manages design and delivery risk on projects to match each client's desired risk level profile.
- **Managing Compliance:** The company relies on its extensive background working on a wide variety of projects to assist clients in developing, monitoring and maintaining compliance performance.

This excellent service would not be possible without the leadership of Diarmuid Condon, a construction industry leader who brings unique perspectives to encourage, support and mentor the abilities of his colleagues. As a construction professional with a surveying background and experience spanning two decades, Diarmuid is emblematic of DCON Safety Consultants Limited's commitment to providing outstanding services to clients.

Diarmuid has contributed his invaluable expertise to over 400 projects over 20 years, with a client list including public sector departments, corporate owners, real estate developers, main contractors, design professionals and infrastructural bodies. With this incredible portfolio, Diarmuid is helping DCON Safety Consultants Limited to become a leader in health and safety consultancy across the construction industry.

Key to DCON Safety Consultants Limited's services is working as a Project Supervisor for the Design Process and CDM Advisor in various sectors across the Irish construction market. No project is too

simple or too complex for the company's construction safety consultants, all of whom are construction professionals with an average of 20 years' experience in the built environment. The ability to maximise this knowledge and skillset means DCON Safety Consultants Limited can generate distinctive and innovative ideas from traditional PSDP service inputs and outputs.

Additionally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers planning compliance assurance services. The ability to strategically support a positive planning decision is exclusive to the company. Its Draft Construction Management Plans (DCMP) inform the overall planning, coordination and control of a project from the beginning of construction to completion. The DCMP also safeguards the obligation placed upon a client to produce a safe, functional and financially viable project.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited also provides its main contractor clients with intelligent, practical, and reasonable physical site safety advice to support compliance and good practice adherence. Behavioural safety outcomes inform how the company approaches each solution with the contractor and their supply chain, identifying opportunities for improvement.



To complement this, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can also help with clients' health and safety strategy. Its holistic and integrated approach can help unlock substantial benefits for clients by providing a structured, objective and SMART framework for full optimisation through the creation of an environment that embraces health, safety and wellbeing.

This means DCON Safety Consultants Limited helps clients to improve their health, safety and environmental performance; enhance staff satisfaction thanks to improved performance; improve risk management and corporate governance with a clear audit trail; gain confidence from long-term planning, better sustainability and performance; and improve overall corporate reputation,



including greater staff satisfaction and a more efficient procurement and supply chain.

Finally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can offer a safety expert witness service, which is headed by Diarmuid himself. He has extensively supported safety-related matters, and is a certified and competent safety professional who will work with clients to identify exactly what kind of safety expert is needed. Then, he will use an extensive network of contacts to recruit the right person to protect clients' interests.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited's fantastic service offering and proven track record

of offering leading health and safety consultancy services makes the company a worthy winner of our Commitment to Excellence award. Such achievements are proof that DCON Safety Consultants Limited is well-placed to help ensure your safety, health and wellbeing and make your project possible.

If you are interested in finding out more information on DCON Safety Consultants Limited's full range of excellent services, head to the website or get in touch directly using the contact details below.

Contact
T +353 (0)1 611 1556
diarmuid.condon@dconsafety.com
www.dconsafety.com

Environmentally friendly plastic lumber

At Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Kedel as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its ongoing efforts in producing eco-friendly plastic products for a more sustainable future.

Kedel is a family business founded on ethical and ecologically sound principles. Dedicated to making sustainable living attractive, Kedel believe that by incorporating sustainable recycled plastic products into personal and working environments, it can create a happier, healthier and infinitely more sustainable future for generations to come.

Established by three brothers, Kieran, Dermot and Lewis Walch, Kedel is based in Burnley and supplies nationwide. We spoke to Dermot who explained what commitment to excellence means to them and how they feel they achieve it. "Commitment to excellence is an attitude towards work. You're only as good as your weakest link, so we try to give our staff an autonomous responsibility around servicing our customers and through this we are achieving service excellence."



Because of this, people can make quicker decisions and our customers end up 100% satisfied much quicker. Eco-Friendly Plastic is what we do. Not many people believe plastic can be green but it can. We manufacture plastic wood made from waste polystyrene, and are also suppliers of many other types of recycled plastic profiles from other manufacturers, which allows our customers to keep their carbon footprint down. We maintain excellence throughout our business through our sustainable products, sustainable supply chain and sustainable manufacturing policy."

Winners of the Feefo Trusted Service Award, Kedel's range of recycled plastic lumber reflects the future of the construction industry. From plastic fencing pales and edging board pegs to round posts, boards and



planks, tongue & groove planks, decking, and so much more, Kedel's extensive product range comes with a number of benefits. Of course, the largest advantage of plastic lumber in general is that it does not rot, absorb water and is highly resistant to damage. This much more versatile material means it has a life longevity to be placed in all weathers and climates making it a perfect material for use in construction, leisure, education, gardens and any water applications.

Some could claim that plastic wood is bad for the environment, however, Kedel would argue that yes, initially the cost of plastic wood may be higher but the outcome is that you have a product that will last a lifetime due to its extended longevity and zero maintenance properties. To add to this, Kedel only uses recycled plastic that would otherwise go to landfill, therefore, its contribution towards a circular economy is something to be highly commended.

Moving forward, Dermot explained what the future holds for the company. "We are about to increase the working hours of our extrusion plant to be operating 24 hours



a day 5 days a week which will double our production time, and to support this we are recruiting more extruder operators. In the future, we plan to build a

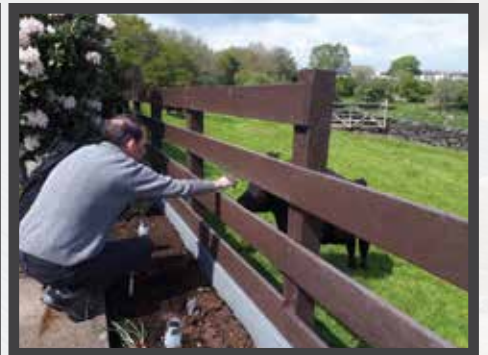
network of resellers around the UK, as the current cost of transport is at an all-time high so we are looking at ways around this for better business practice and to allow for an eco-friendlier way of working."

In closing, we asked Dermot how he felt receiving our award, he responded, "We are thrilled. It shows we are doing all the right things and going in the right direction and we will endeavour to live up to it."

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Delta Tower Cranes Ltd specialise in the Hire & Sales of Luffing & Trolley Jib Tower Cranes



Established over 20 years ago by Richard Baldwin of Baldwin Crane Hire, Delta Tower Cranes Ltd is a one stop shop for the Hire, and Sales of Luffing Jib, Trolley Jib, & Pedestrian Operated Tower Cranes.

The companies head office is in Langley near Slough and they have depots in Theale, Reading and Newport in South Wales. From these bases Managing Director and Technical Sales Manager Tony Ferris and the ten staff service all companies requiring its products.

Tony Ferris with his long term experience in the Tower Crane Industry has been directly involved in the establishment of Delta Tower Cranes Ltd with Richard Baldwin from day one, and he commented, "While we are a fairly small company in the industry, we do have a fleet of up to 36 Luffing Jib & Trolley Jib Tower Cranes available for hire. We pride ourselves in providing a personal and flexible service, and I work directly with customers from the day that they contact us to ensure that we supply them with a suitable Tower Cranes and other services at very competitive rates. We are there right throughout the project to talk to and guide customers and field any issues that they may have."



Proof of the commitment the company has to its customers is evident in the investment it has made in a comprehensive fleet of the latest Tower Cranes from leading manufacturers including Saez Cranes, as well as the latest state of the art equipment including Electronic Torque Equipment, AMCS Electronic Zoning/Anti Collision Systems and IKAR Rescue Systems.

Delta Tower Cranes Ltd can supply a complete range of Hydraulic Luffing Jib Tower Cranes, including the innovative Saez SLH series of Flat Top Hydraulic Luffing Jib Tower Cranes which are ideal for sites with restricted air space, as they have vastly superior out of service radius capabilities when compared with conventional wire rope Luffing Jib Tower Cranes. These cranes are the perfect solution for compact construction sites where air space is at a premium, or where they are located next to Network Rail Boundaries. In addition Delta Tower Cranes can supply Saez TLS series Flat Top Trolley Jib Tower Cranes, as well as Pedestrian Operated Tower Cranes.

The company hires its cranes out mainly to construction companies and can provide a complete package if required, including Crane Operators, a comprehensive range of Lifting Accessories, Generators with Bunded Fuel Tanks, and AMCS Electronic



- Jost JTL 208.12
- Raimondi LR60
- Terex Peiner SN86/1
- Terex Comedil CTL140-8
- Saez SL 320
- Saez SLH205
- Jost JL256.16
- Potain MR165-G12

Trolley Jib Cranes include:

- TLS 65 4-8 Ton
- TLS 70-10
- Terex Comedil CTT121
- Terex Comedil CTT181
- Terex Comedil CTT231

Tony concluded, "We would welcome the opportunity of sharing with customers the benefit of our many years of experience in the Tower Crane Hire Industry by offering you technical advice and very competitive quotations for all your Tower Crane requirements."

Contact Tony Ferris,
Technical Sales & Enquiries,
T 01753 542418
M 07799 788150
Technical Sales & Hire Enquiries
deltatowercranes@gmail.com
General Enquiries & Administration
admin@deltatowercranes.com
www.deltatowercranes.com

Zoning and Anti-Collision Systems. Tony continued, "I have been in the Tower Crane industry for over 45 years and myself and our very experienced staff take great pride in delivering an efficient and personal service to all our customers. Most of our work is repeat business in addition to website enquiries. Companies return to us time and again as they know that they are guaranteed personal and excellent service from our staff throughout every step of their project."

Delta Tower Cranes Ltd insists upon safety, reliability, first class service and efficiency and these are its core values and priorities. The highly skilled and experienced personnel are constantly undergoing training which enables the company to ensure that it provides its customers with a professional and 'safety first' service.

Delta Tower Cranes Ltd can also offer to its customers the benefit of its in house Auto CAD Design facilities, as well as arranging road closures, traffic management, and the hire of skips, brick forks, block grabs and other ancillary lifting equipment.

The following is a list of tower cranes in the Delta fleet, all specifications for each crane are available on the website (www.deltatowercranes.com)

Luffing Jib Tower Cranes include:

- Jost JTL 108.6
- Jost JTL 158.6



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MAC Cabins Limited is a fast-growing Timber Building company based in Okehampton, Devon, with over 30 years' experience in the construction industry. Proud to be the providers of one of the largest selections of; Timber Buildings, Log Cabins, Leisure/Holiday Cabins & Glamping Pods, in the heart of the South West of England.



To compliment the extensive ranges of timber buildings, MAC Cabins also offers a vast variety of other Timber Frame & Modular Frame options, providing one of the widest selections of timber building options, within the market-sector.



For all timber frame styles, MAC Cabins works with self-build and custom-build projects, where the initial design has already been completed with architects. We help to guide small to medium-sized developers, on-sites

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MAC Cabins actively supports & promotes the use of Timber as the most environmentally sustainable material for the construction industry.

ModCon Cabin Trader Ltd



ModCon Cabin Trader was formed in 2017 by Alan Willets of whom has 25 years experience of working for some major manufacturers in the Modular & Portable Building Industry.

ModCon Cabins as it is also known manufactures and supplies Steel Anti Vandal Portable Cabins, Containers, Modular Buildings and all site ancillary items associated with the Portable Building Industry. Please visit: www.modconcabins.co.uk

Items such as Portable Offices, Canteens, Toilet units, Drying units, Storage Containers, Chemstores, Smoking Shelters, Effluent Tanks, Staircases are regular and repeat produced items that we manufacture for our clients.

Based in Gloucestershire in the South West we are logistically nicely placed around all the major motorway networks for ease of transportation.

Our workforce are all very skilled and experienced fabricators of whom have many years experience working within our industry and so know the expectancy of our customers requirements so you can be sure that if you approach ModCon Cabins to undertake your work you are in very good hands!

Being that all items produced are mostly built on a jig and to customers own specification we are open to undertaking bespoke enquiries too so please feel free to engage with us here at ModCon Cabins even if you have a rather random enquiry for certain products.

Why not also take a look at ModCon Cabin Traders other side of the business which is an Auction/Resale website that allows all and sundry to utilise the site to sell new & used Portable Building products which operates very similar to a well-known auction/resale site we are all familiar with, however only for products relating to our industry.

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Complete compliance solutions

Since 2014, CheckedSafe has provided simple and inexpensive tailored compliance solutions. Established by Gary Hawthorne and Darran Harris, CheckedSafe is a SaaS platform compliance provider providing several apps and a web-based reporting system that is multi-functional and secure.

The CheckedSafe system offers organisations a complete solution, enabling them to manage and protect their workforce and comply with legal compliance requirements whilst reducing cost and liability. "We can provide you with a fully integrated solution – you can be completely paperless – also by using our system properly you will have a legally defensible product. We bespoke templates on the app to suit individual requirements, our latest release now means that the client can also do this themselves," said Gary.

Located in Burnley, its system is global and can be accessed from anywhere as long as you have an internet connection for the management portal, the app itself works off line and on-line so there is no restriction on using the app.

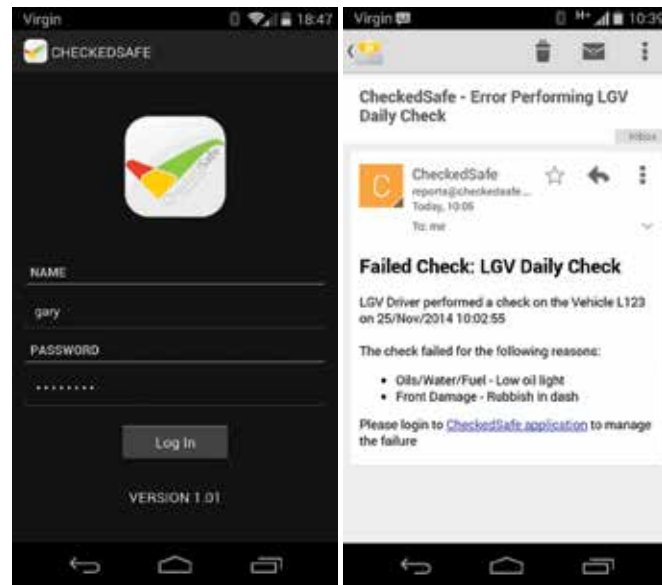
Both Darran and Gary's individual expertise has resulted in CheckedSafe being a nationally recognised company. "I am a transport professional with 30+ years in commercial transport, and Darran has 25+ years as a solicitor, so our individual skills set us apart from other 'IT' providers in the industry," said Gary.

CheckedSafe has a range of services from vehicle compliance solutions, compliance and regulations, risk assessment and incident reporting tools via the



App that enables them to offer the client a complete solution. Gary explained, "We constantly develop our product from user feedback. We release new features at least every quarter and a new app probably every four months depending on what features we have developed. Customer feedback is critical to us, we know a lot about transport, but the end users have great ideas that we take on board and use to develop free of charge and push out to the CheckedSafe community."

CheckedSafe's web-based reporting system is accredited by DVSA and the FLTA and utilised across all fleet types of HGV, PCV, VAN, plant or utilities. If



it needs a checklist, CheckedSafe can digitise and catalogue it, providing you with a cost-effective compliance solution.

With much of the industry yet to explore, over five million commercial vehicles in the UK and over 20 million pieces of plant, there is a huge market for CheckedSafe to expand into. "Our plan is to furrow into the fleet industry and develop new features, and if from this market we get new ideas then we will look to develop them further. We have recently developed our API to link with Dynamic 365 for a large crane operator which will come into development later this year/early 2022," stated Gary.

Despite COVID-19, CheckedSafe has managed to outsource all marketing resulting in an increase in in-bound enquiries. Utilising platforms such as Zoom and Teams, less time has been spent travelling and more focus has been on growing the business from home.

Eight years ago, CheckedSafe was an idea, that today, has flourished into a fully successful business. Gary and Darran are passionate about what they do and provide a skill set that boasts professionalism and expertise. "We know our industry and our clients have an immediate infinity with us and put faith in us," said Gary.

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CheckedSafe's web-based reporting system is accredited by DVSA and the FLTA and utilised across all fleet types of HGV, PCV, VAN, plant or utilities. If



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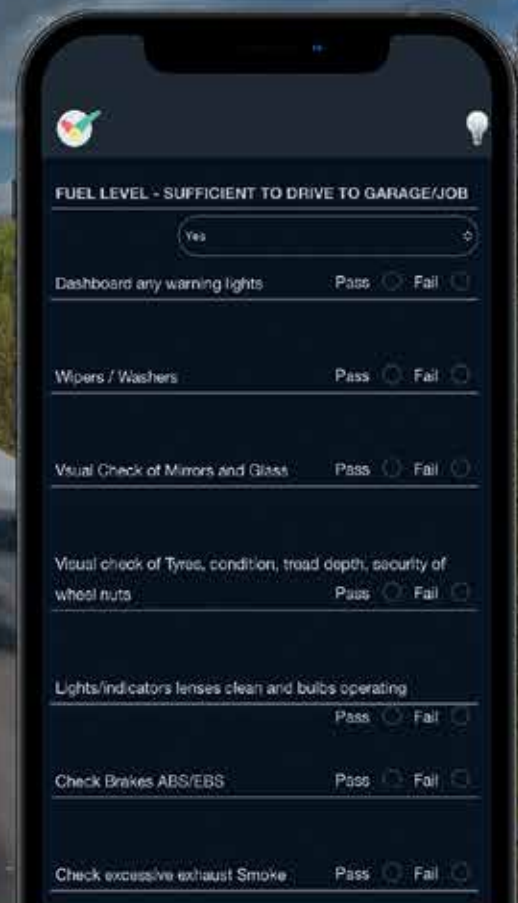
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Le Tonkinois Varnish is a traditional oil based varnish, manufactured using a 200 year old Chinese recipe. It contains Linseed oil, Tung oil & natural resins. No solvents or water therefore it is environmentally friendly and is a pleasure to work with, no nasty smells and no brush marks.

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and does not crack or flake off, even on oily woods like Teak and Iroko. It also withstands hot pans and boiling water. It produces a high quality and professional finish and requires very little maintenance, simply add a top up coat every few years as required.

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www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk
01628 548840



The flexidisc sander is an extremely unique piece of equipment, although being a general sander, it can also be converted into many other applications including: finishing sander, bench grinder, general purpose sharpener, partial angle grinder, polish applicator, polisher and grinds glass and nails.

"The Flexidisc sander can be used to prepare any type of material prior to applying Le Tonkinois and results in a better finish than most orbital Sanders in a fraction of the time.

For any more information, please see the details below:
www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk



Demon Designs: Experts in glass

Established in 2011 by Dominic Meakins, Demon Designs specialises in bespoke solutions for glass structures, offering consultancy, design and build services to exceed its clients' requirements every time. Fuelled by a commitment to excellence, the team at Demon Designs always goes the extra mile to ensure complete customer satisfaction, no matter what the project size.

One of Demon Designs' key advantages is its comprehensive service, offering everything the customer might need for their project. "Many of our customers want the hassle removed. For example, if they want a walk-on glass floor installed, they don't want to get a builder in to cut the hole, a plasterer to make good and a decorator to finish it off.

We can do the lot, including engineers' calculations." Recently, Demon Designs joined Check-a-trade, with a view to obtaining more domestic customers in preparation for the uncertainty of the current commercial market. "This has had some success, but we still find that the vast majority of our customers are either returning customers or new customers by recommendation, and you can't really get a better endorsement than that!"

Indeed, as well as a loyal customer base, this commitment to customer satisfaction has resulted in impressive successes for Demon Designs over the past eight years, and this year has been no different. "It's been an interesting year for us," Dominic told us. "We have seen a shift in the type of projects we win, moving away from large commercial fit-out projects towards domestic 'Grand Designs' type projects and installations.



In the coming years, Demon Designs is looking to complete more complex projects, to help the company grow even further and build upon its achievements since its inception eight years ago.

"We want to take on more bespoke projects, big or small. I personally believe that you can only improve by pushing your boundaries, and this is true for business also. We are constantly taking on more challenging projects, often from other companies who don't want the risk. The great thing about this is that we often



work for companies that would be considered competitors in other fields." Indeed, Demon Designs' future ventures are highly anticipated as it continually develops and improves upon its capabilities. The company is always interested in taking on new customers, either commercial or domestic, so get in touch using the details below or head to the website if you wish to discuss your ideas.

Contact
T 01903 733206
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When you're looking for top quality work, Demon Designs is here to help. Our construction professionals are available to provide a wide range of customizable options, all guaranteed to meet and exceed expectations. Contact our office today to learn more about this and our other available services.





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More than 50
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Photo © Dieter Dejonghe

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Automate Packaging with RG6 Grippers at Pluspack, Denmark

For several generations, Plus Pack has been at the head of the pack among producers of food packaging. The company has continually developed new products that are more or less environmentally friendly, having received several international awards for this work. And not only the green revolution, but also the working environment for their more than 200 employees is given high priority by the company. The working environment in particular is one of the reasons for focusing on automation. "It is used particularly where heavy and monotone tasks can be taken from the employees to be done by collaborative robots," says strategic Project Manager, Bastian Fietj, "The work station where we use the gripping arm from OnRobot replaces a packaging process where the operator used to work manually on stacking products on top of each other, pressing out the air between them. The manual process required a lot of repeated heavy lifting and a lot of stress on the shoulders. We have removed this physical strain from the employees," he says.

Unproblematic solution

And certainly, there is no reason to wait before automating the production. At Plus Pack, the implementation of the End-of-Arm tool from OnRobot has been fast and unproblematic, says Project Manager Simon Laigaard, "In our opinion, the OnRobot gripping arm is easy to work with. By adjusting four screws, we can change the fingertips on the gripping arm, making it precisely suited for the individual product. If we had opted for building separate tools for each product, the cost would have been significantly higher than with this solution, where the gripping arm is easily adjustable."

"We ran some tests with the gripping arm in the lab, and the programming was done in a few days. After that, it took just 30 minutes to implement the gripping arm at full speed in the packaging line," he says.

A definite recommendation of OnRobot

As stated, one of the reasons to use collaborative robots is the working environment. Another reason is productivity, which becomes very flexible by using gripping arms from OnRobot, says Bastian Fietje, "We manufacture a lot of different products, and we have a lot of different customers, for whom we manufacture customised packaging solutions. For this reason, we are always trying to optimise the products and the packaging process for each

customer, which is something OnRobot's End-of-Arm tools help us do."

If you are planning to automate your production, I would definitely recommend gripping arms from OnRobot, as they offer

the flexibility to create customised solutions suitable for specific needs. This is something we have never seen from other suppliers of End-of-Arm tools, he said.

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What's become clear after the COVID-19 is that resilient businesses share common traits.

These companies can react quickly and decisively to protect workers while keeping business running. They can adapt processes and product lines, often using flexible collaborative automation to make those changes efficiently and cost-effectively. They begin to look into the future, so they can adapt and position themselves for the "new normal."

When the first robot applications appeared, the advantages were quickly recognized. This made collaborative applications the fastest-growing segment of the robot market, which is still expected to continue. Therefore, the move to automation is not unusual. Why?

Collaborative application solutions are fast, easy and affordable for efficient and productive processes during and after a crisis. Furthermore, the collaborative applications solutions give several opportunities. What does automation do other than being a productivity tool? One key advantage is that it gives the manufacturers flexibility, and this helps ensure the wellbeing of the workers.

By automating undesirable tasks, the company can put employees into higher-value and more desirable positions. During and after a disruption, collaborative automation keeps production running while skilled workers focus on jobs where their unique capabilities provide the most value.

Manufacturers need to assess their own supply chains and ensure that they have continuity plans in place. When supply chains are at risk, manufacturers must look for other ways to make sure that their supply chain is safe. In other words, they move their focus, and look for other solutions.

So, what's next? For the first time in modern manufacturing history, demand, supply and workforce availability are affected globally at the same time. The changes manufacturers make now will help define whether they emerge as a resilient business that finds new ways to grow and succeed through the crisis and whatever comes next. Collaborative applications present manufacturers with new opportunities to build resilience and adaptability in productivity, competitiveness, and workforce.

All the answers can be found in our White paper. Download it via the QR code and learn more today about the "new normal" in automation.

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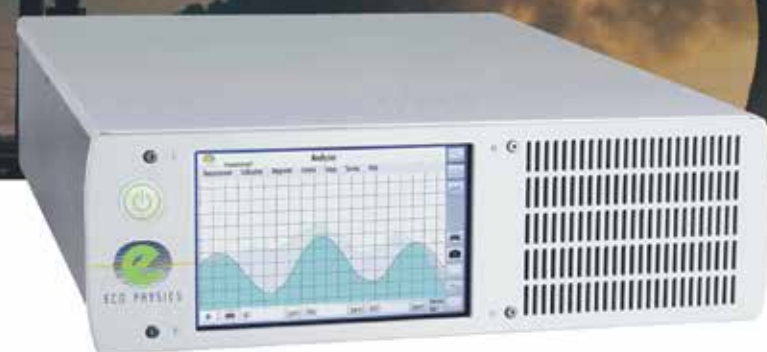
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The rapid rise of Manosun's PPE gloves

In this issue of Industrial Solutions, we have chosen Manosun as our Company of Choice for January 2023.



Since the company was established in 2020, its mission has been to bring change to the end-user experience in selecting and buying industrial gloves, gauntlets and sleeves (PPE). As the designer and manufacturer of such an innovative range of quality industrial hand protection that is available for all industrial applications, Manosun is breaking the mould of traditional offerings with a core range of hand protection that are safe and the perfect fit for anyone that requires PPE.

"Manosun is a provider of Industrial Hand Protection (Gloves), and we work with all end-users including globally known brands such as Nissan, JDR Cables, and SUEZ. As part of our service we also survey the work environment, advise on the correct level of hand protection needed or if needed, we can even develop a brand-new product to the exact requirements of the customer. Manosun have the ability to work on small MOQ's from our sponsor factory in China and the ability to develop new products for an ever-changing work environment offering products where 'not all solutions are off the shelf.' From ARC, Impact, FR, CUT and General handling applications, our products are the ideal solution for a range of industries from Utilities, Oil & Gas, Electronics and Automotive, to Maintenance, Hot Handling, Circuit Boards, and Renewable Energy," stated Steven Patterson, Owner.

Of course, it's not just its versatile application that makes Manosun's products stand out. Their long-lasting durability is down to the high-quality materials that are used for all its products. Every product offers extra flexibility and dexterity that ensures minimal hand fatigue, and because of its 360° breathe technology, all products have the ability to keep hands cool while working.

Once an offshore requirement, you can now find Impact hand protection being used across a broad range of industries including the emergency services, vehicle manufacturing and dismantling. One of its main features is that Impact hand protection gloves are perfect for protecting the back of the hand, preventing broken bones.

Offering superb protection from Arc, Flame, Heat and Cut, one notable product developed using an ARC glove is the EUFR5120. It is ideal for the welding assembly process with automotive and other similar sectors to protect the hands from 'Spatter' burns, contact heat, cuts and includes a sacrificial leather palm to enhance grip and protect the glove from lacerations from ragged steel components when being handled.

ARC is the release of stored energy, so it is vital that those working in industries where an explosion of heat from an electrical circuit could occur are protected. This occurrence has recently become more common and an increasingly bigger worry, particularly in electrical vehicles when it comes to the recovery, service, manufacture and recycling of.

ARC Flash is the range of hand protection by Manosun that really set the standards in the hand protection industry. Inherently flame resistant, all ARC Flash gloves are Certified in Arc Flash Protection (ATPV Arc level 2 as per new standard ASTM F2675/F2675M-19e1). The innovative Manosun coating technology ensures a better grip and longer glove life, and with its extra flexibility and dexterity minimises hand fatigue. The range has a greater life expectancy than others currently on the market because it can handle multiple laundries while keeping the same performance.

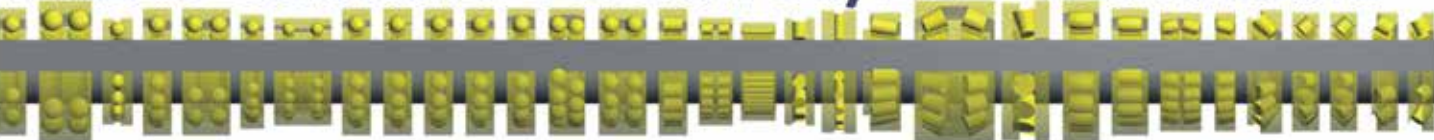
So far, Manosun's products have been revolutionary across England, but a big part of its future growth is to ensure every area of the UK is aware of the brand and its products. Steven explained further, "Our plans in 2023 are to employ an additional two people to help promote sales, one in the North for Scotland with a focus on manufacturing and the offshore industry, and the second in the South (Oxfordshire area) to develop distribution connections to the complex end-user markets. We have only just passed the two-year stage so are still very fresh. My experience spans for more than 16 years in hand protection and my drive is to simplify the development of new products (product development at the factory). Traditionally this takes months and can be very expensive but the relationship and support from my factory partner allows Manosun to develop new products much quicker without an unachievable MOQ (minimum order quantity)."

Another way to expand its brand presence is by taking part in trade shows. 2023 will see Manosun supporting the HSM Publication Expo in November with the BSIF, as well as some other local popup exhibitions supporting its two new member groups: The North East Automotive Alliance and the Advanced Manufacturing Forum.

Contact Steven Patterson,
T +44 (0)7468 904409
steven.patterson@manosun.co.uk
www.manosun.co.uk

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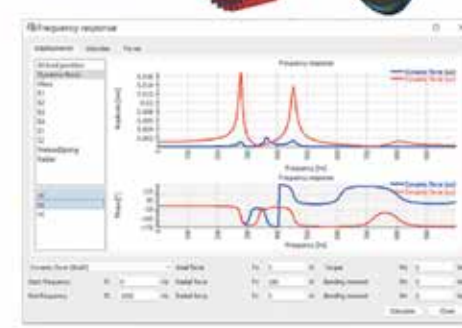
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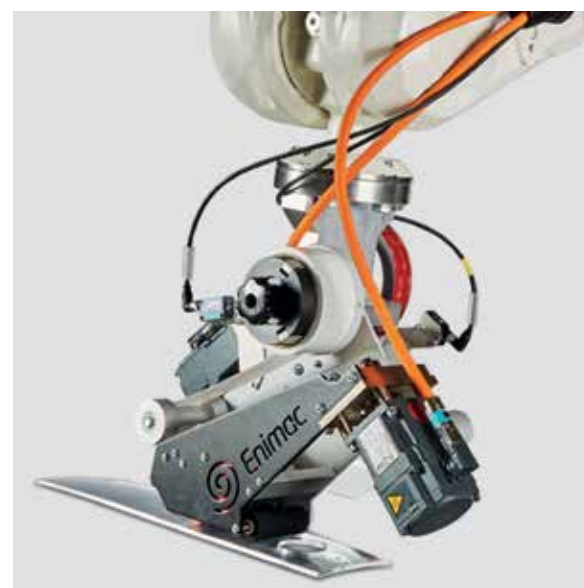
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Your partner for material handling

Davison Forklift was established by John Davison back in the mid-sixties, and was sold to Malcolm Harrison in 2018. Based in Shifnal, Shropshire the company maintains a rich history and has grown significantly since its inception, seeing impressive growth year on year.

"We are a machinery hire company specialising in the hire of forklifts, tractors and telehandlers. We sell, repair and hire the aforementioned machines. We are also dealers for Clark, who invented the forklift in the early 20th century. We take pride in providing a very personal service, which is second to none," said Adrian. Throughout the years, Davison Forklift has explored new sectors and moved its focus into the hire and sales of new product ranges. By consistently expanding upon its product range, has enabled Davison Forklift to be able to discover and move into new sectors and enter higher markets, developing a broader customer



base. Davison Forklift has positioned itself firmly at the forefront of the material handling sector, offering a broad range of products, complemented by a highly skilled team of trained forklift engineers that carry out on-site repairs, servicing and health checks. The company specialises in the hire and sales of forklift trucks and is the authorised UK dealers for Clark, Haulotte and AUSA. In addition, Davison Forklift is also part stockists for Clark, Hyster, Samsung, Doosan, Linde, Lansing, AUSA and many more.

In terms of recent developments, Davison Forklift

has seen a recent relocation, moving to a new rural location in Yew Tree Lane in Shifnal, Shropshire. This move has helped the company explore new marks and helped to facilitate an investment into new equipment. As such, Davison Forklift has turned its attention to the hire and sale of tractors and telehandlers.

Included in its telehandlers range, the company offers two telehandlers; JCB 540-140 and JCB 535-125. Through JCB's commitment to providing outstanding products for its customers, the brand has flourished, growing from a one-



man business into Britain's largest privately owned manufacturer of telescopic telehandlers and industrial forklifts. Both the JCB 540-140 and JCB 535-125 models are equipped with the latest technology and advanced design capabilities, with features such as: low fuel consumption, reduced noise, high torque and power output, total reliability and minimal maintenance.

Regarding its tractor range, the company currently offers one tractor manufacturer available for hire; the New Holland T7.210. New Holland is renowned as a Clean Energy Leader for its active promotion and development of sustainable agricultural technology, offering solutions that enhance efficiency and productivity, while respecting the environment. The T7.210 is a great addition to the company's range and offers a power range of 140 to 210 HP, with a rated engine speed of 2,200rpm.

If you would like to find out any further information on the company, please see the details featured below:
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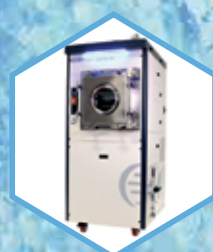


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MR. J.W. RODNEY PEYTON OBE MD

An Epitome for Experts in the Medico-legal Industry

Medicine is regarded as one of the most dignified professions around the world. The relationship between the doctor and the patient stands on pillars such as trust, confidence, and hope. However, like several other industries, commercialization has largely impacted the medical profession and services as well. Today, there is increasing anxiety both within the medical profession and in society regarding the constantly increasing trends of complaints and lawsuits against physicians.

It is imperative for doctors to be aware of the legal aspects linked to their profession and take precautionary measures to protect themselves and their patients from legal traps. The knowledge of medico-legal issues has become as fundamental to the practice of medicine as clinical skills.

Thus, experts in the field of medico-legal services are in demand presently. While several new leaders have been emerging in recent years, veterans like Mr. J.W. Rodney Peyton OBE MD are still regarded as one of the prominent leaders in the medico-legal sector.

A Distinguished Career spanning Over Three Decades

A Consultant Trauma Surgeon by profession, Mr. Peyton has been driven by a desire to improve surgical practice and ensure better outcomes for patients—throughout his eminent career spanning four decades. He has served as the Head of Faculty Development and Examiner Training for the Royal College of Surgeons of London and has been at the forefront of innovation in the delivery of teaching and healthcare.

Widely regarded as the World's #1 surgical coach, Mr. Peyton has received numerous recognitions. He has received the Werner Korte Gold Medal for services to German Surgical Education in 2002. Moreover, he was bestowed with the Medal of the Swedish Surgical Society for his services to medical education in 2005.

He is also a law graduate and has been involved in medico-legal reporting and court appearances as an expert witness since 1983. He is also a founding member of the Expert Witness Institute and has played an important role in providing an independent expert opinion in cases of potential medical negligence. He has been reported over 70,000 personal injury cases as well as being asked to advise in more than 3,000 cases of potential medical malpractice.

Mr. Peyton's prowess in the medico-legal domain, blended with his avid experience in both military and civilian trauma has been instrumental in him being regarded as an authority on medico-legal



issues. He has been actively involved in training doctors and lawyers in dealing with medico-legal cases—both individually and in professional groups, also as a trainer and keynote speaker. In a conversation with Mirror Review, Mr. Peyton shed light upon what it is like to be a medico-legal expert in today's world and shared some invaluable insights that would help those aspiring to step into the industry.

A Satisfying Intellectual Exercise

Preparing medico-legal reports—according to Mr. Peyton—is a very satisfying intellectual exercise, particularly regarding malpractice, and is one of the best ways of keeping up to date in his field of expertise. "Each case is unique with many twists and turns. Having to think out the pros and cons in any given range of opinions allows the expert to become even more secure in their own practice which can only be for the benefit of patients," affirms Mr. Peyton.

According to him, the best way to learn anything is to teach it. In this case, barristers/ trial lawyers will ask detailed, probing questions to gain a full understanding—requiring the teacher/expert to more clearly understand their own practice and personal biases as they consider legitimate differences of opinion.

Stay Relevant, Neutral, and Clear

As Head of Peyton Medico-legal Services, Mr. Peyton's philosophy is that the objective is to assist those in litigation including the clients, their legal advisers, and the court to clearly understand the nature of medical evidence in individual cases so they can make informed decisions. It is the court's jurisdiction to determine facts under dispute in a case, and the expert opinion guides the court in its deliberations.

While the judges are highly trained and experienced in the interpretation of the law, they—alongside the barristers and trial lawyers—are not the experts when it comes to healthcare professions. They need help in understanding the medical evidence before them. Thus, the expert must assist the court in decision-making. According to Mr. Peyton, any expert must stay relevant in their profession, remain neutral throughout no matter who is responsible for their fees, and must clearly understand their paramount duty is to the court.

Mr. Peyton further mentions it is important to remember innovation in the legal profession is slow and steady. When in the witness box, an expert must not display innovative behaviors in terms of thoughts about managing cases. As the courts are looking for a fair degree of certainty, all the arguments have to be clear, logical, and well-thought-out. "In this case, experts must acknowledge there always exists a range of opinion and clearly announce with an evidential base as to why their opinion should be preferred," he advises.

Furthermore, an expert having personal prejudices or inclinations can sometimes cause confusion and trust issues. Mr. Peyton, however, believes having a personal bias towards a particular method of treatment is not an issue if the preference is transparent and the expert can demonstrate they are prepared to consider and discuss the viability of other options. According to him, experts require the flexibility of mind to review their opinion if compelling evidence to the contrary becomes available.

Determining the Probability of Success

In recent years, medical negligence/malpractice has become one of the major growth areas in medico-legal practice. However, figures from defense organizations suggest that only a few actions actually succeed with a vast majority failing based on causation. As subsequence is not the same as consequence, Mr. Peyton believes that it is important to determine at an early stage the probability of a case to succeed.

To help offset the escalating costs of litigation, Peyton Medico-legal has introduced a provision



of preliminary screening reports to ensure that the elements of duty, breach, and consequential damage are likely to be in place before commissioning other more costly specialist reports. This keeps down the costs for clients and their legal advisors as well as enables lawyers to manage clients' expectations at an early stage at a minimal cost.

"Lack of Professionalism will not be tolerated..."

Mr. Peyton believes that being an expert witness has become more professionalized now than it was when he started. He mentions that courts have tightened up concerning their expectation of witnesses and, of particular importance, has been the loss of immunity from liability for those giving evidence. "Overall, I think this has been for the better. There still tends to be a lot of exaggeration, if not outright fraud, inflicted within the claims industry," he asserts.

The business environment in personal injury cases—with an added emphasis on financial compensation—can induce a tendency to discard facts for portraying the claimant's case in the best way possible. Unfortunately, this has been enabled by some medical practitioners who fail to understand their duty is towards the court and not to those instructing them. This can lead to the defamation of professional medico-legal experts and can have a severe impact on their personal, professional, and financial well-being. Mr. Peyton adds, "The message is clear. Such a lack of professionalism will no longer be tolerated."

Why do Medical Mistakes Occur?

Alongside a lack of professionalism, there are several other mistakes medico-legal experts make. Expressing his views on those mistakes, Mr.

Peyton says, "It is in the way in which decisions are made." According to him, there are three primary types of logical reasoning—deductive, inductive, and abductive. Deductive argues from the general to the specific and if the generality is correct, then the specific is correct. "For instance, if I have a jar of white marbles and I take the marbles from the jar, then those marbles are liable to be white. In court terms, this is the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur," he adds.

Inductive logic, on the other hand, starts from the specific and works back to the general. Mr. Peyton illustrates, "If I have five white marbles in my hand and they came from a specific jar, then all marbles in the jar are liable to be white." This, however, may not be true and is the basis of the null hypothesis in statistical research. Thus, papers that states results "nearly reached significance" have to be handled diligently. They either reached significance or they didn't and the problem in the law is arguing with a specific bias and producing only evidence that equates to one side of the argument.

At last comes the abductive reasoning. "For instance, if I have white marbles in my hand and there are white marbles in the jar, then the marbles in my hand came from the jar," states Mr. Peyton. This is a big step and is one of the major causes of medical mistakes where a set of symptoms are assumed to indicate a particular disease process. "This is a cognitive bias where alternatives are not even considered in spite of evidence to the contrary," he adds.

For more information or any queries on Medico-Legal issues, please visit: www.rpeyton.com to schedule a complimentary consultation

‘The Health Professional in Court’: 10 principles for practice

For this month’s feature article, we interviewed someone who is acknowledged as one of the world’s top surgical coaches and an international authority in medico legal issues.

Mr Rodney Peyton, OBE MD is a Trauma Surgeon who has the unique distinction of holding Fellowships in all four Royal Colleges of Surgeons in the UK and Ireland as well as being a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London. He holds a master’s degree in medical education from Cardiff University and graduated in law from the College of Law in London.

In his career spanning 40 years, he has been engaged in over 70,000 personal injury cases as well as being asked to advise on more than 3,000 cases involving medical malpractice.

He therefore has a wealth of experience in preparing cases for and giving expert testimony in Court and has been involved in the training of doctors and lawyers in dealing with medico legal cases, individually on a face-to-face basis, and also as a trainer and keynote speaker.

In this article, he will cover his 10 top strategies to help health professional’s deal with the Court process.

He is also a well-known author and international keynote speaker. For his availability to speak at your corporate events, contact him at: rpeyton@rpeyton.com.

Increasingly, senior professionals from all branches of the healthcare industry are finding themselves involved in the Court system, either on an involuntary basis, as a witness to fact or defendant, or on a voluntary basis as an expert witness.

Gone is the paternalism of ‘the professional knows best’ and there has been more and more scrutiny by the public of professional actions and attitudes.

Leaving aside the criminal law, which is an entirely different situation, civil legal cases are predicated on the fact that within every profession, or branch of profession, there exists a range of opinions as to what constitutes good practice. Defendants and expert witnesses are expected to provide opinions, witnesses to fact are not.

It is important to understand that, while judges are highly trained and experienced in the interpretation of the law, they and the barristers or trial lawyers who argue cases are nevertheless lay people when it comes to the healthcare professions. They are not medical experts and therefore require help in understanding the medical evidence before them. For the health professional, whether as defendant or expert witness, the duty is to assist the Court in their decision-making whilst at the same time maintaining and promoting their own professional integrity and reputation.

Most healthcare professionals rarely appear in Court. From personal experience as a teacher and trainer to those who do become involved, there are recurrent themes, which arise and so the following 10 principles have been developed to help guide professionals through the Court process.

Record keeping

Keep detailed contemporaneous records.

Any major findings or decisions, whether it be from working with a patient, a client or undertaking a project, should be on record, as one never knows when such



events may become the object of scrutiny. There is an old saying, ‘if it is not written down, it did not happen’ and oral evidence is likely to be regarded as weak and suspect unless there is written evidence to back it up. A little extra time spent in ensuring accurate, contemporaneous recording may save considerable time, effort and indeed stress at a later stage when trying to convince a Court that decision making was sound. Remember, all written communications are discoverable and may be used in Court proceedings. Therefore, it is important not to make any gratuitous comments within the written record.

When acting as an expert witness, always look for original, contemporaneous documentation to back up later oral recall of events. Stick to the facts as presented and derive opinions from them.

Producing a report

Reports should be timely, factually based and the opinions well-reasoned, taking full account of appropriate legal tests.

When producing a report, clarify whether you are acting as a professional or as an expert and keep the distinction between the two. As a defendant, you will be required to explain your position. It is important you outline any reasonable range of opinion, which informed your decision-making and actions, stating why your own should be preferred, ‘defence being the best form of attack.’

Being a witness to fact is a requirement rather than a choice. If you have been directly involved, provide evidence under clinical findings, observations and actions. Limit evidence to that which has been recorded and remember not to venture opinions or speculate on events.

An expert witness’s function is to help the Court by virtue of their knowledge, training and experience within their professional field of expertise. Reports must not intentionally mislead and any omission of relevant information reveals prejudice, whether acting as a professional or an expert witness. All opinions proffered must be logical, based on recognised clinical evidence and guidelines to include the appropriate standard of care, being clear what was relevant at the time of the incident. Always anticipate counter arguments, addressing them within the body of the report wherever possible and be alert to the potential for your own professional bias. Expert witness reports must be and must be seen to be independent.

Do not revise your report unless you have been subsequently provided with new facts, which need to be taken into account, at which time you must explain why these have made a material difference to the previous conclusions.

Attendance at Court

Always present as professional and credible.

First impressions count. This includes dressing appropriately for the Court and ensuring you have all your papers with you, particularly when actually giving evidence.

Make sure you take time to prepare thoroughly, highlighting any relevant areas in your report and those of others for ease of reference. Make sure you have taken time to think out potential questions or possible arguments which may be raised and

know your reasoning behind everything you are going to present.

Court procedure

Be aware of the Court procedure in whichever jurisdiction you attend, while you may be senior in your branch of the health care profession, unless you are highly experienced in Court practice, you are relatively junior in relation to the Court process. This is particularly pertinent for witnesses to fact who may be unfamiliar with legal proceedings.

An expert is engaged because of expertise in a particular subject and must, not only keep up to date in their own field, but also be cognisant of the requirements of the Court process. They are there to represent their point of view and assist the legal process.

It is important they do not come across as overbearing, as they are, in fact, servant/leaders, tasked with educating the Court and therefore must understand what is required from the Court’s point of view.

Constantly strive to improve your presentation skills, for example by giving talks on medico legal issues, so that you are used to standing up and delivering legal points in relation to medical cases.

Duty to the Court

Your professional duty as an expert or a witness to fact is always to the Court, no matter who engages you or why you have been called to attend.

This responsibility must be taken seriously. The role is to help litigants, their lawyers and the Court better understand the nature of medical evidence in individual cases so they can come to reasonable decisions. In this context, it is important they are helped to understand what acceptable practice was at the relevant time.

Health professionals do not have immunity when giving evidence. Not having this protection has unfortunately meant that some have been at the receiving end of severe public criticism, up to and including the award of costs against them and even a custodial sentence when the Judge considered that, by acts of omission or commission, the Court had been misled. This can have severe implications on personal, professional and financial standing.

Range of opinion

Always acknowledge there may be a range of reasonably held opinions.

In this context also consider possibility vs probability ‘more likely than not.’ If a matter comes to Court, there is going to be an opposing view from another professional expert who does not fully, if at all, agree with your opinion. Therefore, it is important to cover counter arguments in your considered opinion, which adds to the credibility of the report. The report must contain logical reasoning for accepting or rejecting other opinions and include any references, which are to be relied upon.

Guard against emotional statements and hyperbole and never denigrate others. Very rarely is ‘in my experience’ relevant in Court unless it is thoroughly backed up by objective evidence.

Credibility

Experts must stay within their field of expertise when giving opinions. They should have a bespoke CV for each case, indicating why they are a reliable expert for the matters at hand. It is in the nature of the Court process that opposing lawyers will try to diminish your credibility and it is wise to have answers for the three questions, which almost every barrister/trial lawyer will utilise at the beginning of an examination.

These are:

Do you know your duty to the Court, including your knowledge of relevant legal tests?
Are you an expert on all points on which you are giving an opinion?
Is there a range of opinion, which reasonable and respectable doctors may hold?



Ensure you are clear on your answers before getting into the witness box. This is all about credibility and as far as possible stay away from arguing about legal, technical and ethical issues.

Giving evidence

There are three types of oral examination for all types of witnesses, the evidence-in-chief, cross-examination and re-examination.

For Evidence-in-chief, your barrister or trial lawyer will lead you through your report and highlight any specific points relevant to the case. Cross-examination by opposing counsel looks at those points in detail, helping the Court assess credibility and ascertain whether there are in fact other opinions, which are equally valid. Do not get into an argument with the barrister or trial lawyer who is questioning you. Expect to be put under pressure during cross-examination but resist being provoked. Keep calm and answer to the bench. If you feel that your answers are being cut short unreasonably, ask the Judge if you may expand and follow their direction, always coming across as reasonable and professional. After answering the Judge or presiding officer then look back to the barrister or trial lawyer for the next question.

If you are given new information, which you did not have before then say so and, unless the answer is obvious, do not give a knee jerk reaction but ask for time to think it out. If it is not in your field say so and be careful of your own personal bias, again clearly separating fact and opinion. All your reasoning must stand up to logical scrutiny.

Re-examination is led by the instructing party to clarify issues, which have been raised during cross-examination. This phase is usually fairly short and rarely are any new matters raised.

Keep it simple

Keep all your evidence as simple as possible.

Remember, although the Court consists of lay people, they have considerable expertise and experience in handling different kinds of evidence. Take time to explain the issues at hand in jargon free, transparent terms, the more so if it happens to be a jury trial. Speak slowly, follow the Judge and his/her speed of writing or typing as they will be keeping a record of the proceedings.

Reflection

Reflect on the outcome.

After the verdict, as an expert do not take anything personally and learn what you need to learn. Similarly, as a witness to fact.

Think over what transpired and take time to reflect on what went well and what could you have possibly done better, or at least differently. As Stuart Emery states, ‘The path to mastery in any subject is to correct, not protect.’

Be open and honest with yourself and always seek to improve your practice as well as in the reporting and delivery of your evidence.

Once you have done so, move on. Civil Courts are not saying you are right or wrong in general terms, they are saying they prefer one set of evidence over another and it is only in the balance of probabilities.

Conclusion

Whether as defendant, witness to fact or expert witness, the process in civil litigation is the same.

By gaining an understanding and some familiarity with the process, practitioners can develop both confidence and competence in their role of presenting evidence. As an expert, the more often you appear in Court the more competence you gain and therefore the more confident you become.

Healthcare professionals are required ethically and by their professional bodies to continually update their practice, knowing why they do what they do in the way they do it, ensuring practice is evidence-based. However expert you are, you must not become complacent in either your practice or in Court.

Finally, all witnesses must remain neutral, explain the range of opinions, and be aware of their own potential for selective bias in any evidence presented. Courts are reliant on credible, impartial and articulate healthcare professionals and presenting as such impacts greatly on personal, professional and financial standing.

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