

BUILDING UPDATE

ISSUE: 666 June/July | www.solutionspublishing.co.uk

Vandecasteele Houtimport receives the Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) certificate

On Thursday 15th June, Vandecasteele Houtimport received the Voka Charter Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) 2023 certificate. The certificate was awarded by Voka – Chamber of Commerce West Flanders and POM West Flanders and is a recognition for the extra sustainability efforts of the recipients. The award ceremony took place in the Staf Versluys Center in Bredene. This time, 6 companies that have already been awarded the certificate more than 15 times, were put in the spotlight for their continued efforts in the field of sustainability. Vandecasteele Houtimport are of course part of the acclaimed 6.



International reference

The recipient of the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO) work daily on the inclusion of sustainability as a fully-fledged element in their strategy. To this end, they use the 17 sustainable development goals (Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs) of the United Nations as a guideline. The charter therefore has an international frame of reference.

Our companies continue to make efforts to embed sustainability in

their business. We validate an organisation's sustainability efforts with the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO).

At the end of last year, Vandecasteele Houtimport received the SDG Champion certificate, making us the first timber company in the world to receive these 2 awards.

Contact
T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be

Providing Power Distribution Products for over 40 years

In this issue of Building Update, Fisher & Company is our Company of Choice for exceptional design manufacturing over the last forty years.

Fisher & Company is a leading UK design manufacturer for highways & streetlighting, outdoor power, leisure and sports facilities, car parks, markets and now EV charging. They also make bespoke products for customers where particular requirements are specified.

The Somerset-based company is a leading supplier of Feeder Pillars and Wall Boxes, Sign & Light Brackets, Belisha & Refuge Beacons: mains and solar and electrically insulated digging tools.

Since gaining their ISO 9001:2015 Quality Accreditation during Lockdown, Fisher & Company have added to its list of overseas customers: exporting to new countries including Cyprus and Hong Kong.

Interest in Fisher & Company's two main products: Belisha Beacons and Feeder Pillars has increased recently from new companies. These include: schools, hospitals to commercial developments, all discovering the high-quality service and products meet both their specifications and quick delivery expectations.

The Fisher & Company Feeder Pillar range is extensive: the SDMP Mini Pillar and BD styles come in a range of sizes, or for larger Pillars, the FFP range is perfect. The ever-popular Belisha Beacons for zebra crossings ranges from the standard Mains Powered AmberGLO8 to the Solar Powered SolarisV2 or SolarisPM, for greater sustainability.



As the UK moves towards the 2050 net-zero target, the SolarisV2 solar-powered Belisha Beacon is the perfect greener choice for car parks, supermarkets and college campuses, with the photovoltaic (PV) panels powering rechargeable batteries for reliable operation. With no reliance on mains power, these efficient, sustainable pedestrian crossings continue to

work, even in poor weather conditions, providing safe crossings where no power is available.

Fisher & Company has worked tirelessly to design and manufacture only the highest-quality products and reviews for their products and services are very positive. Castings Services was delighted with the Stainless BD Feeder Pillar made for them.

"I first rang Fishers and spoke to Hannah, with my initial enquiry for a feeder pillar she was very helpful and managed to source out exactly what I required. I placed the order and the delivery date given was adhered to. The quality of the feeder pillar received was very good and I would have no hesitation in recommending this company. I spoke to the site foreman and he was pleased with the product."

To view the whole product range, including spares like LED Crossing Spotlights, Courtesy Shields and LED Beacons in Pre-Wired and BC22 fittings for retro fitting – available for both Belisha and Refuge Beacons, see the website below:

T + 44 (0)333 666 2122
info@fisherandcompany.co.uk
www.fisherandcompany.co.uk

Feeder Pillars for every purpose from Fisher & Company...



- Traditional Range
- 3 & 5mm Heavy Duty - FFP Range
- Versatile BD Range
- Mini Pillar SDMP Range
- GRP Range inc. Bespoke

Traditional



HEAVY DUTY 3mm & 5mm

- Bespoke and Made to Specification
- Pre-Wired and Shell Only
- Powder Coat Finishes
- 316 or 304 grade Stainless Steel option
- All metal products are made on the premises
- Fast turnaround even on bespoke
- High quality build and finish
- Suitable for all purposes – EV Charging, Power Distribution, Events, Temporary Supply, Sports & Leisure, etc

Hospital MRI Supply Pillar



Glazed Doors



Event Power supply

63A Service Pillar



Mini Pillars

Quality products made in Somerset. Order from stock for next day delivery* - Made to order sizes/specification and Bespoke from 2 weeks. Call our friendly, knowledgeable Sales Team to discuss your next project on the number below.

*next day delivery is dependant on location, courier service available and time of order.



Tel: (+44) 0333 666 2122
www.fisherandcompany.co.uk
info@fisherandcompany.co.uk



Pandor
see them on.....III



DCON Safety Consultants
see them on.....VIII



Tuff Waterproofing
see them on.....IX



Checkedsafe
see them on.....XII



Watlow
see them on.....XIII



Carlisle CM Europe
see them on.....XIV

Vandecasteele Houtimport are one of the leading European timber importers and have ambitious aims to trade only in certified timber by 2025

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883, Vandecasteele Houtimport specialises 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.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport's DNA. With over 140 years of experience, the company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. The challenge lies with the hardwood and especially the tropical hardwoods. Today they are at 80% certified and have a clear vision: only certified timber has a future.

A long-term goal that can only be achieved by including all partners. Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realise this future goal. 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.

Vandecasteele Houtimport has a unique business model. Importing timber from all over the world, keeping in stock for several years, in some cases, even decades. Stock is our strength and our specialty. In times where supply is difficult or tight, we can count on our invested stocks to guarantee continued supply.

In order to achieve our goal we have taken several actions within the company. First, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in place. Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with two 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 120,000 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. Timber is too often prescribed from a specific well-known species. 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 timber species.

Rethink everything: a positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour

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 timber. There is a continuous evolution, because of new insights and new legislation.

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 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 its 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 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purchase of FSC® certified timber contributes to biodiversity.

Since the year 2000, Vandecasteele Houtimport has committed itself through the Corporate Durability Charter by signing up to environmental objectives exceeding the applicable legislation. In 2018, the charter started a partnership with CIFAL Flanders, the local HUB of

UNITAR, the Training and Education Centre of the UN. In 2020, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world to obtain the international recognised 'SDG Pioneer certificate' from UNITAR CIFAL. In 2022, we were the first timber company in the world to

have achieved the 'SDG Champion award.'

Contact
T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be

RE: THINK WOOD

Nature's first choice

View and order stock on MY VDC

Prompt delivery

2025 - our aim is to trade in Certified timber only from 2025 onwards

VANDECASTEELE
HOUTIMPORT

Contact
Bergstraat 25
8511 Aalbeke
Belgium
vandecasteele.be

genevieve@vandecasteele.be
+32 56 43 33 00
dave@vandecasteele.be
+44 15 94 83 43 32



Bespoke Fire Doors, Frames, Windows and more

Founded in 2014, Pandor is a Bespoke Door and Panel Manufacturer with over 40 years' experience in the door and panel industry.

Whether you're looking for or in need of a unique, challenging, different or normal requirement, Pandor has excellent customer service, expert know-how and industry experience to deliver exactly to your specifications.



Pandor's extensive portfolio includes fire doors and door sets – certified to FD30/FD60/FD90/FD120 as required, acoustic doors, joinery and panelling, each made to your sizes and finished either clear or in paint as required. Each product comes manufactured to superlative quality with the upmost attention to detail and delivered to you in the shortest lead times.

Manufacturing out of its factory in Sittingbourne, Kent, Pandor has high-quality state of the art machinery helping to achieve the best standard of manufacturing. From the Holzher 5 axis CNC twin bed router to heavy duty sanding machines, veneer presses and lipping and edge banding technology, Pandor can achieve maximum throughput, competitive lead times and accurate, high-quality standards to rival any large-scale competitor.

Quality, Service, more Quality and more Service.

Proud manufacturers of BM TRADA Q Mark Scheme Fire doors and doorsets.

For more information, please see below:
T 020 82797611
mike@pandor.ltd
pandorltd@hotmail.com
https://pandor.ltd

Pandor
BESPOKE DOOR AND PANEL MANUFACTURERS
 FIRE DOORS | ACOUSTIC DOORS | PANELLING | DOOR FRAMES

THREE KEY VALUES
 SUPERLATIVE QUALITY | SHORTEST DELIVERY | ATTENTION TO DETAIL

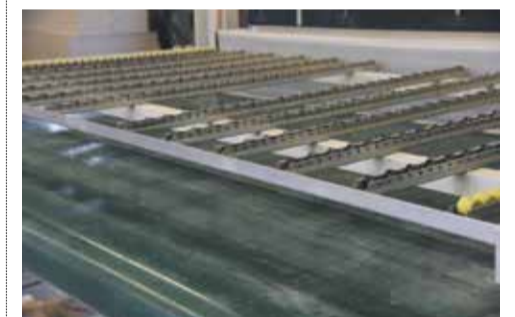
OFFERING SERVICE LIKE NO OTHER

EXCELLING IN ACHIEVING FAST LEAD TIMES FOR **BESPOKE FIRE DOOR SETS**

QUALITY AND **SERVICE WITH A SMILE**

PROUD MEMBERS OF THE **BM TRADA Q-MARK SCHEME** FOR FIRE DOORS YOU CAN DEPEND ON

UNIT F2/F3 | LONDON ROAD TRADING ESTATE
 SITTINGBOURNE | KENT | ME10 1SX
 CALL: 0208 279 7611 | 07909 530 007
 EMAIL: MIKE@PANDOR.LTD | PANDORLTD@HOTMAIL.COM



Bespoke Aluminium Gates, Fencing & Doors

Alugate: Bespoke Premium Aluminium Gates

Aluminium gates are an increasingly popular gate choice, but with so many options available, how do you choose?

Like any type of gate, aluminium gate prices vary considerably depending on the options you choose.

Aluminium, as a raw material, is generally more expensive than steel but because aluminium has outstanding strength and durability, a gate made in aluminium will last far longer and it won't need any maintenance.

There are many types of aluminium gates available from bolted, bonded and screwed to fully welded gates, and in different profile thicknesses. A bolted gate will cost less than a fully welded gate because of the manufacturing process. A thicker profile means more aluminium therefore a higher price.

Alugate's Managing Director, Stewart Phillips, explains, "If you want an



aluminium gate that will last a lifetime, a fully welded gate with a 3mm profile is the perfect choice offering superior strength and durability.

"At Alugate our welded aluminium gates use 3mm aluminium profiles so they're extremely strong, which means we can manufacture larger gates; up to a 10m opening on swing gates and 8m on a sliding gate.

"Our innovative manufacturing processes combine an internal weld so that water is not retained, a 3-step sanding process ensuring a smooth surface that is perfect

for powder coating and super durable Qualicoat class 2 powder coating so they are fully resistant to corrosion – so that you get the very best gates."

Alugate aluminium gates are custom made and they also offer a free bespoke design service. With a 10-year warranty, an aluminium gate from Alugate will stand the test of time.

Take a look at the new Alugate gate collection at: www.alu-gate.co.uk or give their expert team a call to discuss your requirements on: 0114 3499599.



ALUGATE®
WELDED ALUMINIUM

The professionals choice for bespoke high quality aluminium gates, fencing and doors

- ▶ pedestrian, double or single swing, track or cantilever sliding, telescopic or bi-folding gates
- ▶ i-weld and Double ZERO system gives superior strength and no visible welds
- ▶ Qualicoat powder coating
- ▶ choose any RAL colour, micro-texture, gloss, matt, super matt, three-dimensional or wood grain finish

alu-gate.co.uk
 0114 3499599 | info@alu-gate.co.uk

MARVERUK

Deep-Hole drilling automation is more than part load/unload

Originally published in Modern Machine Shop

Photos: UNISIG



For deep-hole drilling, part handling might be the most visible automation element, but it's not necessarily the most impactful. Often, it's internal process automation that yields the most significant results even with a manually loaded drilling machine.

When it comes to automating deep-hole drilling, there are challenges unique to the process itself. These include fixturing complexities – where maintaining alignment requires elements such as guide bushings and tool supports not present in a conventional lathe or milling machine – and part attributes such as length and weight.

Long parts mean a long drilling cycle time, and maintaining production rates often requires multi-spindle, deep-hole drilling systems. Unfortunately, stopping a two or four-spindle machine means two or four spindles sit idle until the parts are loaded and unloaded. So in these instances, the more parts in the machine at one time, the more automation can actually inhibit cycle time while the machine is running.

Solving this problem in multi-spindle machines requires internal automation to achieve the objectives of lean manufacturing and one-piece flow. In-machine loaders singulate processes so that even within a small four-piece batch you maintain one-piece flow. The operator or automation device puts in a part and takes a part out and the machine does a bit of maneuvering inside to sequence those four parts in such a way as to minimize spindle downtime while maintaining upstream and downstream processes for one-piece flow. For instance, parts could be loaded onto a smart conveyor, indexed, and lifted into chucks for the drilling cycle before robotic unloading on the out-feed side so that there are no bottlenecks to a steady production flow.

Tool life management is another form of internal



automation. Getting feedback to the machine enables the deep-hole drilling process to adapt or halt, if necessary, before tools and parts are damaged.

Tool life management is built into a machine's control, and the machine senses torque thrust and coolant. Chip condition is usually the first indicator of wear, which would otherwise require an operator present to detect, so the machine actually monitors the process and can predict tools starting to wear and identify when they need to be changed. A tool life management system also can count distances drilled and the number of cycles then prompt a tool change at the appropriate time.

That kind of in-machine automation smooths the path for external automation. As the process builds, highly standardized options for robot-ready machines such as an automatic door, workpiece-present sensors and programmable workpiece fixturing makes it easier to add a robot at a later date. These robot-ready

machines also create efficiencies before they are fully automated. Even with manual loading, the automatic doors and programmable clamping make the process more efficient.

In UNISIG's experience, an embedded reamer tool changer enables manufacturers to manage significant throughput increases, even with an operator. With this technology, operators can maintain the pace of production loading the machine, while eliminating the task of inserting reaming tools for each cycle. This allows the operator to redirect efforts towards tasks such as additional quality checks and off-machine setups.

Please visit us at EMO 2023, Hannover from 18th-23rd September. Further information on all machines of the UNI series and the complete UNISIG machine program is available at: www.unisig.com or follow the company on LinkedIn and Twitter (@UNISIG).



See us at



UNISIG

is the leading producer of gundrilling and BTA deep hole drilling machines

Our industry-leading customers around the world rely on UNISIG® deep hole drilling technologies for powerful, intuitive capabilities. We engineer our machines to handle a complete range of applications, and support them with our high level of expertise and service.

Standard Gundrilling Machines: Job Shops & Production Drilling



Production Deep Hole Drilling and Automation: Modular Machines for Production Drilling



For more information, please visit our website: www.unisig.com

Machines • Tools • Automation

UNISIG machines, engineered and manufactured in the USA



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

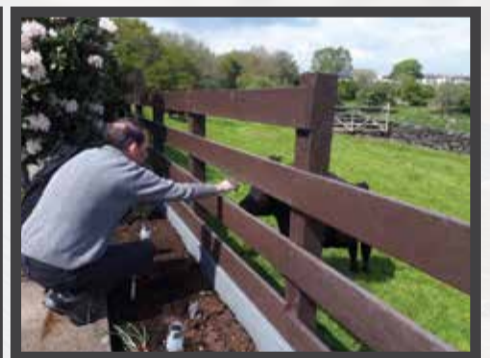
network of resellers around the UK, as the current cost of transport is at an all-time high so we are looking at ways around this for better business practice and to allow for an eco-friendlier way of working."

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."

For more information, please see below:
T 01282 861325
www.kedel.co.uk



The Zero Maintenance Alternative to Wood



Recycled Plastic

- 100% recycled and recyclable
- Impervious to fungi, algae, insects
- Never rots, splinters or cracks
- Graffiti resistant
- UV Protected
- Eco-friendly and low carbon
- 100% maintenance free
- Lasts a lifetime



sales@kedel.co.uk | www.kedel.co.uk | 01282 861325



Protecting your investment, with award-winning, sustainable products

In this issue of Building Update, we are delighted to award SWIFIX with our Product Innovation Award.

External wall insulation (EWI) is one of the fastest growing areas within the UK construction industry. For time immemorial, timber pattresses have been used to secure the fixing of satellite dishes through to utility boxes upon reinstatement. This was until SWIFIX: an Exeter-based

company came up with a brilliant, innovative design range that bypassed traditional timber methods in 2016.

Paul Brown is the Director and brains behind the operations, with an extensive background in leadership in senior management, starting his career as a plasterer completing EWI.

SWIFIX is a multi-award-winning company that designs

cutting-edge solutions for securing external furniture through External Wall Insulations (EWI). Since its inception in 2016, the range has been extensively extended, including a recent, exclusive design partnership with SKY telecommunications for a new product for securing cables and small pipework.

"We work with a broad range of customers from

Architects, Local Authorities (LA's) to major contractors and system designers providing surefire solutions for securing external wall furniture, through insulation and cladding, across a range of properties, including retrofit, new build, and the off-site modular sectors.

"Our unique design approach has brought robust solutions to market, for securing external furniture through EWI. These include: satellite dishes, rainwater goods, canopies, light alarms, signage, cables, pretty much any item that needs reinstatement," explained Paul.



INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS TO ENABLE FIXING THROUGH EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION

Our products are one of the most cost-effective solutions to enable the fitting of external furniture through external wall insulation and rain screen cladding, with the added benefit of being designed specifically for the job. Fully Pas2035 complaint for the future of retrofitting and the Modular housing sectors and the ideal solution for a longer term maintenance provision.

All fittings meet stringent technical requirements by preventing the compression of insulation and providing a watertight seal. They are also approved by many leading manufacturers and organisations developing modern methods of construction to support the requirement for new homes in the UK.



INNOVATIVE

A new cost-effective way to fit external furniture through walls and cladding



ROBUST

Super-strong to prevent insulation compression and provide a watertight seal



EASY TO INSTALL

Simple yet effective next generation solutions. See for yourself



Paul Brown, Director at SWIFIX holding the Product Innovation Award

The SWIFIX range are PAS2035-compliant for quality assurance and with easy installation and added cost efficiency, it's easy to see why they are the leading choice for many customers.

The products are regarded as industry-leading, shortlisted for the National Energy Efficiency Awards (2016): with many other accolades recognising innovation and Excellence in the Energy Efficiency Sector, and more recently, The INCA Innovation Award Winner in 2021. The Insulated Render and Cladding Association (INCA) is the recognised trade association for the EWI industry across the UK and awards are given for exceptional work in the industry. We asked Paul, in his own words what made SWIFIX products so special, "SWIFIX are recommended by many system designers as a product of choice, due to the fact that by using the solution and the way in which they are installed, they protect warranties and guarantees for the systems installed."

"The range provides a robust and watertight solution preventing ingress of water, which is damaging to systems. It truly offers a unique solution, unsurpassed by competitors, as it is suitable for many different formats and can hold greater weights. Overall, it is significantly cheaper than its competitors, offering considerable cost savings."

"I'm very proud of our green credentials: it is a very eco efficient-range, made from partially recycled plastics with all the parts are fully recyclable, along with the packaging, making our products very attractive in the age of sustainability."

"Paul and his hard-working team were delighted to receive our Product Innovation Award, "It is amazing that the products are recognised for their innovation. From the offset what looks like a simple product in design, however was years in the making. From wind loadings, shear and load testing and the crucial element of thermal loss and heat transfer, all variables have been rigorously tested by various testing houses across the UK."

For more information on this award-winning range, please see below:
T 01884 560477
info@SWIFIX.co.uk
www.SWIFIX.co.uk



To find out more, please visit www.swifix.co.uk, call **01884 560477** or email info@swifix.co.uk

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.

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



DCON
SAFETY CONSULTANTS

Leaders in Built Environmental Safety and Health and Wellbeing Consultancy

Consulting on various aspects of project design, constructability and operational lifecycle matters for local and global commercial clients.

CONTACT US:

DCON Safety Consultants
Suite 5, Fitzwilliam Square East, Dublin 2
Email info@dconsafety.com
Phone +353 (0)1 611 1556

www.dconsafety.com



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:
T 01977 680250
info@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk
www.tuffstuff.co.uk



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.

It's a single-resin solution which can be applied to a multitude of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

With two coats applied within one hour, TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane - can be a solution for areas of heavy duty foot traffic.

TUFF STUFF FLEXIBLE GRP



www.tuffstuff.co.uk

T 01977 680250
orders@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk

Elevate your business to the next level

In this issue of Building Update, we have selected Elevate Software as our Company of Choice.

Construction project management can often be arduous, requiring smooth communication flows between chief architects, main contractors, chartered surveyors and sub-contractors. With stringent health & safety and contractual laws, alongside urban planning laws and biodiversity considerations, it is essential that project management runs smoothly to avoid undue delays in constructions.

Steve McGowan is the manager of Elevate Software, with extensive prior experience working in construction, from apprentice joiner, to sub-contractor, contractor manager



and consultant, under his belt. During his working experience, he noticed that the information flow was key to successful project completion and conversely, the opposite caused frustrating delays.



"Elevate software can provide real-time updates, directing everyone on actions and this results in the team, prioritising their time and becoming more productive."

"Elevate Assist is a standalone software solution connecting everyone under one digital hub and is exceptionally user-friendly."

"Busy professionals are asked for requests for information (RFI's) daily on multiple projects and with higher management now often working remotely, they need updates quickly in real time, at the touch of a button. Elevate Software does all that and much more," explains Steve.

This smart software design was first market tested in 2007 and was shortlisted for Best Newcomer to Show at The Interbuild Trade show at the NEC to impressed industry professionals.



The smart colour-coded traffic-light functionality alerts users to approaching deadlines throughout all the project management stages: design, construction, finance and legal aspects, providing full compliance and audit trail.

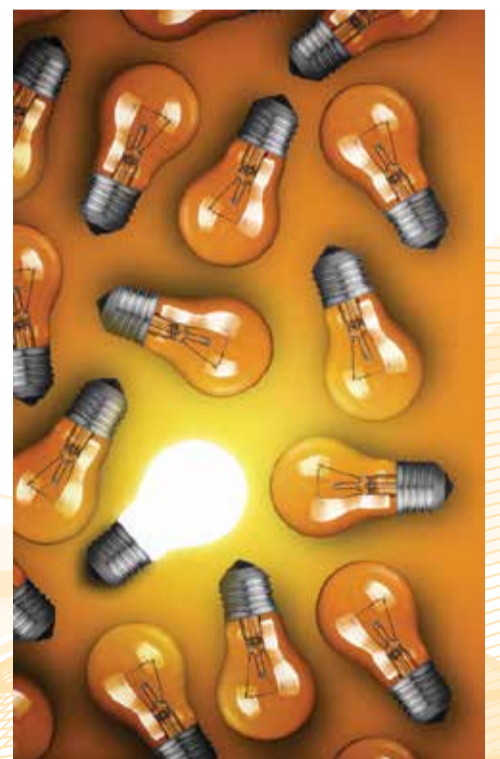
The driving aim of Elevate Assist is to propel work forward, on a scheduled time line. The cloud-based servers allow unlimited viewing access in real-time from any remote location.

For more information, contact Steve McGowan on the details below:
T 01962 761693
M 07824 724377
steve@elevate-software.co.uk
www.elevate-software.com

elevateTM
Construction Made Easy

THE COMPLETE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

**90% OF THE PROCESS
AUTOMATED | DESIGN | FINANCE
CONSTRUCTION
HEALTH & SAFETY
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAMMES
COLOUR CODED GUIDANCE**



**Please visit www.elevate-software.co.uk, call 01962 761693
or email steve@elevate-software.co.uk**

Gromtec Europe: The SIMONBOX

Why can you never find a power socket where you require one? The SIMONBOX is an IP66 rated (Weatherproof) single socket floor outlet, designed for installation in hard floor and patio areas, which have an occasional power requirement.



When closed and not in use the unit achieves its IP66 rating.

When open and in use, it is IP20 rated. The SIMONBOX is installed in a wide range for installations including Tennis and Football Stadiums, Airports, Car Showrooms, Department Stores and John & Janes back garden! No more trailing cables and



**Simonbox IP66
Waterproof Floor Outlet**

**Gromtec
europe Ltd.**

**Available
from your
electrical
wholesaler**

**Occasional Power
Outlet ideal for
concourse, garage
showrooms, pop
up display areas**



trip hazards, the SIMONBOX delivers power to where it is required. Available in either a stainless steel or brass finish the top section is available in a range of socket options. There are 2 back box options for screed or raised floor installation, such as decking.

**Available through your
local electrical wholesaler
or online. For more
information, please visit:
www.simonbox.co.uk or
call: 0203 286 7949.**



Available in two finishes

**For more information
www.simonbox.co.uk - 0203 2867949**



Paperless defect reporting
and fleet maintenance
all for £1 per vehicle, per week



Driver's app
for easy checks



Fleet portal
for full reporting



GPS tags
for locations



DVSA-compliant
for efficiency

Ask us about our new **License Check** service



watch our video

Try free for 30 days
checkedsafe.com



Fleet Innovation
of the Year 2022



Innovative Business
of the Year 2022



Transport Supplier
of the Year 2019



Watlow reflects on 2022

2022 has lots to be remembered for, challenges and triumphs. But for electric heating element manufacturer Watlow, it's been highly significant year in the company's journey to date. Here Johann Lainer, Marketing Communications Manager Europe at Watlow, reflects on the company's achievements in 2022.

100 years in the making

Halfway through 2022 marked Watlow's 100 year-anniversary. The company, which was founded in 1922 in Missouri, USA, is

now a global electric heating specialist with over 1,000 patents and 4,200 employees working across locations in North America, Asia and Europe.

Watlow began manufacturing electric heating elements for the shoe industry, before widening its product offering in the 1930s to introduce electric immersion heaters to replace steam pipes and fire-hazardous gas. Then, in the 1980s, Watlow expanded its global reach with the opening of sales offices in Italy, France, the UK and Taiwan.

Since its founding in 1922, the company has developed into a highly regarded industrial heating technology manufacturer, holding more than 1,000 patents and employing over 4,000 people working in nine manufacturing facilities and five technology centres across three continents.

Eurotherm acquisition

In June 2022, Watlow announced it had signed an agreement to acquire Eurotherm® from Schneider Electric, the global leader in the digital transformation of energy

management and automation.

Eurotherm is a premier global provider of temperature, power and process control, measurement and data management equipment, systems, software and services for global industrial markets. The company's headquarters are in Worthing, UK, with core manufacturing operations in Łędziny, Poland, and a headcount of about 650 people worldwide.

www.watlow.com



PM PLUS™

Intuitive Temperature Controller Enhances the User Experience

- Intuitive menu flow
- Bluetooth® connectivity with EZ-LINK™ mobile app for remote access capability
- Load exactly the right settings every time
- Supply updated settings to customers quickly and accurately
- Access settings in hard to reach controllers

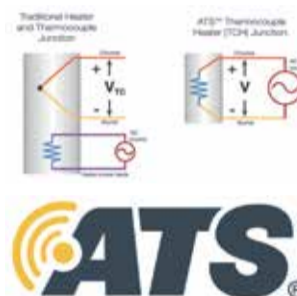
Powered by Possibility

Contact your local Watlow representative or visit www.watlow.com to find out more

Improved User Interface

The new alternatives in power conversion

Power conversion is familiar in most consumer and industrial technologies, which typically use AC adapters to convert to DC and supply the required voltage. However, while the method of conversion allows a heater to operate at a given set temperature, it receives the full voltage when turned on, which can cause damage over time in some cases. Other solutions, such as phase-angle controllers and DC power supplies also have their own setbacks, making power conversion a tough task. In this article, Stan Breitlow, chief system designer at industrial temperature controller manufacturer Watlow, discusses the new alternative in power conversion.



The necessity of power conversion

The goal with a heater is not to attain a given DC current, but to maintain a given temperature, which is done using a switching device that turns the power on and off rapidly. Usually, this kind of switching or cycling is not an issue. But in some cases when heaters are small, have ceramic components, or where control of multiple heaters is needed, it is not ideal to have the device on with full voltage, let alone have it switching between states. For example, this can happen when precise heating is needed in medical devices, or rapid heating is needed to test microchips in the semiconductor industry.

The issue becomes worse when constructing devices for an international market. Heaters often have very specific voltage requirements, but the power sources can vary from country to country. In today's global economy, there is a great need to normalise this power for use with heaters built for the voltage requirements of any country. In short, power conversion is an old idea, but current technologies in the market are not well suited for some applications.

The problem with power conversion

Power conversion is essential for any heater, whether in an in-home medical device or a large-scale industrial process. But as heaters become smaller and more intricate, more attention must be paid to their power supply. It's important to be mindful that there are four types of cases where inadequate power conversion can lead to problems.

Firstly, fragile heaters become easily damaged. Switching a higher-voltage power source on and off creates wear and tear on devices. As this happens, smaller, more fragile heaters are more likely to fail over time.

New power conversion technology

Power conversion is commonly achieved through phase-angle controllers, transformers and power supplies. But as we have seen, these solutions can either damage heaters, or take up large amounts of space or make it incredibly hard to measure and control the power flow. Watlow's power conversion technology solves these issues by providing the ability to bring voltage up or down smoothly without having to introduce a bulky power supply. Watlow temperature controllers, such as POWERGLIDE®, are capable of modulating the amplitude of the output voltage, allowing the voltage to step down from 208 volts to as low as 20 volts.

Lowering the voltage in this way is a great way to drive low-impedance heaters. It can reduce the power distribution rating with smaller fuses and wires, which saves money and space.

For further information, please contact Johann Lainer, T +43 6244 201290 jlainer@watlow.com www.watlow.com

LEADING FOLDAWAY BED SUPPLIERS

- Wide Range
- Highest Quality
- Competitive Prices

Wallbed Systems Ltd.
www.wallbedsystems.co.uk | Jeremy.Waller@wallbedsystems.co.uk
 +44 (0)208 704 5796 | +44 (0)7780 66 1958

next bed™

Wallbed Systems designs, develops, manufactures, and distributes a wide range of wall bed systems to 27 countries around the world.

Roofing & Sustainable Building Materials

Ecomerchant: Ethical. Healthy. Sustainable

Established in 1998, Ecomerchant is an independent employee-owned business, which has been at the forefront of sustainability for 25 years as a leading supplier of sustainable building materials. Based on the core values of ethical trading, healthy materials and sustainability, Ecomerchant has built up an excellent reputation as a provider of sustainable construction materials, with a large and loyal customer base. Ecomerchant is helping to ensure that we all can build healthier, energy efficient and more environmentally sensitive buildings.

Ecomerchant supplies a vast range of products and materials including insulation, airtightness, sheathing and sarking boards, timber windows & doors, lime and clay plasters and renders, natural paints,

renewable energy products, water-saving and off-grid systems, groundwork and landscaping materials and so much more all chosen to help create healthier and more energy efficient homes, schools and workplaces.

Over the past few years, Ecomerchant has seen an increase in the demand for natural alternatives to many building materials, many natural materials outperform their modern synthetic alternatives but without the unwanted environmental consequences. Ecomerchant has developed a range of solutions and products offering higher energy performance and building efficiency with minimal impact on the environment.

All of Ecomerchant's products are chosen for their



A family house built with naturally insulated passive panels (NIPPs) constructed to passive levels of airtightness and energy efficiency, the complete construction is made using natural and sustainable materials. Image courtesy of Kithurst Builders.

ability to eliminate, reduce or significantly improve environmental performance, improve building health and reduce running costs.

Visit Ecomerchant's website to see the huge range of products and discover a wealth of information both general and technical to help you decide what is best for you; many products are available to buy online. Ecomerchant's knowledgeable and helpful staff will be happy to price your enquiry, answer technical questions, take orders or provide quotations.

Contact
T 01793 847444
sales@ecomerchant.co.uk
www.ecomerchant.co.uk

Waterproofing you can rely on

Carlisle Construction Materials Europe (CCM Europe) manufacture high quality waterproofing systems for new build and refurbishment flat roofing projects, along with the ARBO® range of sealants and EPDM tapes for façades, providing complete building envelope solutions for the construction industry.



CCM Europe is a dynamic company, driving innovation in speed and ease of installation, sustainability, and waterproofing performance across a variety of roofing technologies, including EPDM, bitumen and liquid Waterproofing. Offering expert technical advice to specifiers, CCM Europe supports optimised specifications, leveraging the variety across the company's waterproofing and sealants ranges.

CCM's RESITRIX® single ply waterproofing for flat roofs is the only roofing system that combines the properties of EPDM synthetic rubber and polymer-modified bitumen to create a durable hybrid membrane. An extremely flexible, single-layer waterproofing membrane, it can be applied on almost all substrates and provides fast and neat installation, with each section of membrane welded together quickly, easily and safely using a hot-air device without any need for naked flames.

Suitable for mechanical installation using induction technology, CCM's HERTALAN® EPDM system enables roofs to be made watertight quickly, with the company able to produce EPDM membranes up to 30m in length and in various widths up to 20m, thanks to its vulcanisation factory in Mansfield.

Another hero product within the CCM range is the ARBOFLEX® PU single component liquid waterproofing system. Made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a seamless elastic roof covering without any joints, ARBOFLEX® PU delivers air tightness and waterproofing on most substrates.

A high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface, including uneven, curved or irregular substrates. With its rapid-curing properties, it allows foot traffic within 24 hours. The single component liquid waterproofing can be applied straight from the tin, allowing fast and easy installation, and it is green roof compatible.

In addition to offering state of the art flat roofing and façade solutions, Carlisle supports expertise and knowledge sharing with the company's training courses at the CARLISLE® ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, CCM's training courses enable attendees to learn about the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions in an up-close, hands-on manner, ensuring construction industry professionals can maximise the products' performance benefits on site. For more information, visit: <https://www.ccm-europe.com/gb/academy>

Anticipating change creates opportunity for innovation and exceptional customer service. CCM has recently strengthened its sales and distribution network for the UK and the ROI market, welcoming new professionals to the company's sales team, with appointments including Charlie Patrick, who looks after the Eastern region, and Crawford McAllister who looks after the North and Scotland.

Contact
T 01623 627285
info.uk@ccm-europe.com
www.ccm-europe.com

You can watch installation videos for CCM Europe products here:



ecomerchant
sustainable building materials
from foundation to ridge

"Creating quality low energy architecture requires a dedicated, knowledgeable team from initial concept right through to finishing touches. Ecomerchant are key part of that team for Charlie Luxton Design. Our values align, creating good buildings that perform and last whilst respecting our environment."

Charlie Luxton
Principal
Charlie Luxton Design

www.ecomerchant.co.uk
email: info@ecomerchant.co.uk
call: 01793 847 444
ETHICAL • HEALTHY • SUSTAINABLE

Natural Roofing Slate priced to help YOU win projects

RoofingSlateDirect.com
High Quality Slate
at Low Prices!

Quick & Easy
Website Ordering

UK Wide Delivery &
UK Technical Support

BS EN 12326-1:2014
to A1, S1, W1 & T1

Good match for
Welsh Slate or Ballachulish Slate
at a much lower price

Try us on your next
slate roof project and
find out what you've been missing!

www.RoofingSlateDirect.com
T : 0333 323 1768
E : contact@roofingslatedirect.com

ARBOFLEX®
Liquid Waterproofing
you can rely on

One component PU liquid waterproofing

- ✓ Fast and easy installation
- ✓ Weather-resistant: can be used all year round
- ✓ Green roof compatible
- ✓ BBA Certified
- ✓ Seamless finish, adapts to uneven, curved or irregular surfaces

www.ccm-europe.com

CARLISLE
CM EUROPE

LE TONKINOIS VARNISH



LE TONKINOIS VARNISH IS A NATURAL OIL BASED YACHT VARNISH, USING A CHINESE FORMULA DATING BACK TWO OR THREE CENTURIES. AND WHAT A FORMULA!

IT REMOVES YOUR BRUSH-MARKS, BRINGS OUT THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE TIMBER, DOESN'T CRACK OR FLAKE OFF, AND IS PERMANENT, SIMPLY ADD A FURTHER COAT EVERY FEW YEARS.

Please visit www.letonkinoisvarnish.co.uk

Telephone 01628 629892 or email mail@letonkinoisvarnish.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.

T 01787 269232
www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk




THE BULMER BRICK & TILE COMPANY LTD

Bulmer bricks are made from the finest London Clays, dug from our seams almost continually since Tudor times. All Bulmer bricks are hand made, using traditional methods of making, drying and are fired in a coal burning, down draught kiln. We are a small family business continuing the traditions of brickmaking on this site dating back to the Middle Ages.


We work on large projects for the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces, but are just as proud of some of the small private work undertaken by individuals.


The Brickfields, Bulmer, Sudbury,
Suffolk CO10 7EF
Tel: 01787 269232
Fax: 01787 269040
Email: bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk



The Bulmer Brick & Tile Co Ltd









T 01787 269232
bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk
Please visit: www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk

Steel Buildings



STEEL BUILDING SOLUTIONS

+ SINGLE SKIN + COMPOSITE + ROLLER DOORS + WINDOWS +



INDUSTRIAL



AGRICULTURAL



DOMESTIC

+ SKYLIGHTS + PERSONNEL DOORS + INSTALLATION OPTIONS +

GET A FREE ON-LINE QUOTE AT

WWW.CSBBUILDINGS.CO.UK

OR CONTACT US ON

01302 301402

INFO@CSBBUILDINGS.CO.UK

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.

In 2018, the charter started a partnership with CIFAL Flanders, the local HUB of UNITAR, the Training and Education centre of the UN. In 2020, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world that obtained the international recognized 'SDG Pioneer certificate' from UNITAR CIFAL. This year, in 2022, we are the first timber company in the world to have achieved the **SDG Champion award**.

Contact
T +32 56 43 33 00
www.vandecasteele.be

