

INDUSTRIAL

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OUR GOAL IS TO ASSIST
CLIENTS, THEIR LEGAL ADVISORS
AND THE COURTS TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE
ASPECTS OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE
IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, SO
THAT THEY CAN MAKE MORE
INFORMED DECISIONS

Rodney Peyton

RODNEY PEYTON

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE EXPERT

HIGHLY REGARDED AS AN ACCOMPLISHED
CONSULTANT TRAUMA SURGEON, AUTHOR
AND TRAINER WITH A LONGSTANDING
COMMITMENT TO SURGICAL EDUCATION

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Hello & Welcome to Issue 670 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 ground-breaking innovations and this month, we are overjoyed to be highlighting the activities of Peyton Medico and CAMB Machine Knives.

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

Secondly, we are featuring CAMB Machine Knives with the 'Machine Knives Company of the Year' profile following their impressive performance over the years. For more information, turn to page 15.

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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ECO PHYSICS AG develops new three-channel chemiluminescence analyser (NO/NO₂/NH₃)

ECO PHYSICS AG offers innovative analytical solutions for measurement tasks in the fields of environment, health and process control. Using its vital expertise and technology to contribute towards environmental preservation, human health, and industrial innovation, ECO PHYSICS' interdisciplinary research and development team work tirelessly to deliver the best customer orientated and tailor-made products and services for the industry.

Founded in 1990 through a management buy-out, ECO PHYSICS stands strong today as an independent Swiss shareholder's company with an active board of members who are committed to the future growth and success of the company. We spoke to Dr. Grischa Peter Feuersänger, Head of Sales & Marketing who explained how the past 12 months have fared.

"We have received a positive recovery post pandemic. Many public projects were reopened which generated a lot of opportunities for new references. The war in East Europe is a new tough challenge to overcome, especially for companies that rely almost completely on importing parts and exporting their finished products. But the main challenge for all of us has particularly been the manufacturing costs, shipping routes and exchange rates. Since 2022, we have used this time to expand our product portfolio and modernise our production line. New staff has been hired for production and R&D, and we have rearranged the



supply chain due to the rise in production costs. We have adapted our yearly forecast to cater to this, we know it will be hard, but optimisation is our current goal."

Knowing there is no quick fix to economic changes, ECO PHYSICS is determined to continue innovating and has developed a new three-channel analyser based on chemiluminescence. As an upgrade from the The nCLD AL2, The nCLDAL3/8555 CY analyser is the next generation in high precision nitrogen oxide measurement. Unique in speed and reliability, the nCLDAL3/8555 CY is modular designed and capable of simultaneously NO, NO₂, NO_x, NH₃ and NOX-Amines. The new and intuitive graphical user interface also individually displays and connects to other instruments' data.

Overall stability and reliability are lifted to a new level. The optional electro-mechanical

bypass system balances out even the fastest of pressure variations occurring in the sample flow. Furthermore, the analyser is adaptable to numerous non-standardized applications and the calibration of the unit runs quickly and automatically with all necessary data available anywhere at any time. Its user friendly, compact, modular, and intelligent hosting its own CPU whilst enabling interaction with other CPUs by BUS-communication.

Additionally, ECO PHYSICS has also been developing upgrade kits for all its existing products to help counteract some of the problematic complications the supply chain has caused. "We have used this chance for some substantial upgrades in hardware, software and gas flow controls," added Dr. Grischa Peter Feuersänger.

Going forward, ECO PHYSICS is excited to continue working on optimising production workflow whilst simultaneously expanding its current portfolio and developing new technologies.

In closing, we asked Dr. Grischa Peter Feuersänger how the company felt receiving our award. He responded, "We are extremely honoured to be nominated, thank you."

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The one- and two-channel chemiluminescence based NO_x analyzers of the nCLD "Facelift" box-solution analyzers detect NO, NO₂ and NO_x at concentrations ranging from 5ppm to 5,000ppm with minimal detection limits averaging from 0.4ppb to 0.5ppm. They hereby focus on two main application areas, Ambient Air (AL, <50ppm) and Emission/Process (EL, <500ppm; EL S <5,000ppm) monitoring. The one-channel nCLD AL, EL and EL S feature an external pump, while the two-channel nCLD AL² and EL² include an internal pump. The nCLD "Facelift" boxed solutions consist of five, fixed and pre-configured analyzers. The nCLD AL (Ambient Level) and EL S/EL include a standard NO/NO_x measurement, with an optional NO₂ add-on, while AL² and EL² include, due to the two-channel set-up, a standard NO₂ detection. The slightly modified front panel has been equipped with an additional Power-button and a new internal PC. Additionally, are all nCLD-models capable of a remote power down/up including a failsafe feature.



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Fun on the farm

Rutland Farm Park is a small 18-acre Victorian working farm, within the beautiful town boundary of Oakham, Rutland and perfect for visitors from Leicester, Peterborough, Nottingham, Northampton and Newark.

The farm park was established in 1970 by John and Daphne Ball, after they returned home from teaching in Kenya. They took over the running of the family farm from John's father and decided to add an educational element to the farm. The couple worked closely with Joe Henson: founder of both the Cotswold farm park (now Adams Farm) and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust) and bought rare breed livestock from him.

"The farm has two main functions: a small family-run working farm in a beautiful Victorian farmyard and the farm park. The farm park is a visitor's attraction with a wide range of animals, Daphne's tearoom and a gift shop.

Visitors tell us we are the true epitome of the childhood real farm image and not a manufactured plastic attraction built to generate profit for shareholders. We concentrate on conserving rare native breeds of animals at the farm park. Some breeds are on the priority 'to save' list, making the loss of the breeds highly likely. This includes our Clydesdale and Shire horses, Lincoln Longwool and Oxford Down sheep, the



Saddle Back and Gloucester old spot pigs," explained current owner, Julie Ball.

The conservation of the rare native breeds continues the work of John and Daphne Ball's original vision, through the current fourth and fifth-family generation, making this a truly educational experience for families and children.

The family-run farm park welcomes schoolchildren visits and offers a 30% group discount on admission charges. The team are currently working hard to open the nearby woodland for visitors to enjoy and are in the process of converting the pigsty to a covered weatherproof area for school groups, children's parties and craft-lead workshops.

All events can be booked online, with a 10% discount on admission for military and blue light cardholders.

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Industrial Applications



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Save space and time with BITO small parts storage

Maximise your storage space by using shelving and containers from the same manufacturer, designed to complement each other with no wasted space.

Manufacturers require small components such as nuts, bolts, fasteners and screws in their thousands, relying on small parts storage to keep the lines flowing just as much as larger components. Naturally enough they will be kept in the highest quantity, and it is not uncommon to hold tens of thousands of these parts – often in bins on racking to make them available for picking.

Making the best use of storage space However, it is not uncommon for companies to use shelving and containers that are not really suited to small parts storage. Because of their size or nature, thereby wasting space. BITO, however, has developed special, torsionally rigid racking that takes up little space. RK container racking allows 25% more bins to be stored than on other shelves, thanks to an exceptionally thin base that doesn't compromise on stability. The shelves of the

container rack are a mere 25mm thick, which allows storage of a significantly higher number of items. The container racking is made from a galvanised material and comes either with or without containers. A boltless design that requires no additional screws or expensive tools means it can be installed quickly and easily and there is plenty of flexibility for expanding storage. A starter and extension bay design means that shelving can easily be added to at a later date.

RK containers are available in depths from 300 to 600mm and a choice of heights and widths. They can be further sub-divided into smaller compartments with length or width ways dividers meaning the variety of components that can be stored is vast. For convenience, spring-controlled handles can



be added that allow containers to be tilted out of the shelving without falling out.

Popular container sizes are also available in recycled black polypropylene, making them an even more cost-effective solution.

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Take sound to the cloud with Quantum from Cirrus Research



For more than five decades, health and safety practitioners have turned to noise monitoring equipment such as handheld sound level meters and personal noise dosimeters to assess noise levels in the workplace. However, with more and more businesses choosing to operate from multiple sites as opposed to across one site, it's possible that these more traditional methods of noise measurement and monitoring may no longer be the most efficient.

Quantum; the future of noise measurement Quantum Indoor from Cirrus Research is a powerful noise monitoring solution with built-in cloud connectivity, perfect for continuous occupational noise monitoring, identifying the source and type of noise that is occurring, and highlighting where noise control measures are required.

With this instrument, it has never been easier to measure and monitor workplace noise continuously and remotely across one or multiple sites.

The cloud technology that is built into the Quantum instruments allows health and safety practitioners to connect multiple noise monitors on one account, allowing for data from each noise monitor to be viewed and assessed on one platform. This creates a network of interconnected instruments, whose data can be viewed and analysed side-by-side, removing

the need to download information from separate handheld instruments one-by-one.

Additionally, Quantum indoor provides a constant ear to the ground, offering live and historical data round-the-clock that practitioners can access from anywhere, at any time and on any device. Whether users are on the other side of the planet to where the instrument is installed, or they're stood in the next room, the data is always accessible on demand via the online Quantum portal, powered by MyCirrus.

With a network of cloud-connected noise monitors, the need for users to be physically on-site to measure noise levels is vastly reduced. Cloud-connected monitors, such as Quantum Indoor, can be installed and left to do their jobs completely unattended. They can then be configured remotely to send users real-time alerts when noise events occur, which provides greater control to health and safety practitioners in the workplace.

With Quantum Indoor, you can:

- **Link multiple units** to form a cloud-connected network of noise monitors to make viewing the full picture of your workplace noise impacts easier.
- View your **live and historical data** in the Quantum portal anytime, anywhere around the world on any device.



- Create numerous **audio triggers and notifications** based on your personal set of conditions for acceptable noise emissions, and receive these notifications via email, SMS or push notification.
- Use the **frequency analysis** screen on the Quantum portal to further view and analyse your noise data and better understand the exact nature of the noise.
- **Create detailed reports** directly through the Quantum portal based on direct data captured by your Quantum Indoor units.

The Quantum Portal; powered by MyCirrus With the Quantum Portal there are no fixed fees or set up charges. With Cirrus Research, users are offered subscription packages that are flexible to fit in with your noise monitoring programme and your preferred level of usage. These flexible plans means that you have the ability to change your subscription up or down on a monthly basis.

Powered by MyCirrus, this portal is suitable for all Quantum noise monitoring devices, and can also be used with other instruments such as the Cirrus Research Environmental Noise Measurement Kits.

Subscription tiers available to users are:

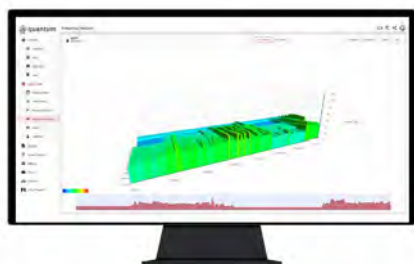
- **Standard subscription:** supplied as standard for 1 year and perfect for teams who need to analyse and report on noise events.
- **Pro subscription:** For large teams who need access to noise frequency data, customisable data views and detailed reporting.
- **Data retention only:** Perfect for anyone who does project work and needs to store their data between jobs.

Complement your existing noise management programme

With the ability to provide a greater level of control, make more intelligent decisions and reduce the need for unnecessary travel between multiple workplaces, Quantum Indoor is the perfect cloud-based noise monitoring instrument to complement your existing noise management programme.

Say 'hello' to Quantum today and speak to the Cirrus Research noise experts to learn more.

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“**Experts** must acknowledge there always **exists** a range of opinion and clearly **annunciate** with an evidential base as to why their opinion should be preferred.”

Mr. J.W. Rodney Peyton OBE MD
Medical Negligence Expert



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

Thermal loop solutions: A path to improved performance, sustainability and compliance in heat treatment

Heat treatment processes are a crucial component of many manufacturing processes, and thermal loop solutions have become increasingly popular for achieving improved temperature control and consistent outcomes. But many OEMs are missing opportunities where thermal loop solutions offer more than just greater control. In this article, Peter Sherwin, global business development manager heat treat and Thomas Ruecker, senior business development manager at **industrial heating technology supplier**, Watlow, explore the possibilities of thermal loop solutions.

A thermal loop solution is a closed loop system with several essential components, including an electrical power supply, power controller, heating element, temperature sensor and process controller. The electrical power supply provides the energy needed for heating, the power controller regulates the power output to the heating element, the heating element heats the material, and the temperature sensor measures the temperature. Finally, the process controller adjusts the power output to maintain the desired temperature for the specified duration, providing better temperature control and consistent outcomes.

Performance benefits

Heat treatment thermal loop solutions offer several advantages over traditional heat treatment methods, including improved temperature control and increased efficiency. The thermal loop system provides precise temperature control, enabling faster heating and cooling and optimized soak times.



The effectiveness of heat treatment thermal loop solutions can be measured using metrics such as overall equipment effectiveness (OEE). OEE combines metrics for availability, performance, and quality to provide a comprehensive view of the efficiency of a manufacturing process. By tracking OEE and contextual data, organizations can evaluate the effectiveness of their heat treatment thermal loop solutions and make informed decisions about optimizing their operations.

Supporting sustainability

Heat treatment thermal loop solutions provide several sustainability benefits, including reduced energy consumption and waste. The power controller regulates the power output to minimize energy waste, and the possible integration with renewable energy sources provides a complete power solution that spans from element design to recycling. The thermal loop solutions, in combination with insulation design and materials, provide energy-efficient solutions

that contribute to sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of heat treatment processes.

When discussing these systems in the context of greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impact, it's essential to consider Scopes 1 (direct emissions), 2 (indirect emissions from energy), and 3 (other indirect emissions), as well as the less common Scope 4 (avoided emissions).

At the component level, energy savings can be realized using current technology. Advanced Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCRs) provide predictive load management functions and hybrid firing algorithms contribute to sustainability by optimizing the energy usage of heat treatment processes. These SCRs offer real-time monitoring and control of energy consumption, while predictive load management systems use specific algorithms to manage peak power loads and adjust to optimize for local conditions such as load shedding or load sharing.

Regulatory compliance

NADCAP, the National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program, is an industry-driven program that provides accreditation for special processes in the aerospace and defense industries. Heat treatment is considered a 'special process' under NADCAP because it has specific characteristics crucial to aerospace and defense components. These characteristics include process sensitivity, limited traceability, critical performance requirements and potential risk.

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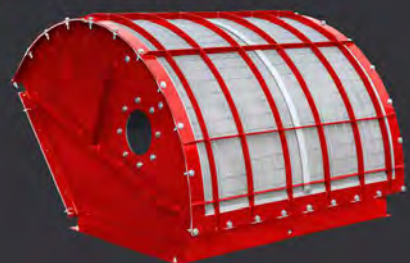
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BUILDING UPDATE

ISSUE: 670 November | www.solutionspublishing.co.uk



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braced, concrete can be poured into the forms enabling fast construction one storey at a time.

The ICF walls as soon as built are waterproof even before the external finishes are applied, allowing internal work to commence sooner. This ensures for an incredibly fast & efficient construction that isn't impacted by adverse weather in the same way traditional masonry is. Cold temperatures do not affect progress.

ICF is based on hollow lightweight block components that lock together to provide a formwork system into which concrete is poured. The blocks are made from expanded polystyrene panels fixed together with plastic webs (reducing thermal bridging) to create a formwork to which horizontal and vertical steel reinforcements can be easily added for extra strength. Once

waterproof even before the external finishes are applied, allowing internal work to commence sooner.

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Creating perfect sleep and storage solutions

Wallbed Systems offer an exclusive range of beautiful wall bed hardware designs to furniture manufacturers and retailers, hardware distributors and retailers, hotel and hospitality contractors around the world. This sleeping solution works perfectly in hotel rooms, micro-apartments, small bedrooms, a home office and student accommodation, providing an excellent hybrid living, working, studying and sleeping area, fully maximising the space available.



feature comfortable mattresses. With the latest designs and accessories (such as with the Alpha bed and Studio desk pairing) small or odd shapes rooms are transformed into multi-use spaces with cleverly concealed sleeping areas.

Wallbed Systems Ltd. is a London-based global business established by Managing Director, Jeremy Waller, who has extensive experience selling mattresses and beds across Asia, who saw opportunities for sensible designs of reliable, safe and flexible wall beds, which could

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Tuff Stuff: The GRP flat roofing systems

In this issue of Building Update, we are delighted to select Tuff Waterproofing Limited for our Products Innovation Award 2023, for ongoing innovation in flat roof waterproofing.

Tuff Waterproofing provides premium waterproofing liquid solutions for flat roofs across UK domestic and commercial sectors. The advanced precision TuffStuff® formula range uses cutting-edge liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible edge trims, ensuring a fully integrated 100% waterproof seamless finish.

Established in 2011, the North Yorkshire-based company has prioritised research and development, to elevate further its TuffStuff® range of products across the construction industry. The leading products are widely available through an extensive network of stockists throughout the UK and the 25-year product warranty provides lasting peace of mind.

With exponential growth year-on-year, including throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the company is widely seen as a Powerhouse in the GRP flat roof market. The TuffStuff® formula range is synonymous with premium waterproofing liquid solutions and not only that, the Product Development Team work



hard to ensure the products continually give optimised results.

The latest GRP roofing innovation is TuffStuff® flexible



GRP: a single resin solution designed to push the boundaries in flat roof waterproofing. The product is exceptionally cost and time-effective: quick to lay and with no need to strip/re-deck the roof. The building trade love this product, as it only requires two coats and 225gsm reinforcing mat, which is applied within two hours, making this the leading market on the market.

The advanced solution can be directly applied to felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber or metal. The robust, waterproof membrane is ideal for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic and can even be applied to vertical sections without the traditional sagging concerns. The fast-curing system has a walk-on time of between 30-60 minutes and once laid and whilst curing, the product is automatically showerproof.

For added reassurance, the TuffStuff® Flexible GRP only needs one coat for a

10-year system or two coats for a 20-year system, and is crack resistant with no risk of weak points.

We caught up with Managing Director: Greg Gimenez to find out more about this innovative product range, "We are suppliers of liquid, waterproofing products for flat roofs (GRP and Polyurethane). Our products are easy-to-use and are universally loved by the building trade. What puts us ahead of our competitors is our innovative TuffStuff® Flexible GRP product, launched two years ago to bolster our premium GRP range. The robust, waterproof membrane breaks down with CSM reinforcement for quick and tidy detailing and what's more, the one-pot system means one coat can last up to a decade and two coats last for 20 years suiting multiple substrates and is showerproof whilst curing. Our product doesn't require stripping back and replacing the roof, saving roofers time and money by overlaying the roof."

"Our comprehensive range of products include: resins and catalysts, reinforcing materials, roof trims, application tools, and beyond this, we offer a thorough training programme and demo days at business locations around the country with excellent technical advice regarded by many as the best in the business. We arrange a bespoke session at your convenience, designed to consolidate or enhance knowledge of installation methods for our Premium Standard GRP or Flexible GRP product ranges, with certification provided subsequent to the training session."



To view the full product range, find a local UK stockist, to book a training session or to find out more, please see the website below:
T 01977 680250
www.tuffstuff.co.uk

Management Software

Elevate your business to the next level

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.

For more information, contact Steve McGowan on the details below:
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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.

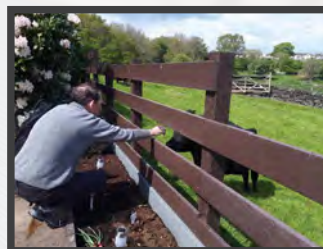
Moving forward, Dermot explained what the future holds for the company. "We are about to increase the working hours of our extrusion plant to be operating 24 hours a day 5 days a week which will double our production time, and to support this we are recruiting more extruder operators. In the future, 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:
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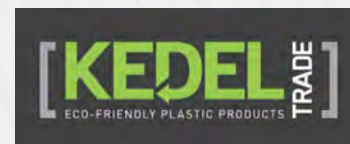


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Expert architectural metalwork for high-profile heritage buildings

Leander Architectural are expert design manufacturers of bespoke signage, bandstands, railway columns, gazebos, street furniture, wayfinding signs with a heritage restoration consultancy. The niche services offered are an eclectic mix of, blacksmithing, iron restoration, clay sculpting, decorative and structural iron, steel, and non-ferrous fabrication, metal casting for commercial trade, heritage and railways and private customers.

The Royal Label Factory was established during the reign of Queen Victoria in 1874 and even manufactured labels for the spectacular gardens of Queen Victoria herself. The prominent company progressively became a leading UK street signage manufacturer.

Leander Architectural was founded in 1986 and in 1998, the two businesses joined forces to become a phenomenal UK powerhouse in the world of architectural metalwork, manufacturing bespoke aluminium, steel, bronze and iron products.



Situated in the village of Dove Holes, near the Georgian spa town of Buxton in the High Peak District: Leander Architectural offers world-leading commissions from its on-site foundry and workshops.

The team at Leander take such artistic pride in their work: utilising both modern techniques like waterjet cutting and computerised graphics, combined with more traditional skills such as clay hand-carving, resulting in a truly unique architectural metalwork portfolio. Many customers are repeat customers, trusting the highly skilled professional approach and end results.

Recent prestigious projects included designing new cast iron columns to repair a roof structure and replicate original features at an operational railway station: designed and built during the Victorian era as Managing Director, Gareth Roberts explains, "Several of the cast iron columns were cracked and needed

replacement, due to ground subsidence. The damaged sections of cast iron columns were removed, then new ones installed, without removing the roof. Our skilled engineers worked with the prime contractor to carry out the design and manufacture, smoothly and efficiently, allowing the busy commuter station to carry on working without significant disruption."

Leander has an extensive back catalogue of casting patterns and designs for bandstands, structures, columns and many other products, but are always more than happy to offer bespoke services too.

Other high-profile projects include the installation of new canopies at the luxury Savill Court Hotel in Windsor, rebuilding the original staircase balustrading in eight stairwells, with modern adaption of the handrails at the Buxton Crescent Luxury Spa Hotel and installing new bespoke decorative metalwork within the new 'Sprague Terrace' between the Sondheim and Gielgud Theatres in London's West-End.

With a combined history dating back almost 150 years, this leading architectural metalwork company offers unrivalled expertise across a multitude of modern and heritage building designs.

The team use 100% British raw materials and recycled aluminium, supporting the local and national economy and trading with a reduced carbon footprint.

To find out more, please see the details below:
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A CLEAR CERTIFIED VISION

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 speciality. In times when supply is difficult or tight, we can count on our invested stocks to guarantee continued supply.

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.

Our company continues to make efforts to embed sustainability into the business. We validate our organization's sustainability efforts with the Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (VCDO).

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Protecting your investment, with award-winning, sustainable products

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.

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."

For more information on this award-winning range, please see below:
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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.

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



Quality and service count: Customised doors and panelling

Pandor is a leading manufacturer of customised doors and panelling across the UK to sectors such as commercial buildings, offices, hospitals and flats.

Established in 2014 by Mike Hill, the company has grown exponentially over the last nine years, priding itself on supplying exceptional customer service and high-spec products. Mike has expertise in the industry having worked in the fire door industry for over 40 years and along with his team is happy to provide customers with bespoke orders.

Pandor has production facilities in Sittingbourne, Kent and offices in London. We chatted with founder and director, Mike to find out more about the company, "We specialise in made-to-order client requirements for fire doors, decorative doors, frames and other associated items such as screens and windows."

"Our speciality though due to my background, is certified fire doors and door sets and we pride ourselves on a personal and prompt service with quick lead times on manufacturing."

"The COVID-19 pandemic set us back of course, as the construction industry ground to a standstill. We soon restarted though and have been ever busy, focusing on adding new services in the near future. Our unique selling point is our investment in modern machinery across the board, ensuring that we always produce the highest-quality products. These



include a Holzher 5 Axis CNC Twin Bed Router, heavy-duty sanding machine, veneer flow line press and first-class lipping and edge banding."

Fire doors are integral to optimised passive fire protection systems across industrial, commercial and domestic buildings in the UK. Precision-designed primarily to mitigate against the spread of fire, smoke and toxic gases from one area to another, fire doors allow occupants, whether residents or workers extra time to evacuate accordingly. A secondary factor is that compliant fire doors give firefighters more time to arrive at the scene of the fire and control the fire, before it spreads further. Using a system of compartmentalisation, with fire doors lined throughout in corridors or stairwells, can create fire-resistant barriers in a high-rise block and importantly help slow down the spread of fire and smoke.

Fire doors are given FD ratings from 30, 60, 90 to 120, with FD30 being the most common choice. This

typically gives 30 minutes fire safety protection, in the event of a fire.

Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington where sadly 72 residents died, the subsequent Fire Safety (England) Regulations in 2022 came into effect on 23rd January 2023. With all eyes on optimised fire safety, Pandor can manufacture customised fire doors, in accordance with FD30, 60, 90 or 120 certifications.

"Our fire doors can be laminated, painted or decoratively veneered and our acoustic doors can also be fire rated. The acoustic door ratings are certified based on how well the sound is contained in the door itself. The doors are tested to different decibel (dB) levels, dependant on the end location, with the higher the acoustic rating, namely the louder the sound it can contain. For example, the acoustic rating for doors in residential flats is 29dB, raising to 30dB in a typical school classroom."

"We supply fire-rated panelling if required, in stock and cut sizes, with a choice of veneer, laminate or paint finishes. Finally, our door frames are manufactured to customised order, with clear or paint finishes," added Mike.

**For more information,
please see the details below:**
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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.

You can watch installation videos for CCM Europe products here:



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.

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CARLISLE
CM EUROPE

LS Products BV to introduce new Autonomous range in 2024

LS Products BV is the manufacturer of the innovative Eco Clipper electric mower system that was introduced for the turf grower industry in 2018.

Due to the fact that all the mowers in the range are electrically driven and use a special mowing deck design that incorporates small mowing blades, the Eco Clipper range delivers fantastic contour following and has the capability to disperse clippings well even in wet grass.

Furthermore, because of the high-speed mowing system, productivity is inevitably higher and fuel efficiency better due to the small blades and electric drive. The machine is very quiet and versatile under different conditions such as dewy grass and weeds.

The Eco Clipper® Mowing System evolved from the mowing system that was originally developed in the nineties on the turfgrass farm of the Leijenaar family in the Netherlands. At that time, the electrically driven 10m wide rotary mower was a revolution for the turfgrass industry, and up until 2008 there has been various models of this rotary mower developed and marketed by Leijenaar Products BV.

In 2019, the Eco Clipper range was successfully introduced to turfgrass farms across Europe and then in 2020 they introduced the 14.11-meter-wide Eco Clipper: RM14 Butterfly Mower and the Eco Clipper TM14 tri-deck mower that were both revolutionary mowers for the turfgrass growers and sports ground sectors.

Syb Leijenaar is the Managing Director of LS Products BV and has a vast amount of experience that is deeply rooted in mechanical engineering and mechatronic systems design, and is one of the creators of the Eco Clipper range. We asked Syb how the company has fared over the last 12 months and what plans it has for the future.

"The last 12 months have been slower business wise, although it seems business is picking up since summer. As we are an agile company, we used the opportunity to spend more time on new developments. Our current developments are mainly focused on autonomous large area mowing. Our autonomous mowing system will be introduced in the coming year. We offer a 309cm or a 513cm wide Eco Clipper mowing deck where the power comes from either a diesel generator or a 61kWh battery pack."

"We are keen to increase productivity in large area quality mowing, hence lowering the mowing costs for our customers. For turfgrass growers and sports ground managers, we already have the most productive equipment in the market due to the large cutting width and high possible mowing speeds. For the autonomous mower it is important that it can be operated safely without immediate supervision otherwise it won't save labour. Therefore, we have partnered with a Danish firm that fully focuses on safe operation of autonomous equipment in the field."

Due next year, the Eco Clipper Autonomous Mower uses three different types of obstacle detection:

camera; lidar; and radar for its safety in dusty environments.

The new Autonomous range will meet speeds of up to 16km/h and surpasses all safety standards with its cutting-edge obstacle detection technology.

"Over the next few years we expect to grow gradually in the sports ground market. We receive strong feedback from our users stating that they like the capacity, quiet running and economic use of fuel. In 2024, we will be introducing the autonomous mower on a couple of selected farms. We want at least a year of real-life experience before we introduce these systems to a wider audience," added Syb.

LS Products and its Danish partners are really pushing the boundaries in autonomous mowing solutions, and the next five years are looking very fruitful for both businesses. In closing, we asked Syb how he felt receiving our award.

"I feel honoured being selected for the Landscaping Product of the Year Award. When you work with these products every day, you no longer notice that they are different. This award reminds us that we stand out. We are proud of that."

For more information, please see below:
info@ecoclipper.com
<https://www.ecoclipper.com>



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ECO CLIPPER®

Bluerun Ltd once again achieves excellence in the workplace

In this issue of Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Bluerun Ltd as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence award.

Upon reopening its doors in May 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic, Bluerun Ltd has gone from strength to strength with its trusted brand now being known as one of the best in the joinery industry that has recently attracted big name brands turned clients, Starbucks and Waitrose.

2022 was a great year for the company in terms of revenue and new business. It has managed to maintain a strong conversion rate despite the current economic crisis and has found that enquiries for larger jobs as opposed to 'single window' types of jobs has been more popular especially from domestic clients which mimics that of its regular commercial clients.

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!"

Of course, the company has the capabilities to manufacture most things from timber, hardwood, softwood, panels and sheet material. Some common items Bluerun Ltd manufacture for the domestic building market include windows, doors (exterior and interior), bi-folding doors, staircases, bespoke storage units and wardrobes, all of which come with the option of being sprayed in primer or to a finish.



Dee Newman, Finance Director at Bluerun Ltd presented the Commitment to Excellence Award

If you're looking for items made from both hard and softwood or even veneered and painted panels, Bluerun can reproduce an array of items including replacement sashes, where it can manufacture a brand new one on a like for like basis, so the mouldings will match. "Similarly, if a domestic client has found an image of a door, for example, that they would like us to reproduce, we can usually do that. Recently we

have started using a glass supplier that can supply us with stained glass effect units, complete with leading that has been aged and soldered, which looks absolutely breath-taking," added Dee.

Bluerun only produce purpose made joinery to client's drawings and specifications. Its unrivalled level of customer services means that free quotations are normally provided within 2-3 days or less, and the company can usually deliver a quick turnaround of any manufactured items required. And, because it has an experienced spray operative in charge of a modern spray paint and lacquer facility, articles can leave the factory in a fully finished state, ready for installation on-site.

What really sets Bluerun apart is that since its establishment it has never used computer aided machinery for any designs. Crafted to perfection, all items are finished by hand, drawings are prepared with pencil and paper, and everything that is manufactured by the team has been done so with the utmost attention to detail. It also has the ability to obtain colour matches of any paint colours for clients that would prefer something sprayed to a finish.

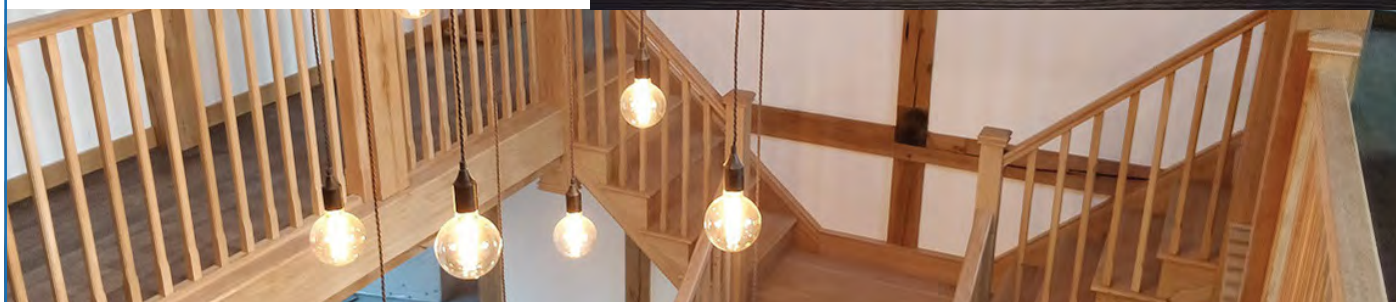
Apart from needing the item to fit out its workshop doors upon completion, there is no limit to any project that Bluerun will endeavour to take on. Inspired by a challenge, Bluerun will do its utmost to cater to all enquiries.

T 01799 599995
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk
www.bluerunltd.co.uk

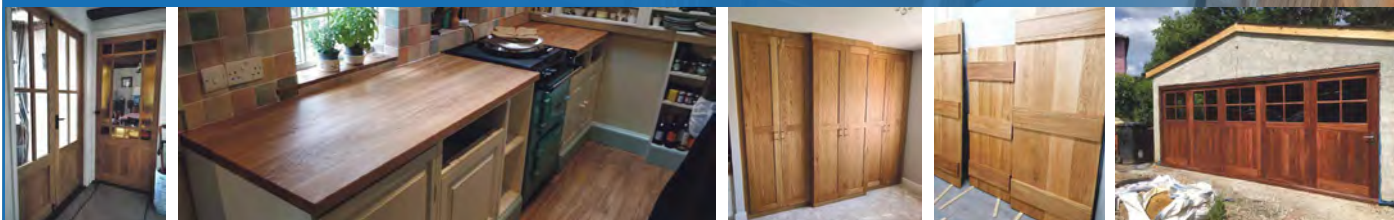


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IAS for your perfect access platform



**INDEPENDENT
ACCESS SALES**

In this issue of Building Update, we are honoured to select Independent Access Sales (IAS) as our Access Platform Company of the Month.

Access Platforms are indispensable for working at heights or hard-to-reach places, providing workers with a robust structure across many industrial sectors. Many essential services such as air conditioning units, pipes, and ductwork are often stored high in the roof and access platforms are key to installation and essential repairs/maintenance throughout the year. With health & safety in mind, the steady, well-fabricated structures give extra reassurance to workers, throughout the operation period.

Independent Access Sales (IAS) is a relatively new company but with decades of expertise behind it. Established in 2020 by Managing Director: Richard Martin, the Huntingdon-based company is set to take the country by storm.

IAS is a distributor of access platforms across the UK and Ireland and Richard brings more than 35 years of industry experience, from scaffolding, cradle platforms, erection, surveyor, to supervisor. "We are getting noticed now across the industry. We have won three awards in the last twelve months, including a Golden Award from Media2. We've been to numerous trade shows and generated a lot of interest."

"We are excited to reveal that we have exclusively signed with SOGAGE: producer of globally-leading aerial platforms to distribute their truck-mounted platforms, up to 100 metres. A truck-mounted platform



is a mobile elevating platform, which can be attached to a road-licensed chassis and is great when you require an access platform to be adaptable, as it can be switched from site to site easily. We are looking forward to adding this to our growing portfolio and by

the New Year, expect to be selling a wider range of Easylift Spider Platforms, SOGAGE Truck Mounting Platforms and Leonardo HD by Bravi HD to new and existing customers across: facilities management, construction, heritage restoration to tree surgery and many more."

The existing SOGAGE truck line has been flying off the shelves with customers already this year: the SOGAGE 20T carries loads up to 230kg and is a favoured mounted platform for working at height. The SOGAGE 21DJ works up to 20.3M and is a second popular choice for many applications.

For those working in facilities management or heritage restoration, the Easylift srl Piattaforme Aeree R360 provides a turret rotation of 360° for cleaning and delicate work in limited spaces. Designed to work at a height of 35.4M, it is also preferred by tree surgeons for all aspects of arboriculture. The R260 model works to a maximum height of 26M, with an outreach of

13.5M, precision-designed for maintenance and installation jobs.

The Bravi Platform HD meanwhile is the default choice for tight spaces and doorways, offering a sturdier alternative to scaffolding or ladders.

IAS offers a full consultancy service for new customers, to source the perfect access platform and moving forward, offers six-monthly inspections, servicing and maintenance, meaning you can just get on with the job at hand.

"It is a real pleasure to hear repeat custom across many sectors. We take great pride in customer service, from our expert, technical know-how, to quick lead delivery times."

"In the near future, we are hoping to begin talks with a dealership of little truck booms. These are ideal for a variety of one-day applications from street work, signage, windfarms to pest control. Look out for our Spring demo road tour round the UK! We look forward to meeting new and existing customers then."

The company currently has an extensive range of used machinery for interested customers, including: JLG660SJ Articulated Boom, Aerial AL22 Truck Mounted, Multitel MJ201 Truck Mounted and Easylift R180 Spider Platform, please see this link for details: <https://iasales.co.uk/used-machines>

For more information, or to view the product range, please see the website below or ring Richard Martin directly:
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www.iasales.co.uk

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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.

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.

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



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DCON Safety Consultants, Suite 5, Fitzwilliam Square East, Dublin 2



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 will 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.

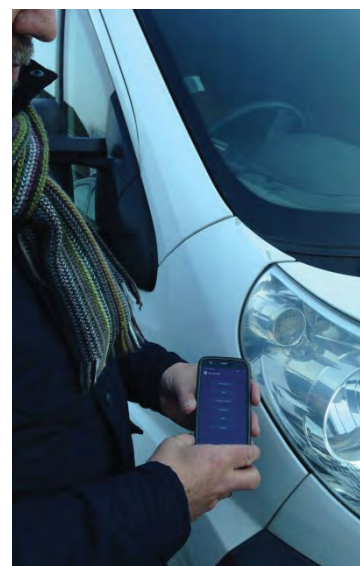
With much of the industry yet to explore, over five million commercial vehicles in the UK and over 20 million pieces of plant, there is a huge market for CheckedSafe to expand into. "Our plan is to furrow into the fleet industry and develop new features, and

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

Originally published in Modern Machine Shop

UNISIG
DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS

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 www.unisig.com or follow the company on LinkedIn and Twitter (@UNISIG).





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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, paviours, 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 and especially in the case of conservation work, with its natural strength and tendency to give 'movement' in the construction process favourable.

Contact
T 01787 269232
www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk





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The Brickmaker's Tale
by Peter Miles
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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









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bbt@bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk
Please visit: www.bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk**



The two major problems for the timber industry are sheet materials not performing to class, and pressure treated timber rotting where the ends have been cut.

Protek and the Gloucester Timber Company knew the answers, so formed Protek ESP to produce and market two products that effectively cure these two issues.

ESP Panel

ESP Panel Is a groundbreaking innovation

for the sheet material market, it stops delamination, it makes sheet materials last longer, it makes them stronger. It is easy to apply and environmentally friendly.

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ESP timber has been specifically designed to re-treat the cut ends on pressure treated timber, proven to stop rotting, fungi attack and therefore makes treated timber last longer. It is easy to apply and environmentally friendly.

Every Sheet Protected

If you sell or use sheet materials or treated timber, you really need ESP Panels™ and ESP Timber™

If you care about the planet then use more timber and timber related products, they are the only carbon negative building products, and make them last longer, trapping more carbon in the built environment for longer.

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Safety Consultancy

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DCON Safety Consultants is committed to understanding the specific needs, goals, and desires of each individual client and project.

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Kedel Limited is a family business, founded on ethical and ecologically sound principles.

We created our business to showcase the very best recycled plastic products, putting green, sustainable living at the heart of all our company decisions.

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Compliance Solutions



CheckedSafe was developed to provide simple and inexpensive compliance solutions that could be tailored to any industry.

Contact
T 01282 908429
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www.checkedsafe.com

Timber



The Company was founded in 1883 by Louis Vandecasteele. In those days, wagon making was the main commercial activity. Desiré Vandecasteele, son of the founder, then added a small sawmill.

Contact
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Hand protection that is a cut above the rest

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.

"We believe our services outweigh that of any competitor because as well as our core-range of products, Manosun offers a quick turnaround product

development process where we evaluate the end-user's processes and tweak/develop a more fit for purpose product. As well as our FOC site-survey to enhance any risk assessment, we also add volume to any work operating procedure," stated Steven Patterson, Country Manager UK & Europe.

Manosun breaks its products down into three category's that ensure excellence, longevity and value for money. Each product is made to the highest 'Quality' meaning only the best quality materials and yarns are used to ensure a long-life product that can be used over again without wear or tear, and that also give comfort to all users. 'Service' – Manosun prides itself on its quick turnaround service whether than be an order process, sample request, or site survey. Lastly, 'Value,' Manosun believe that not only does the cost-in use value matter but also its business values too. "We work closely with our distributors and end-users to nurture them in a partnership arrangement that supports each other's enterprise," added Steven.

Manosun's current portfolio consists of a large range of hand protection products where it works with all end-users including globally known brands such as Nissan, JDR Cables, and SUEZ. Also part of its service, Manosun will survey any work environment, advise on the correct

level of hand protection needed or if needed, and will even develop a brand-new product to the exact requirements of the customer.

For the past 12 months, Manosun has been concentrating on the growth and awareness of the brand. It's initial approach to 2023 was to increase the awareness its products and dedicated a quarterly plan that would see them employ two new field sales persons in Q1. The first started on May 22nd and the second will start in the following six months.

From there, the plan is to keep moving in an upwards trajectory for the rest of 2023 and beyond. "Moving forward, we will continue to grow our range of products. In 2023, we launched the Manosun BASIC range (not yet on the website). This is a range of gloves that contain rPET created from recycled materials (Plastic) to make industrial Polyester, each pair of gloves contains on average 36% recycled materials. Having a commitment to excellence means everything to Manosun, which is why we work with the BSIF as well as local networking and support groups NEAA (North East Automotive Alliance) and the AMF (Advanced Manufacturing Forum) to learn and adopt Best Working Practise from local industry as well as National and European requirements as a PPE provider/manufacturer currently instructed by the BSIF."

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A manufacturer and designer of industrial safety products

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- Our aim is to target the huge UK manufacturing sectors as well as power generation and conservation and offer a quality service, product and development ability, not all solutions can be found off the shelf
- We work with your traditional distribution supply chain so no need to work outside of any contractual obligations, your are free to develop and select your PPE requirements
- Manosun Ltd is also a member of the BSIF a sign and seal of quality and products that fulfil all UK and EU requirements of test and design.

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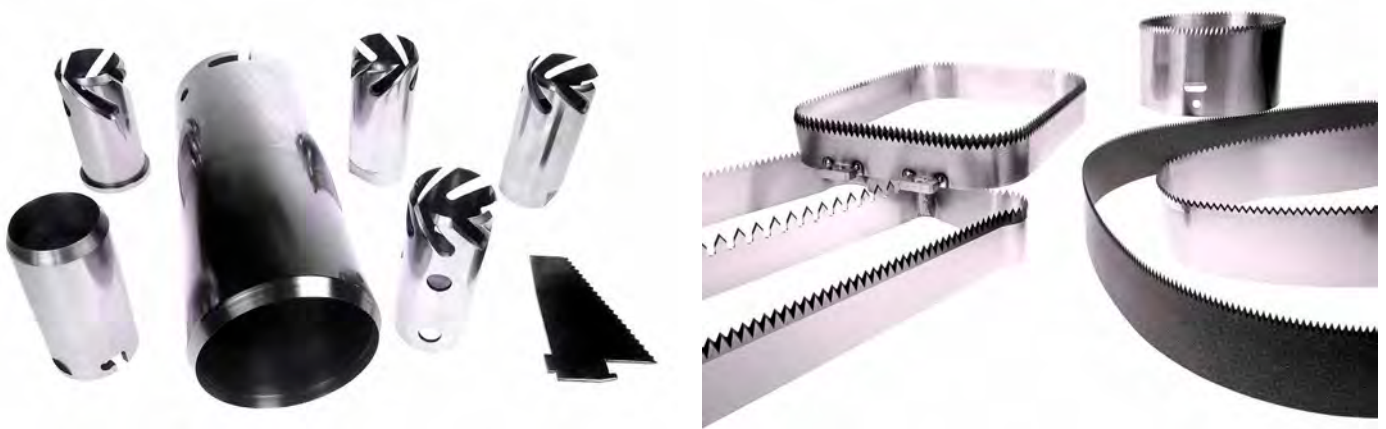
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A cut above the rest



In this issue of Industrial Solutions, we are thrilled to award CAMB Machine Knives as our Machine Knives Company of the Year.

Neil Chapman, Technical Director at CAMB Machine Knives, has shown great courage amidst adversity over the past 12 months. Through hardship and challenging situations, the company has received great praise for overcoming such sadness and thriving during this difficult time.

Neil explained, "Two years ago, Jerry Milner – the company's founder, wanted to step down and hand the company over to the staff. He planned to transition over the two years, handing over the company in July 2023. In June 2022, he had a cardiac arrest and was hospitalised for a few weeks, and it was a few months before he returned to work. In the meantime, I took the reins and ensured the business ran smoothly while he was not here. When he did return, he realised everything was in hand and did not need to be here every day and started to take a back seat. He then accelerated handing over the business due to his health. In November 2022, he stepped down and handed over the business. In June 2023, he had a cardiac arrest in his sleep while away fishing with his friends, doing something he loved. He never woke up. He was more

than a boss to everyone who worked here. He was a friend, a mentor. We have very big shoes to fill."

Through hardship, Neil and his team have done extraordinarily well to not just successfully steer the company forward but to achieve a record-breaking year. "Our forecast was conservative as there has been an increase in sales for the last few years due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of businesses staying open during lockdown. We found many customers wanted to keep stocks on-site therefore, sales increased and we expected this to return to normal and sales decrease a little," added Neil.

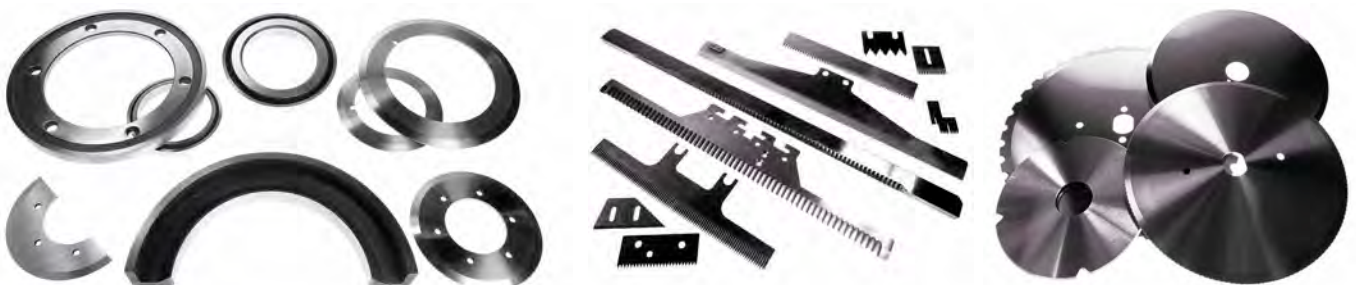
Since the unfortunate passing away of Jerry, Neil was appointed as Director alongside Darren Hitchings, who between them, have a combined 40 years of experience in offering the same high-quality service to customers around the world.

The company produces an extensive range of high-quality machine blades for all industries that come in many different types, including: Circular Knives, Top Dished Knives, Bottom Knives, Toothed Knives, Guillotine Knives, Granulator Knives, Confectionary Knives, Tray Form Blades, Anvils and much more, from the food industry to reclamation.

"Compared to our competitors, we hold a lot of stock consisting of over 500 different knives, mostly for the poultry and food industry. This means we can accommodate custom orders that require quick lead times by modifying our blades for a specific use case. We can also supply circular Microteeth knives for the poultry industry, and testing has shown our wear resistance is very good and at very competitive pricing," added Neil. These knives, in reference, include Circular Scalloped Microteeth Knives and replacement knives for many makes and models of machines.

With lots more in store for the company in 2024 and beyond, Neil explained some of their short and long-term goals. "In the short term, we are reviewing every process to help us streamline processes. In the long term, we want to invest in new machinery to expand our machining capabilities. We are extremely honoured to receive such an award, thank you. It is great to see our hard work over the last 12 months has paid off and getting the recognition the staff deserve."

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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 and HKD, Service Sealing Solutions Ltd specialises in high-quality service duct sealing systems for utility services and watertight seals.

Service Sealing Solutions Ltd has the exclusive rights to distribute DOYMA 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.

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Husband and wife team, Jim & Tina have recently visited DOYMA in Germany to find out about the innovative products that DOYMA have been developing

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.



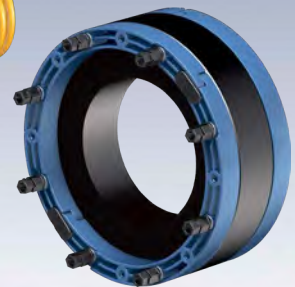
Service Sealing Solutions also supplies HKD products, which are now owned by DOYMA. HKD manufacture a large range of pipe sealing systems and service conduits that are guaranteed to withstand up to four bars pressure. HKD systems have a sealing solution for service conduits cast into concrete without 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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Taking you up in the world

Direct Hoist has scaled new heights with the addition of a bespoke training centre at its Lincolnshire site offering both familiarisation and NVQ Level 2 courses in hoist installation.

The company offers training on hoists & mast climbers manufactured by both GEDA and Electroelsa with lifting capacities available of between 200kg and 5,000kg depending on the manufacturers used. The new classroom and training tower facility is used to teach candidates both the theory and practical elements of assembly and disassembly of these manufacturers mast climbers & hoists.

The training courses cover up-to-date industry working practices, legal requirements and working equipment knowledge. The on-site facility includes a 10m high training tower, with capacity for transporting a two-tonne platform hoist, with full load to full height, with expert tutors offering hands-on optimal safety training.

The more experienced industry students are offered a two-day specialist familiarisation course in theory and practical assembly and

disassembly of various lifts, with a further week-long course available for deeper understanding of erecting and dismantling hoists. Students are examined by an external assessor at the end of the course and will receive an industrially-recognised certificate, if successful.

Direct Hoist's recent expansion into training is testament to its industrious, hardworking team, who always go the extra mile. As a committed living wage employer, Direct Hoist sees its workers as the backbone of the company. But it's not only salaries that are supported, Direct Hoist recently trained some of its staff as Mental Health First Aiders, further signalling its commitment to the Workplace Mental Health Charter, through staff wellbeing.

All new trainees are placed on NVQ courses, rigorous health & safety training, and further manufacturer courses. More senior staff hold the NVQ level 3 qualifications, which is viewed similarly to the CSCS gold card on construction sites, and as Rob explains, there are many things to learn, "It's surprising how much there is to learn for hoist installation,

even for experienced construction workers and managers. We need to know load calculations, equipment specifications, whether there are any voids below grounds or obstructions (such as telephone lines) above."

"Right from the start, new trainees will learn about the specialised nature of construction hoists – including product types, electrical systems, fault-finding, assembly, disassembly and reconfiguration into alternative layouts."

There are more training programmes planned for the future such as: electrical safety and working at heights. Direct Hoist can help companies scale the heights and take you up in the world.

In May 2022, Direct Hoist became the UK distributor of Electroelsa, an Italian manufacturer of mast-climbing work



platforms (MCWPs), transport platforms, material hoists and construction hoists. Rob Wilson commented, "Electroelsa are a top class manufacturer who are leading the way forward, especially with their hoist & mast climbers having data logging technology so if there is an operational problem on-site, a diagnosis can be carried out remotely from anywhere in the world (if need be) on a PC or app on our engineers phone as it's vital to minimise downtime on-site, while maintaining efficiency, cost and ease of use."

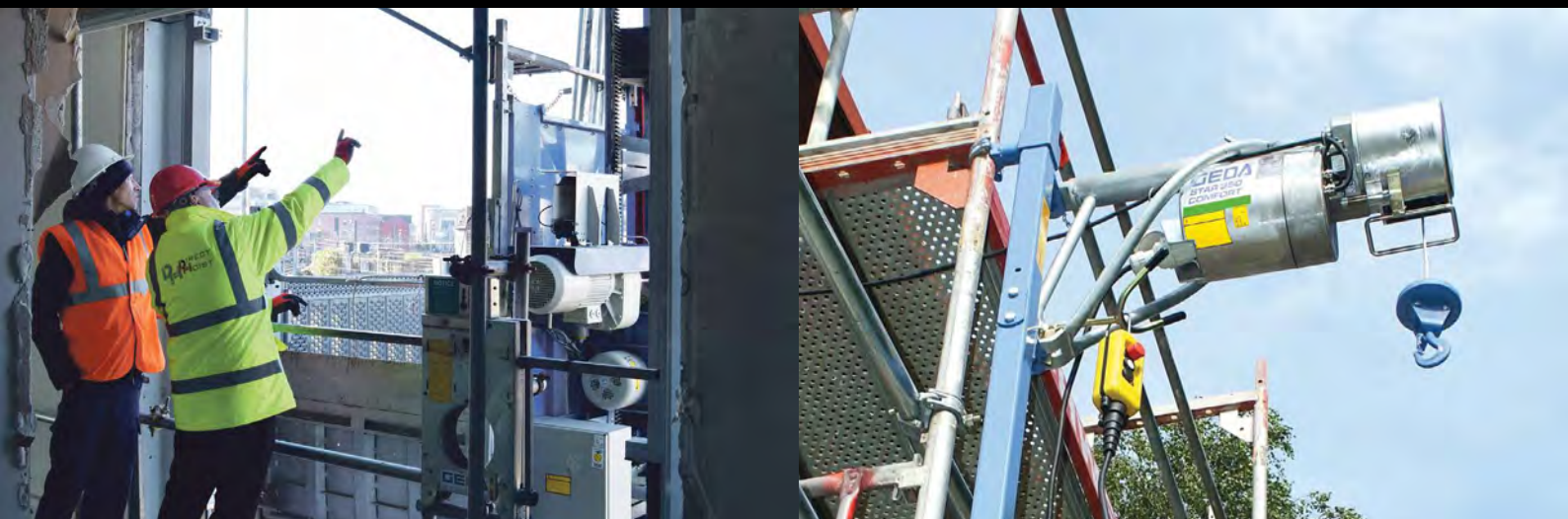
At Direct Hoist's recent open days, the Electroelsa PM46 (MCWP) took centre stage on the 10m training tower and received glowing feedback. Elsewhere the expansion of the Electroelsa hire fleet can now be seen on a city skyline near you, its signature vivid yellow is hard to miss. Direct Hoist's future is looking bright.

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BTA Drilling: Brazed Versus Indexable Tooling

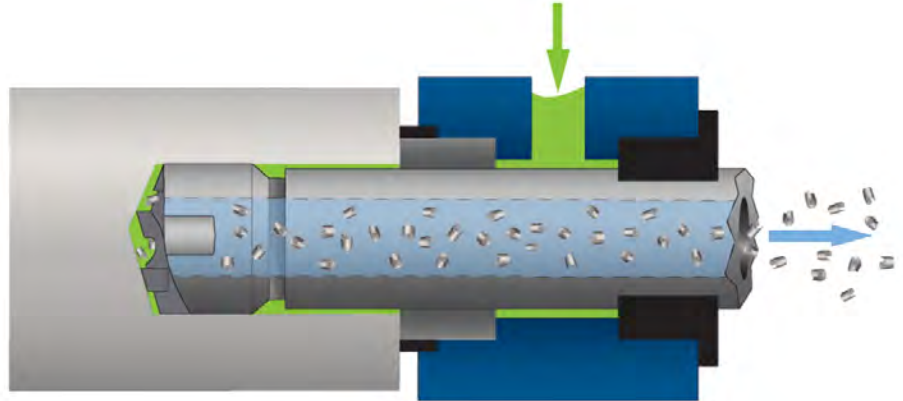
Photos: UNISIG

Deep hole drilling applications can be approached in several ways, but one of the most effective methods is often BTA drilling. BTA stands for Boring and Trepanning Association, although it is sometimes referred to as STS or Single Tube System drilling. Unlike gun drills or twist drills a BTA drill features internal chip removal, which has advantages in both productivity and hole quality.

The BTA drill head has multiple carbide cutting edges and guide pads mounted to it. Open spaces are designed into the head for chip removal, and chips are evacuated through the drill tube the head is threaded onto. Pressurized coolant surrounds the drill head in operation, and is key to forcing chips through the head and out the drill tube. This method of chip evacuation allows for a very clean and reliable process with excellent surface finish and high drill feed rates – typically 5-7 times faster than gundrilling at the same diameter. No peck cycles or feed interruptions are needed, resulting in reduced machine time while drilling extended depth-to-diameter ratios even greater than 40:1.

BTA drills are generally available in two forms: brazed or indexable; and tool selection is dependent upon several factors. As the name implies, brazed tools involve brazing a carbide insert and guide pads onto a steel body, while indexable BTA drilling tools have carbide inserts either directly mounted to the head with a retention screw or seated in a cartridge that is mounted to the tool.

Hole diameter is the initial consideration when determining whether to use brazed or indexable BTA drills. For small hole diameters



– generally 12 to 20mm in diameter – brazed tools are often the first choice as it's difficult to make small inserts and screws strong enough to withstand the torque and forces of BTA drilling. (Manufacturers of BTA drilling tools continue to make improvements in indexable BTA heads as small as 8mm in diameter, however).

Brazed tools offer extremely close tolerances and excellent surface finish as the insert and guide pads are mounted and then ground to the specified diameter, providing almost perfect concentricity and cylindricity. Ease of use is also a benefit – simply attach the head to the drill tube and discard it when it has dulled or failed. If you experience a tool failure, the investment in drill head isn't as costly as repairing or replacing an indexable drill head. Finally, an indexable BTA head can only be as accurate as the tolerance of the inserts themselves; but a brazed head has been ground to a very precise tolerance from the manufacturer.

By contrast, hole diameters starting at approximately 20mm favor indexable tools, primarily for economic reasons. Replacing larger diameter brazed tools is expensive, whereas indexing an insert and guide pads gives an easy extension on the tool's life. Indexable insert manufacturers also offer an exhaustive range of carbide grades, coatings and chip breakers for application-specific advantages.

The placement of the indexable inserts on BTA drill head varies by diameter and by manufacturer, and can include one or multiple inserts mounted directly to the head or set in a heat-treated cartridge, which is then mounted to the head. Guide pads are typically mounted the head to counter the drilling forces and burnish the hole during drilling. Indexing, or rotating, a direct-mounted insert is as simple as loosening the retaining screw and turning the insert to expose a fresh cutting edge. If the insert and pocket were made with tight tolerances, your cutting diameter should remain reasonably consistent.

Cartridge-mounted inserts, however, typically incorporate a shim or other adjustment system to allow for a much more precise diameter setting after indexing inserts and guide pads. This process does require additional equipment, however, such as a micrometer and stand or tool presetter – as well as the skills needed to accurately make the necessary adjustments.

Whether you select brazed or indexable BTA drills for your deep hole drilling application, you will be rewarded with high feed rates and process reliability, along with minimal centerline deviation and excellent hole quality.

Further information on all machines and the complete UNISIG machine program is available at: www.unisig.com or follow the company on LinkedIn and Twitter (@UNISIG).



Brazed BTA heads – carbide inserts and guide pads are brazed onto the drill head

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