

INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS UK

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Hello & Welcome to Issue 671 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 Interface Force and UNISIG.

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

Secondly, we are featuring UNISIG with the 'Machinery Excellence Award 2023' profile following their impressive performance over the years. For more information, turn to page 6.

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

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INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS UK

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Industrial Solutions UK is based on the belief that our customers needs are of the highest priority and the utmost importance, with this in mind our team of highly dedicated staff work around the clock to make sure that those needs are always met.

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Relaunch of the tec.nicum website

New website for services relating to machine safety

tec.nicum, the service division of the Schmersal Group, is pleased to announce that its new website has been launched today. The new website features the new, overhauled corporate design of tec.nicum. The website is now characterised by a clearer and more user-friendly structure and can be reached as before at: www.tecnicum.com

The website provides an overview of all services that tec.nicum provides in terms of machinery safety. tec.nicum's range of services encompasses four pillars, which can be ordered as either individual modules or all-round packages:

- **tec.nicum academy:** Knowledge sharing
- **tec.nicum consulting:** Consulting services
- **tec.nicum engineering:** Conception of safety solutions
- **tec.nicum integration:** Practical implementation

The tec.nicum website includes current information on the comprehensive training and seminar programme of the tec.nicum academy, which also includes the new TÜV-certified qualification 'Machinery CE Certified Expert.' The seminar calendar provides an at-a-glance overview of all topics and dates, and events can be booked online through the website.

The MRL News magazine, which offers a wealth



Services Machine safety and workplace protection

Machine safety is the basis for safe cooperation between man and machine – and at the same time a complex field of tasks. This is because a large number of standards and guidelines have to be taken into account. These include the Machinery Directive and its associated standards, the Low Voltage and EMC Directives, directives and standards that apply when exporting outside the EU, and the regulations that apply when modernising and converting existing machinery.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and these regulations are constantly being revised and amended. The technical planning and implementation of safety solutions are also a challenge, especially if they are to contribute to increasing plant availability and production efficiency.

In all these questions and tasks, the experts at tec.nicum advise and accompany their customers and clients – with training, on-site consulting,

of well-founded background information on the subject of machinery safety, can also be accessed free of charge via the tec.nicum website, either as an e-paper or as a downloadable PDF.

"Since its foundation seven years ago, tec.nicum has successfully evolved as a service provider. In the meantime, our organisation now

operates domestically and at different locations internationally. Our website ensure the best possible accessibility for our services," explains Siegfried Wolf, Director of tec.nicum.

Contact
www.schmersal.co.uk
www.tecnicum.com

Industrial Applications



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A solution for all your indoor and outdoor electrical connection needs

Gromtec Europe's core business is the manufacture and supply of raised access floor cable grommets for data centres and general office installations. Its latest offering, The SIMONBOX is an IP66 rated watertight floor box designed for use in hard floor areas which require occasional power, data connection and an IP protection rating.

Watertight benefits

- Watertight floor box can be installed in hard floor and raised floor areas delivering power and data to where it is required and eliminating the trip hazard of trailing cables.
- Watertight floor box for paving allows the box to be flush-mounted in floors with all types of paving such as porcelain stoneware, terrazzo paving, ceramic tiling, and more.
- The outlet is available with a standard locking mechanism or with a security lock which prevents unwanted access to the floor box.

Gromtec Europe has worked with Next, John Lewis, Wimbledon Tennis Club and many more major brands across the UK, but the floor box can be installed in almost any public or private place including department stores, airports, train stations, car showrooms, shopping centres, conference halls, hotels, museums, terraces, gardens, hospitals and sport centres. As the floor box is designed as an occasional power socket, it is ideal for pop-up applications such as display stands, exhibition areas or cleaners sockets. In addition, Gromtec Europe



also supplies a range of specialist mini floor boxes for general construction projects.

Available in two finishes – brushed stainless steel and brass, waterproof SIMONBOX floor boxes are also offered in a flush floor and a trimmed box finish. The raised floor version is secured in place using fastening hooks during installation. The recessed tray fixes the box in place and conceals any installation defects.

The box includes a protective film that stops any dirt from getting inside and damaging the box surface before and during installation. For paving installations, it is possible to install a group of boxes to provide several connection points, furthermore, a drainage pipe can be installed to drain away any

possible moisture that enters the box.

The SIMONBOX is CE branded, complies with the international standard CEI-670 for casings, can withstand temperatures of -25°C a +60°C, and can tolerate a maximum load of 1000kg when closed and 170kg when open. The UKCA marking will be applied in 2022.

Gromtec Europe was established by Gerry Griffin in 1992 and is one of the first manufacturers and suppliers of cable grommets in the UK. Over the years the company has developed some award-winning products such as the Air-Guard® and Air-Block® ranges that have set new standards in terms of performance, safety and design. Its range of brush grommets are designed to eliminate the costs associated with air-conditioned by-pass air leaking through cable openings in a raised access floor.

Gromtec Europe has been supplying some of the world's leading data centres since 1993 and has over 20 years' experience within the industry. Gromtec Europe work predominantly through electrical wholesalers but is delighted to receive enquiries and offer specialist advice to installers and end users.

T 0203 2867949
info@gromtec.com
www.gromtec.co.uk
www.simonbox.co.uk



Machinery Excellence Award 2023

Deep hole drilling experts

In this issue of Industrial Solutions, we are delighted to select UNISIG for our Machinery Excellence Award.

UNISIG is an industry-leading American producer of deep hole drilling machines, supplying to customers across aerospace, automotive, energy, firearms, hydraulic cylinders, military and medical sectors, from smaller bespoke companies, to large original equipment manufacturers (OEM.)

With unparalleled installation capabilities across Europe, Asia and America, UNISIG has the expertise to provide advanced precision-driven machinery for all jobs, with its complete deep hole drilling solution from machinery, tools to automation.

The American heavyweight was established in 1981 and since that time, has built up pole position across the global industry, with its renowned production of gun drilling and deep hole drilling machines. Entrust Manufacturing Technologies acquired the company in 1995 and the company moved to the purpose-built Milwaukee, USA headquarters.

The drilling capabilities include: gun drilling, BTA, counterboring/reaming, trepanning, pull boring, skiving and roller burnishing, bottom forming, bottle boring and much more. With a wide range of stock machinery lines for diverse manufacturing needs, UNISIG is happy to provide bespoke-engineered machinery across all applications.

The US Milwaukee facility at the global UNISIG headquarters was expanded by over 100,000 sq. ft. in 2019, to keep up with increased production capacity demand levels. The CNC grinding machine also supports greater production, alongside regular upgrading across the production facility. The



dedicated design engineers at the UNISIG Tech Centre in Milwaukee are more than happy to build customised drilling machine orders, from prototypes to finished machines.

We spoke to Philipp Steimle: Sales and Service manager for Europe to ask more about company developments, "Our company is expanding its own manufacturing department, due to ongoing supply issues. The recently installed Kellenberger CNC grinding machine will allow us to finish all the drilling spindles in-house. We have also recently installed a laser-cutting machine, a CNC press brake and welding stations, so that we can do all the guarding and coolant reservoirs in-house to avoid delays in our machine building."

"The UNE6 series for medical instrument drilling with its fully integrated automation is a game changer for the industry and proving highly popular in the market. We have invested in more in-house production rather than external third parties, to keep on top of our orders."

One of the aspects that stands UNISIG apart is its commitment to excellence with customer service: from quick machinery and part shipping orders delivered around the world, to meticulous service and repair

UNISIG
 DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS

jobs (conducted on-site and remotely) and expert installation by UNISIG engineers.

The recent addition of two new SSI Schaefer LOGIMAT® vertical lift modules (VLM) in the parts warehouse have further enhanced the already-excellent customer service. The storage units hold up to 28 tons of spare parts each, providing welcomed streamlined organisation and tracking. UNISIG operators can now effortlessly access parts inventory on the touchscreen and the VLM moves the correct tray forward, whilst a laser then selects the precise bin and location of the required part. This use of automated technology has optimised the inventory storage capacity and created a smoother, more accurate retrieval system.

UNISIG leads the way in expertly engineered, high-performance gundrilling, such as the Dual-Spindle gundrilling machine with counter-rotation (UNE12-2-750-CR). This has impressive features, for example, the two spindles offer advanced-precision gundrilling to 12mm in diameter and 750mm in depth, at 12,000rpm. That's not all. The machine has over 2,000psi coolant pressure, with integrated chip collection system and touchscreen control panel. The characteristic counter-rotation of cylindrical workpieces provides next-level hole straightness.

Contact UNISIG to discuss how deep hole drilling equipment would support your business venture today:
www.unisig.com

The best available technique that is revolutionising Breather Valve Testing

Assentech was incorporated by Ewart Cox (pictured) in 2008, who had 25 years industry experience, with the main aim of supplying quality equipment as well as providing technical advice and maintenance support for tank storage, fluid transfer and process safety applications. As the current Managing Director and a leading advocate for breather valve management and emission control, Ewart has recently been recognised in the Storage Terminals Magazine Top 100 Tank Storage Influencers Guide 2023. This recognition comes highly respected in the industry and serves as a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence, his commitment to innovation, and his significant contributions to the tank storage sector.

Ewart shared, "We have left the path most trodden and forged a new direction that benefits both customer and the environment. My 25 years of experience to help customers, standards organisations, non-profit safety organisations and the regulators to reduce odours, improve safety at the same time as customer profitability is great for

the image of our industry and helps to stimulate discussion on aspects, we feel are important."

Currently, Assentech supplies products from prestigious manufacturers located across the Globe. Always focused on delivering quality solutions with focus on the environment, site safety, operating efficiency to protect assets, improve profitability, safeguard stakeholder confidence and evidence compliance.

'Buying once, buying well' is a familiar phrase with Assentech customers who are encouraged to evaluate



their product selection by understanding the technical specifications of premium products and not base their purchase decisions solely on price. Assentech firmly believes that quality products have lower cost of ownership and protect the environment better than the false economy of buying cheap equipment.

Assentech's core strength is its comprehensive understanding of breather valve functionality, compliance and comparative knowledge of the breather valve marketplace providing its customers with a unique and supportive overview to help guide decision makers.

Certified by a UKAS accredited company to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001, its enviable reputation is the outcome of its core strengths which is to provide specialist engineering services, environmental solutions and safety equipment for process industries dealing with flammable, hazardous or corrosive substances. "Our main objective is to help clients achieve regulatory compliance, reduce emissions and optimise their production processes," stated Debbie Pearce, Director.

Assentech Management is also represented on two International Standards Committees with Ewart Cox currently writing an environmental annexe for API2000.

In recent news, Assentech has just launched its new innovation: Vent-Less. A ground-breaking technology that is automated with AI and algorithms which enables breather valves to be tested according to API2000 testing protocol.

A huge risk to any tank storage facility is through the breather valves that are installed on a tank. A breather valve or also known as a PVRV (Pressure and Vacuum Relief Valve) is a valve that protects tanks and vessels from overpressure and vacuum conditions. It opens when the internal pressure exceeds a set point, allowing excess pressure to escape, and opens again when the internal pressure drops below atmospheric pressure to prevent collapse. It's widely used in various industries to maintain safety and prevent equipment damage or product loss.

With the focus on the environment, Assentech has spent eight years of R&D to develop Vent-Less, which is designed to check functionality, sealing and performance of individual breather valves on both vacuum and pressure ports.

"Vent-Less will provide a full leak and functionality test in less than two minutes as well as irrefutable results. The technology is revolutionising tank storage facilities and is unique to the world providing a best available technique to quantify, monitor and reduce emissions for environmental reporting, ESG metrics and providing valuable data for net zero analytics. We have seen heightened interest on our unique Vent-Less technology which is the only equipment globally that will enable emission quantification," said Debbie.

You can find out more here: <http://www.assentech.co.uk/automatic-mobile-smart-test-bench-for-breather-valves-pvrp-prv-pvrp-improve-efficiency-and-reduce-emissions>

For more information, please see below:
T 01726 844707
info@assentech.co.uk
<http://www.assentech.co.uk>
<http://www.assentech.co.uk/anaerobic-digestion-biogas-pressure-and-vacuum-relief-valves-with-flame-arresters>





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SLIMLINE PULL-WIRE SWITCH FOR SAFE MACHINE START-UP: PS216-Q200/Q210

Pull-wire switches are used as signal transmitters to start machines, open electrically driven doors and gates or as light switches in elevator shafts.

The PS216 pull-wire switch comes in two versions, the Q200 has a holding force of 45N and is suitable for wire lengths of up to 50m, while the Q210 has a holding force of 70N and can be used with wires stretching up to 100m. Pulling on the pull wire actuates the switch function in the pull-wire switch.

The high protection class and wide temperature range enable these switches to be used in a variety of applications.

Start your machine the safe way, the Schmersal way.



Award-winning resin flooring from 100% recycled waste plastic

In this issue of Industrial Solutions, we have selected Abacus Flooring Solutions Ltd as our Company of Choice.

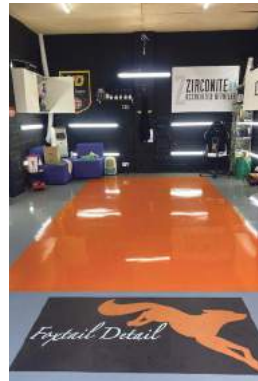


Our fragile planet is at catastrophic risk from waste plastic, with numerous quantities ruining our bountiful oceans, endangering marine life, human health and ecosystems. Harmful chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates in plastic can cause havoc in soil chemistry and landfill groundwater.

Abacus Flooring Solutions is a multi-award-winning specialist-flooring contractor from Coalville, Leicestershire that has come up with a landmark innovation. By using waste plastic (that would otherwise go to landfill) in industrial resin flooring, the East Midlands based company has revolutionised the flooring industry.

The groundbreaking patented innovation is named 'Abaplas' and is the brainchild of Managing Director, Nick Megson. It is the first exclusive design in the world of its kind, providing a wholly sustainable, eco-friendly flooring method.

Established in 2020, the company designs, manufactures and installs resin flooring for a wide



"Resin flooring, along with many other industrial products, has traditionally been manufactured using silica sand, which is a dangerous and potentially carcinogenic substance when inhaled."

"Abaplas instead contains non-harmful recycled waste plastic, which is ground down to a white powder. The process will vastly reduce the volume of waste plastic ending up in landfill or the world's oceans."

"The world's first resin flooring using 100% recycled plastic was installed by Abacus in the enormous VIP Visitor Centre auditorium at JCB's global headquarters in Staffordshire, UK."

range of industries from industrial, commercial to healthcare. With a dedicated aftercare service, customers benefit from an annual follow-up site visit for cleaning advice and slip testing. Furthermore, the sister company: Abaplas Recycling Limited treats all the plastic recycling for Abacus resin flooring products and initiates the sales of treated plastic for use by other product manufacturers.

We caught up with Nick Megson, Managing Director to find out more about this award-winning company, "Our products are intrinsically more environmentally friendly than any other flooring product on the market: there is currently no competitor offering a resin flooring that entirely replaces harmful silica sand with 100% recycled waste plastic."

The future looks bright for this flagship company as it sets a new benchmark for sustainable usage of plastic waste in flooring for years to come, "It is expected that Abaplas Recycling Limited will grow exponentially over the next few years as more clients specify Abacus's 100% recycled waste plastic flooring. Rapid growth is also expected as Nick's unique process becomes adapted for use in a much broader range of flooring, construction and industrial products," concludes Nick.

For more information on Abaplas, please see the website below:
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nick@abacusflooringsolutions.co.uk
www.abacusflooringsolutions.co.uk



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Our proven process: how UNISIG leverages experience & expertise to solve customer challenges

For over 40 years, we've helped our customers achieve success in deep hole drilling, providing them with the machines, automation and support they need to be competitive and profitable.

We have found that the initial energy we and our customers spend at the beginning of a quoting process pays off throughout the entire project, from inception to installation. We take a systemised approach not only during this critical phase but also throughout the entire sales process. This ensures there are no surprises and that our customers know exactly what they can expect when starting discussions with UNISIG about their gundrilling and deep hole drilling needs.

This is our approach at UNISIG:

1. We listen to our customers, ask questions and understand what they need.

This may seem obvious, but often the temptation is there to just skip to a quote because we think we know what is needed after a brief discussion. Sometimes that is true, when the application is straightforward and familiar, or it is something we have a packaged solution for. We always try to make the quoting process quick and efficient, but there are times when the application deserves a more in-depth conversation. Our salespeople and engineers listen very carefully and often pick up on small details – a specific tolerance, material condition, process requirement

or a future need for flexibility – that may change our recommendations.

2. We first identify a standard solution from our product line that can be applied at the lowest cost and shortest delivery possible.

At UNISIG, our product development mindset is to systemise solutions from our experience in many different industries, make them automation ready and embed application flexibility whenever possible. We invest millions of dollars annually in our product line and related spare parts, giving us a strong starting point for new applications. Our standard product line encompasses much more than machines, including standard automation, workholding, accessories and tooling that we can offer as part of the solution.

3. If a standard solution isn't available, we consider a customised solution and we stand behind it.

UNISIG is very good at building customised machines, and we do so often. Once we and our customers agree that a special solution is needed, we move forward with a great deal of confidence and experience. We start by evaluating how we might approach the design using standard modules or proven concepts, thus eliminating long debug cycles and/or high costs. Then we use our mechanical and electrical engineering disciplines to virtually test the new machine before we build it.



4. If a commodity solution is readily available, we recommend that rather than upsell a machine the customer doesn't need.

We build machines that can gundrill or BTA drill deep holes that are impossible to drill on machining centres. Even if it may be possible to drill some deep holes on a CNC machining centre, our machines have the power, speed, dimensional accuracy, spindle density, coolant systems and process control that will improve productivity, tool life and reliability.

For more information:
www.unisig.com

UNISIG's makes significant investment in plant technology and equipment

UNISIG, a global manufacturer of deep hole drilling machines, has invested \$1.5 million in state-of-the-art technology and equipment for the company's newly constructed 500 sqm fabrication department

The expansion supports the company's strategy to develop in-house, design-to-finish production of high-quality sheet metal components used in UNISIG's product line. By producing many of its parts in-house, the company can preserve and maintain the quality and quantity of its components while optimizing the mix of parts that are made internally versus those that are outsourced for production.



The investment includes the installation of fiber laser cutting equipment, and a 242-ton capacity press brake with a 7-axis programmable back gage, all of which utilizes 3D programming and simulation software. The software and training for the company's workforce were part of the investment, along with the hiring of additional personnel.

"The company's new fabrication capabilities will also serve as an inspiration and catalyst for ongoing development and advances in machine design that will have an immediate impact on the value UNISIG brings to its customers now and in the future," said UNISIG CEO Anthony Fettig.

"The most exciting part of this investment from my view is the opportunity to

fundamentally change how we think about the design of fabricated components," Fettig said. "Our engineers will be inspired by the manufacturing innovations generated by the precision fabrication team and what we can do with these state-of-the-art production capabilities," Fettig said.

UNISIG's fabrication enhancements also include MIG and TIG welding with advanced digital process control and weld boom with power assist. A modular fixture system provides precision component setup from 3D models, while a vertical pallet system stores raw sheet material. To assist department personnel, vacuum sheet lifting equipment and updated bridge crane controls make for easy material handling.

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).

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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CAMB MACHINE KNIVES INTERNATIONAL REACH

CAMB Knives International really does have an international reach with a network of exporters and carriers – with offices both in the UK along with agents in Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, South Africa and many more so you'll never be far away from a CAMB Knives representative.

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Big benefits from small parts picking in pallet racking



Edward Hutchison, Managing Director of BITO Storage Systems, explains how using pallet racking for small parts storage turns this ubiquitous storage product into a flexible order picking solution.

While constant innovation generates a stream of new intralogistics solutions, 'classic' pallet racking remains the most commonly used storage system. Its relatively low investment costs and flexibility – whether through changing rack configuration, retrofitting special purpose modules or adding extra bays – have made it an indispensable framework for storage and order picking systems.

Of course, many operations use pallet racking as the basis for straightforward storage and retrieval of full pallets, either to fulfil customer orders or as a bulk store for replenishment. But the trend toward shorter product life cycles is increasing SKU numbers. The drive to minimise stock levels for each SKU and improve picking process efficiency to speed up order fulfilment, combined with demands for Just-in-Time delivery and online retail, is generating a greater need for small parts storage.



This is where the adaptability of pallet racking comes to the fore because small parts picking can be easily integrated within pallet racks. One option is to create small parts pick locations on the reachable ground level, with upper storage levels serving as a buffer store for replenishment. Small parts storage containers will help to store and organise small goods and C-parts – making them available for quick and easy picking.

This will result in a reasonably efficient picking process but ground floor locations within a pallet rack will, of course, be limited. Solutions are therefore required to maximise the available space to create a pick face with sufficient locations for the required SKUs, and enough stock to ensure availability during picks.

Flow shelves can be easily installed into pallet racking to increase the number of pick locations and volume of SKUs located on the ground level pick face. Goods are easily accessible from the front of the racking – the rollers on the flow shelves allow bins and containers containing small items to be picked roll smoothly to the front of the shelf – which makes picking easy. A full container of parts will roll to the operator each time the empty one at the front removed.

Standard shelving is another option to create flexible small item pick faces within pallet racking. There are several solutions: the first incorporates static shelving at right angles to

the racking, with space in between each run to facilitate picking. An alternative option is pull-out mobile shelving that maximises the available space under the racking – though movement of shelving has a negative impact on pick time. A third solution involves static shelving parallel to racking, which makes front items easy to pick. Shelving dividers can be fitted.

Inclined supply shelving within a pallet racking bay will make items clearly visible for picking. Cardboard cartons or plastic bins can be used, though the latter option enables preparation in advance at the goods-in area by filling the plastic bin with the items to be picked.

Plastic bins and containers will keep goods protected throughout the intralogistics process and during transport to ensure the quality of products are delivered to the customer in prime condition. It is worth seeking out storage system suppliers that in addition to offering racking, shelving and in flow lanes, also provide a container range comprising a variety of sizes with and a broad choice of accessories. Such a supplier will be able to design the optimum system to fit a given space, maximise the potential for small parts picking and, ultimately, improve fulfilment.

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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.

<https://www.watlow.com>

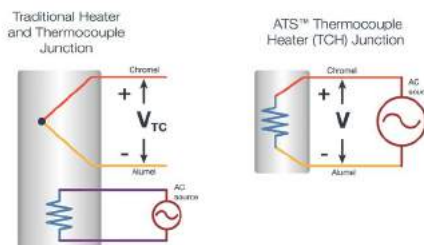
The new alternatives in power conversion

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

The necessity of power conversion

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

The issue becomes worse when constructing devices for an international market. Heaters often have very specific voltage requirements, but the power sources can vary from country to



country. In today's global economy, there is a great need to normalise this power for use with heaters built for the voltage requirements of any country. In short, power conversion is an old idea, but current technologies in the market are not well suited for some applications.

The problem with power conversion

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

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



New power conversion technology

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

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

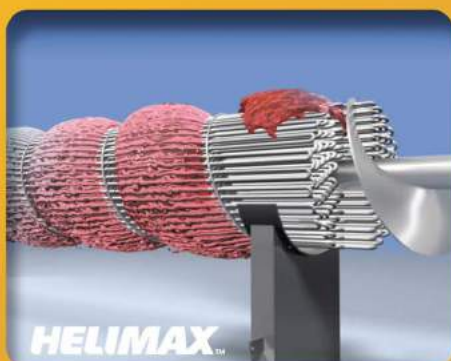
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Take sound to the cloud with Quantum from Cirrus Research



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:

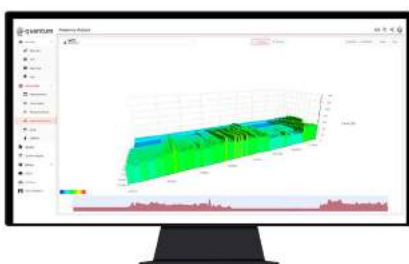
- **Standard subscription:** supplied as standard for 1 year and perfect for teams who need to analyse and report on noise events.
- **Pro subscription:** For large teams who need access to noise frequency data, customisable data views and detailed reporting.
- **Data retention only:** Perfect for anyone 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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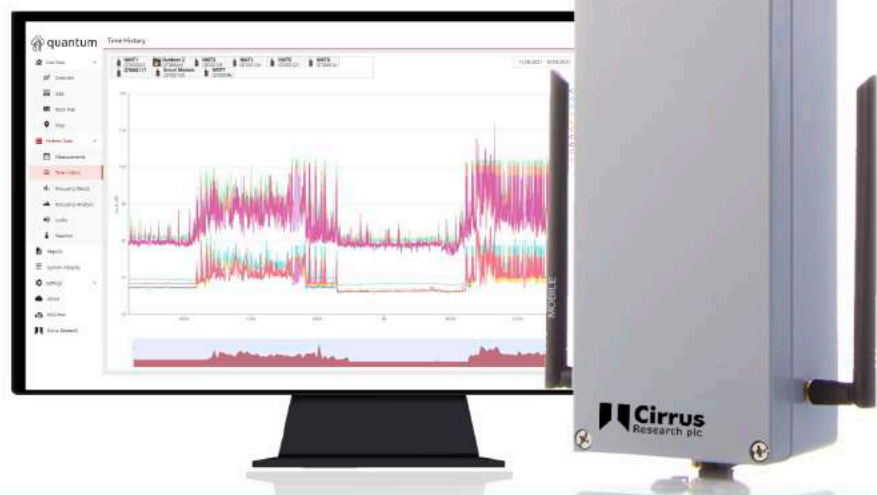
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The Ballantine Building Solutions team has over 20 years experience as ICF Builders suppliers, Installers & Builders using ICF and have worked on many successful ICF projects.

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 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.

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- 👷 Immediate Follow-on Trades
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- 💡 Energy Savings



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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.

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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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They have been importing Le Tonkinois Varnish and the Flexidisc sander for almost 40 years.

They demonstrate and sell these products on various shows throughout the UK and operate a first class mail order service.

Le Tonkinois Varnish is a traditional oil based varnish, manufactured using a 200 year old Chinese recipe. It contains Linseed oil, Tung oil & natural resins. No

solvents or water therefore it is environmentally friendly and is a pleasure to work with, no nasty smells and no brush marks.

Le Tonkinois Varnish is 100% waterproof and does not crack or flake off, even on oily woods like Teak and Iroko. It also withstands hot pans and boiling water. It produces a high quality and professional finish and requires very little maintenance, simply add a top up coat every few years as required.

Le Tonkinois Varnish has gained world recognition for its results and is regarded as one of the world's best varnishes for indoor, outdoor and marine use.

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partial angle grinder, polish applicator, polisher and grinds glass and nails.

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

For any more information, please see the details below:
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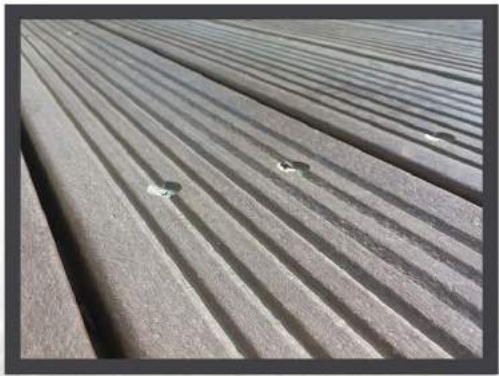
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[KEDEL] TRADE
ECO-FRIENDLY PLASTIC PRODUCTS

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.

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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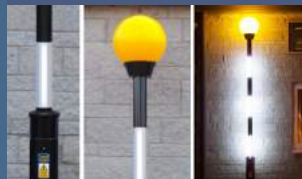
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BespokeCrete releases new Microcement shower trays

Here at Building Update, we have chosen to recommend BespokeCrete, a team of in-house carpenters and steel fabricators whose craftsmanship and innovation classifies the company as one of the most sought-after specialist furniture makers in the UK.

BespokeCrete is one of the biggest Microcement companies in the UK for furniture, and over the years has had to evolve constantly and consistently with the demands of the industry.

We spoke to Ness from BespokeCrete who explained a little more about what the business offers: "BespokeCrete is very unique in the fact that we have a team of in-house carpenters and steel fabricators – along with our skilled Microcement applicators. We can craft many items such



as kitchen worktops, Microcement outside kitchens, sinks, baths, tables, furniture and so much more. A lot of our work is completely bespoke and we work with clients who have previously struggled to find their exact requirements."

Microcement is a thin 2-3mm coating that can be applied to a multitude of surfaces. It is fully waterproof as well as being heat, scratch and stain resistant. It is a cement and resin hybrid and is great for a multitude of products such as kitchens or furniture, inside kitchens, bathrooms, showers, baths, sinks, floors and walls.

Microcement is applied by hand and consists of primers, base coats, finish coats and sealers – generally taking 7-10 days to apply. "We can work on-site (such as a microcement floor, wet room or create seamless kitchen worktops) or products such as furniture, outside kitchens and kitchen worktops can be made in our workshop in Norfolk and delivered. We can coat directly over plastered walls, cement board, MDF, Ply, concrete and existing tiles giving each person the freedom to express their creativity," added Ness.

Following a successful summer, BespokeCrete is collaborating with 'Resin Rock' to make Microcement shower trays, baths and sinks. "We have also developed a Microcement stair tread system with the first project being installed in the New Year. We are very excited about our range of Microcement shower trays, where we offer bespoke options as well as standard sizes. Like all of our products – these will be available in any of our standard colour ranges



as well as colour matching options with a range of drain options too. We have noticed a rise in the popularity of Microcement applications and where we differ to competitors is that we started out by applying this coating solution onto furniture and the business evolved from there. With the popularity of Microcement increasing we do expect there to be a surge in contractors attempting Microcement finishes without the correct training and experience. We refuse to take shortcuts on any of our projects. Our finishes will never be the cheapest option but they are sure to be some of the best!" added Ness.

BespokeCrete is attending the home building and renovation show at the NEC at the end of March 2024 as well as looking to take place in further shows throughout the year.

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info@bespokecrete.com
<https://www.bespokecrete.com>

Fixings

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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www.SWIFIX.co.uk



Our wallbed models provide limitless possibilities for transforming living space



Wallbeds have never been easier to order, build and install. They can help transform homes, offices and hotel rooms into multi-purpose and versatile spaces as well as providing functional storage areas.

Our wallbeds use a unique, safe, spring support system enabling the precise adjustment of balancing lift, compared with cheaper gas lifts. Our spring balance system has been developed over a 20-year period to guarantee safety and achieve the perfect balance. Being both powerful and adjustable means you can use a premium mattress for absolute comfort as well as to perfectly balance the wallbed, using fingertip control to open and close the wallbed effortlessly and safely.

All our mechanisms and hardware models are complete with contract level finishes and strength.

The NeXT Bed™, Alpha Bed™, Beta DIY Kit, and Studio Desk provide huge scope for rethinking the way we live, work and sleep. Wallbeds can be used with subtlety and even completed hidden. Built to contract standards, and as well as appearing in an increasing number of homes globally, wallbeds are also gaining increasing popularity in the hotel and hospitality sectors due to their durability and suitability for everyday use.

Wallbeds can also provide additional capabilities such as providing extra storage, integrated seating or a

desk. Installation costs are low and especially reduced if installed when completing a full fit out. In furnished apartments, hotel rooms and in tiny or mobile homes, all our models utilise the floor plate very effectively which is essential especially where space is increasingly at a premium, and furniture must be dual purpose. Full drawings are available of cabinet fixings where needed.

Our innovative NeXT Bed™ is an instant wallbed solution used with or without cabinet, immediately installable and useable on arrival, and currently in stock and available worldwide. With a tiny footprint and with fingertip control, the NeXT bed uses the safe spring support system. It can even be part-assembled off-site



to further minimise installation time on-site.

The Alpha Bed™ utilises rolled section steel for strengthening the wallbed front panel and includes cross braces to ensure maximum load compatibility whilst never compromising on the perfect balance nor comfort. Our



Studio Desk, compatible with the Alpha Bed™, functions as either a desk or side table and integrates directly into the wallbed. Not only does it disappear when the bed is



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lowered but keeps desk items vertical and undisturbed while the bed is lowered, raised, and in use.

Weighing just 15kg and the size of a cabin case, the Beta DIY kit has been developed specially for cabinet makers, and a range of other specialist trade professionals who require an affordable, compact, safe, reliable, and easy to operate system

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LS Products BV to introduce new Autonomous range in 2024

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to feature LS Products BV as our Landscaping Product Company of the Year.

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:
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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.



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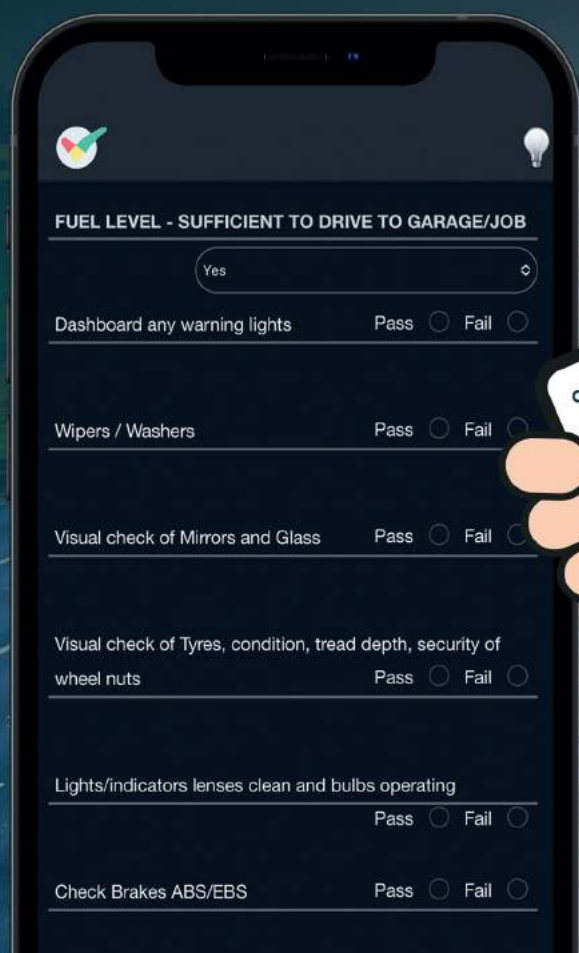


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ModCon Cabin Trader was formed in 2017 by Alan Willets of whom has 25 years experience of working for some major manufacturers in the Modular & Portable Building Industry.

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

Items such as Portable Offices, Canteens, Toilet units, Drying units, Storage Containers, Chemstores, Smoking Shelters, Effluent Tanks,



Staircases are regular and repeat produced items that we manufacture for our clients.

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

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

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

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

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Unrivalled professional expertise: Wakefield's expert-chartered surveyor

Fennell Green & Bates is a chartered mineral, waste, energy and building surveyors practice, with a specialism in project co-ordination and management in the construction and mining industries.

The company had evolved substantially since its inception in 1875 when founders Mr Fennell and Mr Green, took over the practice from the eminent mining engineer: Mr J Tolson White.

Under the expert direction of the current director, the company has expanded exponentially, employing experienced staff with chartered surveying expertise. From its convenient central base the UK in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, customers can be reached easily within three hours, excluding the southern counties of Devon and Cornwall, which takes a little longer.

As leading specialists in construction project co-ordination and management, the company's range of services includes: building surveys, land condition surveys, coal and other mining reports, contaminated land audits, land and mine surveying, geotechnical advice and site investigation.

To allow for a more streamlined process, the company has recently embraced the digital era, by moving its substantial archive, documentation and filing systems to a more secure online storage. This has already provided a more efficient service for its large customer base of: self-build, SME home builders and commercial developers, farmers and landowners.

"Experience in all types of land and former use with a large archive of material to research, helps inform



modern solutions to ground conditions problems," says company Partner, John Carlon and keeps Fennell Green & Bates ahead of the competition.

"Our experienced staff are familiar with mining law, land law and regulation and redeveloping land. Experience in subsidence identification from mining and treating the effect, is highly valued by our customers," elaborates John.

It is this winning combination of experienced staff, with knowledgeable areas of expertise, with access to extensive archived documents and drawings, that has cemented the company as a leading specialised chartered surveyor.

Enlisting the guidance of an experienced chartered surveyor, like Fennell Green & Bates, at the early stages of land development or building property can mitigate against further challenges. Drawbacks could include: mining induced ground conditions,

contamination and the boundaries of the site, but through informative advice, customers can make detailed, informed decisions.

It is these important, expert risk assessments that can determine whether land use can be developed further to what the client chooses.

"We can advise on developments in former coal mining areas and solutions to stabilise land from any mining or industrial use. Our coal mining risk assessments can be included with future planning applications in areas of high risk as identified on the Coal Authority data base.

We offer competitive, cost-effective solutions to most land condition problems. Our latest services include: level 3 structural surveys, contaminated land reviews and valuation."

From its Wakefield base, this experienced chartered surveyor practice has helped a large diverse customer base across the UK and according to John, is wholly focussed on helping companies, especially smaller ones to succeed, "The plan for the future is to grow the practice and help the smaller developer to find cost-effective solutions to ground conditions and contamination."

**For further information,
please see the details below:**
T 01924 255666
M 07483 164372
fennellgreenandbates@gmail.com
www.chartered-surveyors-wakefield.co.uk



Fennell Green & Bates Chartered Surveyors is a 150 years old practice based in Wakefield. At FGB, we specialise in building condition surveys, house structural surveys, project management, town & country planning, coal mining risk assessments, site investigation and remediation of brownfield land.

Fennell Green and Bates have been involved in over 1,740 projects over the past 22 years dealing with contaminated land, ground stability issues, phase 1 contaminated desk top studies, phase 2 site investigation projects, coal mining risk assessments and soil sampling for housing, commercial and industrial developments in north of England and the Midlands. Our practice also acts as mineral advisors to several building materials companies and that work has taken our surveyors all over the UK and to Ireland, Europe, Russia, South Africa and Australia to work on a wide range of projects.

At present we are managing the remediation of a glass works tip on behalf of a client for the site to be used as housing after the materials on site have been processed and re-engineered on-site for the development platform. We have recently completed the verification of the works for a medium sized housing development in Yorkshire in a former quarry that has been backfilled with engineered fill from site.

Our team is experienced in all types of site engineering and soil management that includes materials testing that can save costs due to the re-use of these soils and a reduction in muck away.



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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 Year.

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."

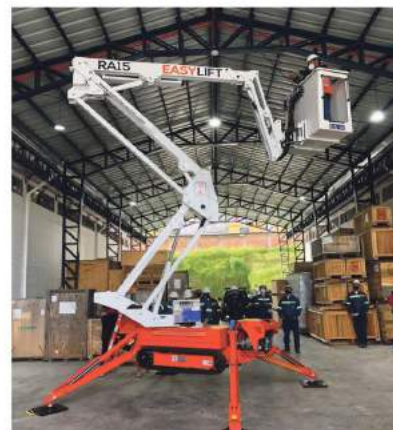
"In the near future, we are hoping to begin talks with a dealership of little truck booms. These are ideal for a variety of one-day applications from street work, signage, windfarms to pest control. Look out for our Spring demo road tour round the UK! We look forward to meeting new and existing customers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

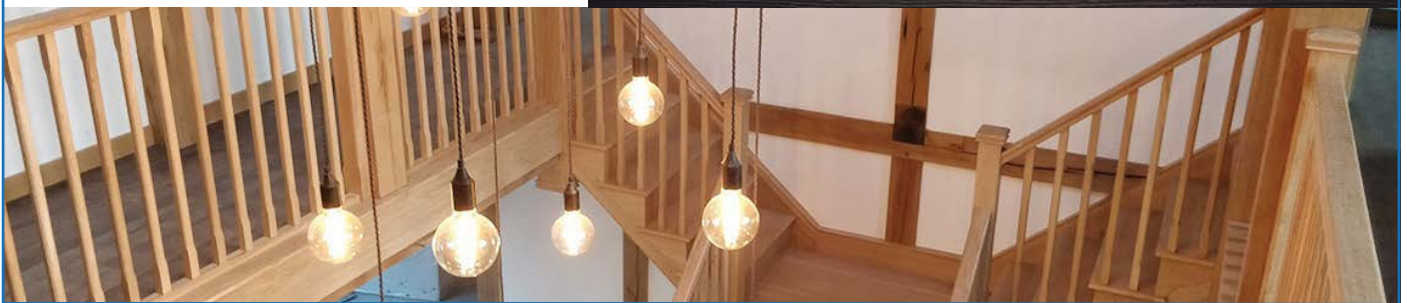
Apart from needing the item to fit out its workshop doors upon completion, there is no limit to any project that Bluerun will endeavour to take on. Inspired by a challenge, Bluerun will do its utmost to cater to all enquiries.

T 01799 599995
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk
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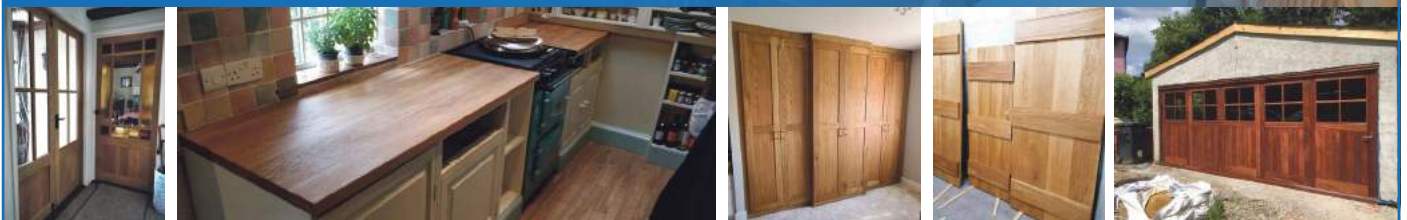


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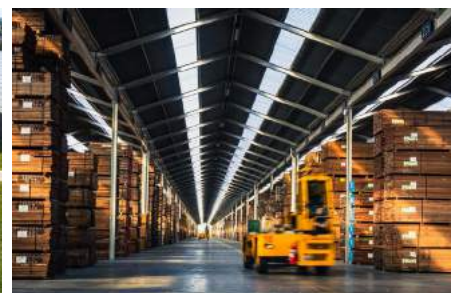


2025 – our aim is to
trade in Certified
timber only from
2025 onwards



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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,



VANDECASTEELE
HOUTIMPORT

keeping in stock for several years, in some cases, even decades. Stock is our strength and our specialty. 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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Elevate your business to the next level

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

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

Steve McGowan is the manager of Elevate Software, with extensive prior experience working in construction, from apprentice joiner, to sub-contractor, contractor manager and consultant, under his belt. During his working experience, he noticed that the information flow was key to successful project completion and conversely, the

opposite caused frustrating delays.

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

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

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

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

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

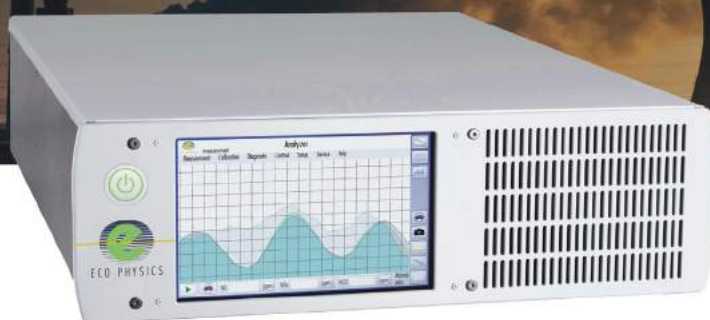
Going forward, ECO PHYSICS is excited to continue working on optimising production workflow whilst simultaneously expanding its current portfolio and developing new technologies.

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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ECO PHYSICS nCLD "Facelift" boxed solutions

AL, AL², EL S, EL, EL²



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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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Interface Force is an internationally recognised brand and decades of experience have gone into making Interface manufactured load cells the benchmark for thousands of users around the world, and Interface Force Measurements was established in 1996 by Neil Johnstone.

Based in Crowthorn, Berkshire, Interface Force distributes to the whole of the UK & Ireland, but also overseas, especially into Turkey, Greece and the Middle East. The company is a primary distributor for Load Cells manufactured by Arizona-based Interface Inc., and it also supplies their Torque Transducers, associated electronics, multi-axis load cells and the XSensor Pressure Mapping systems.

The global Interface Inc. is represented by a large network of distributors outside of the US, and they have requested products that are designed and manufactured in metric, with the precision and accuracy of all Interface products. These products are designed for an international buyer and user, and all specifications are in metric specs, a global standard for force measurement products.

Interface Force work mainly with aerospace, automotive, and motorsport companies, and Business Development Manager Tony Rokins told us, "We work closely with companies which are undertaking research into product development, and so this includes universities and also medical companies who need load cells for weighing saline bags – we have a very wide and varied client portfolio."

In this crowded industry, Interface load cells and torque sensors have a hard-won reputation for reliable, accurate and repeatable test results. The range of pressure sensors and pressure mapping systems from industry leaders GP50 and XSensor back this reputation.

Tony continued, "With regards to force measurement, our load cells are preferred by aerospace companies because they are highly accurate, and the results are very repeatable. Also, the devices themselves are extremely reliable and so they are looked on very favourably by both automotive and aerospace manufacturers in particular."

Interface Force is currently re-launching its XSensor High Speed Pressure Mapping System – the company offers a range of pressure mapping systems that can be applied to anything from impact testing to pressure testing tires, runways, beds,



seats and much more. The XSensor system is the first system design to allow product designers and safety testing engineers to see, record and evaluate the distribution of force from high-speed impacts on safety equipment such as helmets and body armour.

The system is particularly popular with automotive and aerospace seating manufacturers as evaluating the performance of helmets and other protective equipment designed to prevent injury requires detailed understanding of the pressure distribution on the body surface during dynamic impacts. Xsensor's high speed HS Impact system combined with the thin conformable sensors allows customers to accurately measure those pressures and evaluate how different design configurations affect pressure distribution on impact.

In addition to this, the system is also used by manufacturers of office seating, companies that develop seating for the home, and bed manufacturers.

In spite of its success in the industry, Interface Force is very much looking to future development.

Tony informed us, "We are building new Applications which are based around renewable energy, and we are also developing Cloud-based, Wifi and Bluetooth data acquisitions by making our devices wireless. This would mean customers being able to collect data from anywhere in the world via an App."

This ever-growing comprehensive range of indicators, signal amplifiers, data loggers and wireless transmitters has been designed to complement the extensive range of load cells, torque transducers and pressure sensors, and the range has developed to ensure that customers have access to the most accurate, up-to-date, and cost-effective devices available.

Another new development is in the Airport environment, where Interface Force have begun to provide wireless monitoring of equipment on, for example, luggage carousels, and this product among many others have helped Interface Force to have a very successful past 12 months especially.



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Demanding building types, such as power plants, large industrial plants, reservoirs or airports, often require highly specialised custom-made constructions. They place high demands on the fact that building penetrations such as cables and



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

pipe work need to be permanently sealed. In the case of extraordinary pipe dimensions or special thermal, chemical or physical requirements, sealing systems in the form of a special construction are the required solution.

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



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

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.

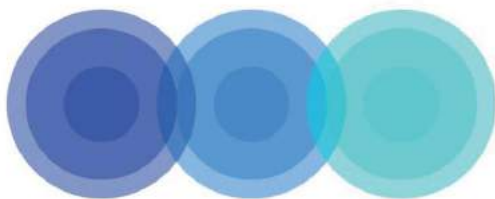
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Taking you up in the world

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 Hoists' future is looking bright.

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Explosion protection: Your safety, our priority



As the industrial filtration, bulk handling and process industries face the constant challenge of explosion hazards, MacClancy and Sons Ltd emerges as a reliable partner in workplace safety. Their range of integrated Fire and Explosion Mitigation solutions includes top-of-the-line fire & explosion protection systems.

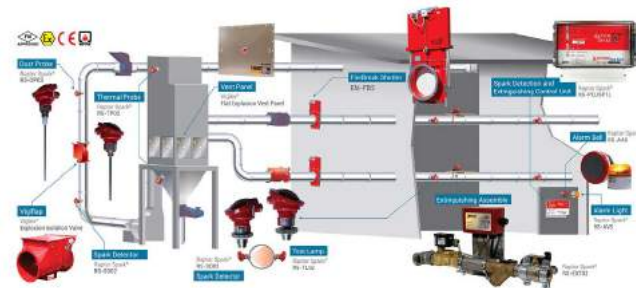
In this article, we explore the critical role of these systems in mitigating risks and maintaining a safe and secure working environment for your personnel, plant and property.

The Importance of Effective Explosion Protection Systems

Explosions in industrial settings can sadly have catastrophic consequences, posing threats to human life, property, and operations. Investing in reliable explosion protection systems is a simple proactive approach to safeguarding your facility against potential disasters and it could cost less than you think.

Cutting-Edge Explosion Protection Systems

Early Detection: Raptor Spark detection systems feature advanced infrared sensors capable of detecting even the slightest presence of sparks, embers or even glowing dust particles. Early detection enables swift responses to potential ignition sources in multiple protected zones, which can prevent a full deluge scenario across your plant.



Rapid Isolation & Venting: In the event of an explosion, VigilEX products simultaneously close isolation valves and release over-pressure via sacrificial explosion vents in milliseconds, preventing any escalation beyond your filter, minimizing collateral damage and maximising safe working areas.

Customisation and Flexibility

MacClancy and Sons understand that each industrial facility has unique explosion risks. Therefore, systems are customisable and adaptable to specific needs, whilst providing optimal protection.

Long-Term Impact on Safety

By integrating VigilEX explosion protection & Raptor Spark detection systems into your workplace, you

are demonstrating your strong commitment to the safety and well-being of your employees. A safe work environment fosters trust, which is known to increase productivity. A well-protected and safe workplace also reduces downtime due to better housekeeping, reduced safety related incidents or accidents and helps enhance your company's reputation as an employer

who leads the way in safety and safe working practices.

These explosion protection & detection systems are a crucial part of a comprehensive safety strategy for industrial filtration, bulk handling and process industries. With their cutting-edge technology, customisation options, and expert guidance, they can empower your facility to stay ahead of any potential explosion risks and protect your assets.

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British Encoder Products

Encoders are essential components in many industrial automation systems, providing precise and accurate measurement of the position, speed, and rotational angle of a moving object. One of the most common applications of encoders is in conveyor systems, where they play a critical role in ensuring the smooth and efficient transportation of raw materials and finished products.

A typical conveyor system consists of multiple conveyor belts that transport raw materials and products throughout a plant. The movement of the belts is controlled by a central control system, which relies on information from encoders to accurately control the speed and position of the belts.

Encoder technology has evolved in recent years, offering advanced features such as digital outputs, high accuracy, and high-resolution

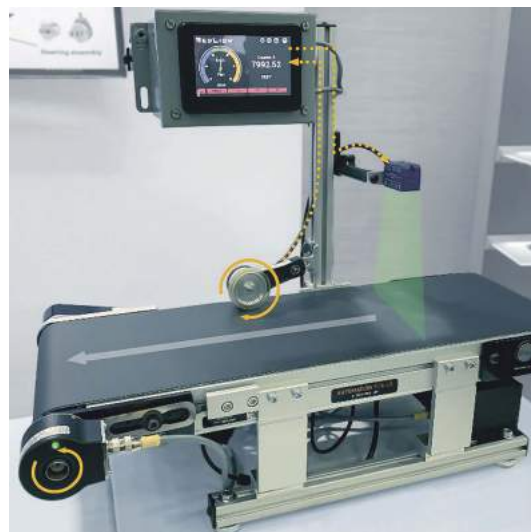
measurement. These advanced features have made encoders a cost-effective solution for improving the performance of conveyor systems.

One of the key benefits of using encoders in conveyor systems is the ability to precisely control the movement of the conveyor belts. This is achieved by measuring the position and velocity of the belts and providing this information to the control system, which can then accurately control the movement of the belts. This results in a reduction in production delays and an increase in efficiency, as raw materials and finished products are transported smoothly and efficiently throughout the plant.

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Logistics

Hat-trick Award for Davies Turner Group

For the third successive year, the Davies Turner Group have been presented with an internationally-recognised award by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, RoSPA Gold Award, further solidifying this company's position as a worldwide freight and logistics partner.

Davies Turner provides pioneering direct UK weekly rail services in conjunction with their long-term partner in China, Air Sea Transport, who has years of experience in the China rail sector.

Since 2016, Davies Turner have operated China to UK rail services for full load (FCL) and groupage (LCL) shipments, assisting clients with their supply chain needs by reducing shipping times in comparison to Sea Freight. The availability of their import rail services has been vital to clients since the advent of the pandemic, where many importers witnessed shipping line ocean transit time delays, port delays and air freight became cost prohibitive for many large volume or dense cargo shipments.



With confidence and demand for China rail freight services soaring, as evidenced by the 50,000th China-Europe intermodal train embarking on its journey towards the west at the beginning of February this year, Davies Turner have introduced and support a dedicated weekly eastbound rail service for LCL cargo, having undertaken successful trials.

Established over 150 years ago and as one of the first companies in Europe to become accredited as a Full Authorised Economic Operator, this forward-thinking company is now a bona fide international freight forwarder, with an award-winning pedigree.

The group has 15 UK branches, including a head office in Birmingham.

We caught up with Andrew Ford, Branch Manager in Rotherham, Yorkshire to find out more, "The Rotherham branch specialises in awkward and out-of-gauge shipments, shipping many vehicles ranging in sizes and type to small rail engines as well as large machinery moves around the world. Alongside this they offer standard freight forwarding – which means the Rotherham Branch can assist in almost all enquiries they receive: 'from an envelope to a large project.'"

"We have an extensive knowledge of the services that we offer within our branch, with our dedication



to detail to ensure where possible shipments smoothly and clients are updated should there be any delays out-of-our-control."

"We have had a good start to this fiscal year, which was surprising with the current downturn in world trade. Our short-term plan is to improve our office environment with some renovations and also look at team building activities that had to be suspended throughout COVID. We are also looking at more training for our staff so they can gain even more experience and knowledge to help assist our clients."

Despite most of the COVID-pandemic restrictions lifting and shipping costs starting to decrease, the world of international freight still has to contend with the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine, port strikes and a near-global recession.

Davies Turner offers a light at the end of a gloomy tunnel with its express freight rail service and its extensive European overland portfolio with direct groupage, part load and full load trailer services. Customers can choose between express transit and super-express options, in a thoroughly streamlined system.

This year's Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Health & Safety Awards have been added to a growing collection of awards: the prestigious European Logistics Category Award from The British International Freight Association (BIFA), shortlisted for the Supply Chain Management category and now Building Update's logistics Company of the Year, which has delighted Andrew and his team, "We are obviously very pleased to be selected, we pride ourselves in the service we offer to our clients and we appreciate the recognition."

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UNISIG's approach to Automating Surgical Instrument Manufacturing

Photos: UNISIG

As surgical instrument manufacturers pursue greater throughput while facing increased labor costs, automating the medical instrument manufacturing process has become a necessity. However, integrating automation into the gundrilling process for drilling deep holes in extremely precise surgical instruments in lights-out operation is a major engineering challenge requiring more than simply pairing a robot with a deep-hole drilling machine.

The right machine, tools and process must all come together to create small holes with extreme precision in difficult-to-machine materials such as titanium and surgical stainless steel. More importantly, the entire system must flow from a unified concept where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

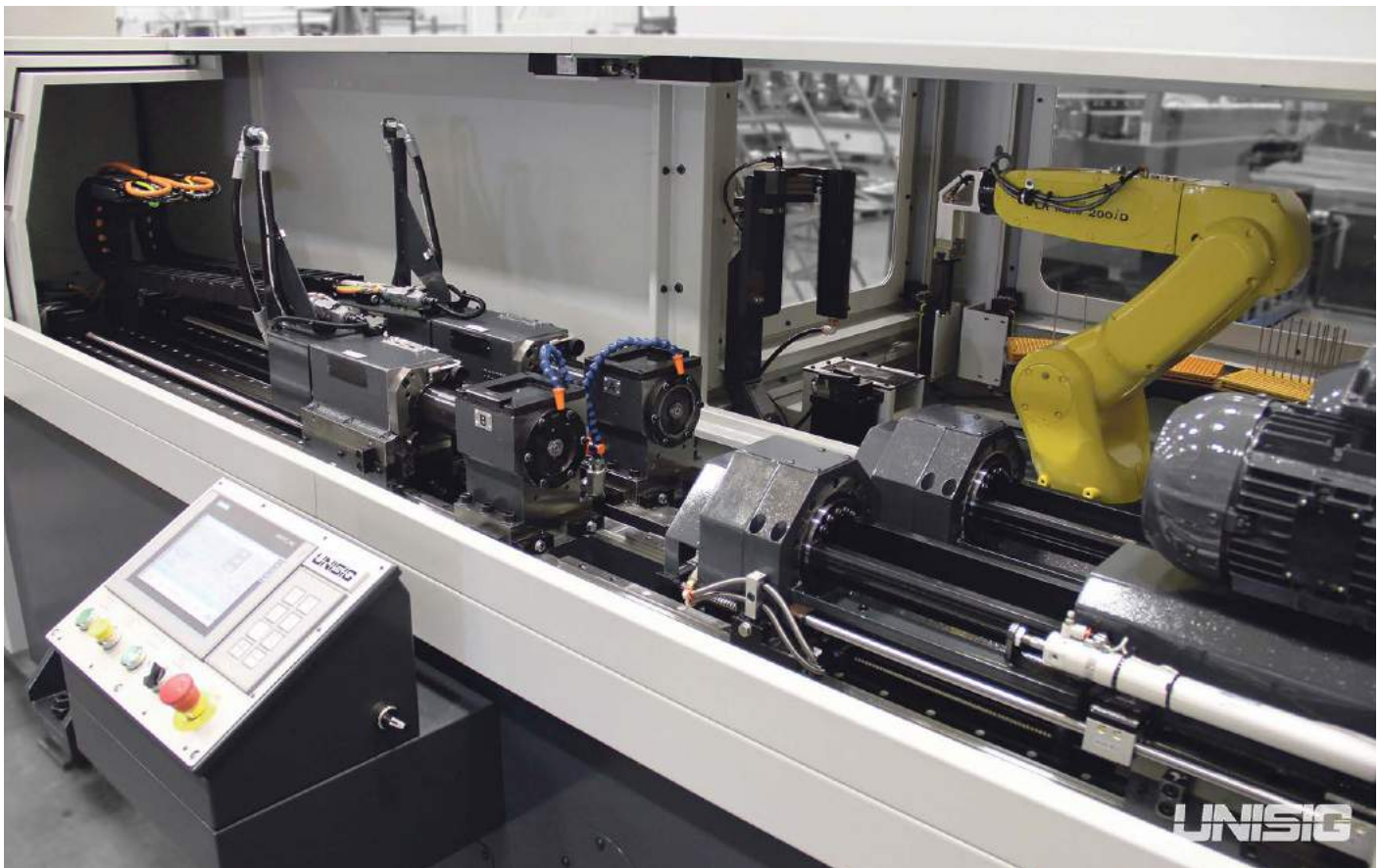
To meet these challenges, UNISIG developed its UNE6-2i-750-CR dual independent spindle gundrilling machine. The UNE6-2i is capable of gundrilling hole diameters ranging from 0.8–6mm in part lengths measuring up to 30 inches with depth-to-diameter ratios from 20:1 to more than 100:1. The machine has a maximum combined drilling speed of 28,000rpm and a 3,000psi (207) bar programmable flow-based coolant system with dedicated pumps for each spindle to ensure precise coolant pressure control.

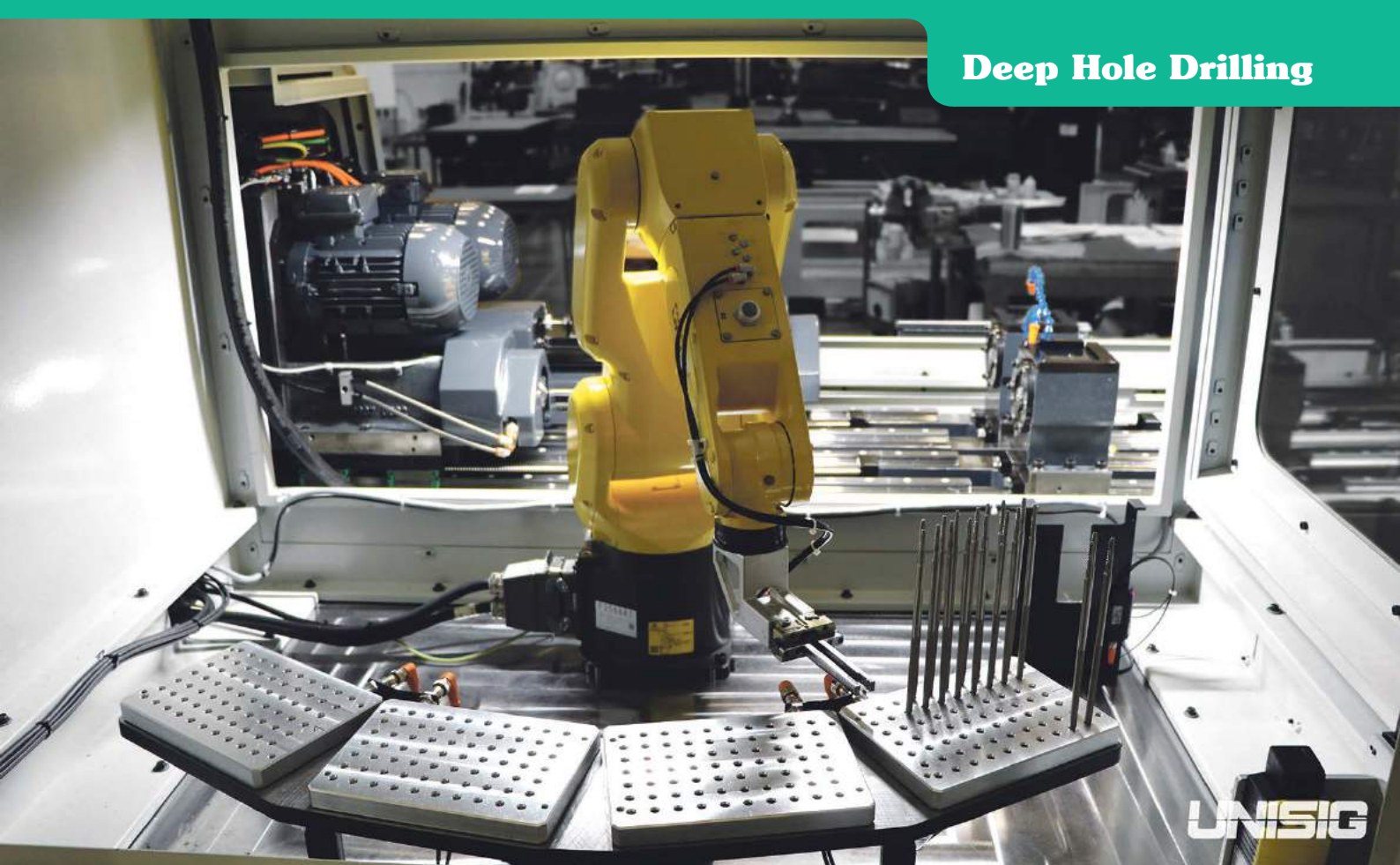
Automating hundreds of cycles of precision manufacturing, however, is not possible unless the overall operation

UNISIG
DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS

is considered from the outset. Surgical instrument manufacturing is a sequential process: parts must be loaded into the machine in a particular way for specific operations that happen in a specific order.

Workpiece length, shape and configuration determine where it is gripped by the robot when loaded into a machine, moved from spindle to spindle for drilling, residual cutting fluid removed, and returned to the pallet. Where a part is gripped impacts where it is clamped for drilling to ensure accuracy. Every variable along





the process chain must be considered and accounted for, and the calculus is detailed and complicated.

Then there are unique customer needs and requirements. The equipment and process must accommodate a variety of part families and hundreds of parts to increase runtime and efficiency. Operators must be able to change over part types and programming without calling in an automation specialist, and the entire process must be controlled from a central interface. Add to the mix that everything must be packaged in as small a footprint as possible, and the scope of the engineering challenge comes into focus.

UNISIG's approach to solving these problems, however, results in targeted automation that enhances the existing

benefits of gundrilling, ensuring a solid foundation for reliable process-wide automation.

At its core, the automated UNE6-2i is a purpose-built machine with automation embedded in its design, not added as an afterthought. Flexibility and adaptability are maximized by a harmonious, interdependent mechanical, software and operational planning scheme.

To meet size constraints, a 6-axis robot was embedded in the machine with a pallet system on the backside of the machine, allowing easy operator access from the front to setup the machine without compromising ergonomics. The configuration enables quick setup changes between prototype and proving operations and full production runs.

The robot automatically repositions the workpiece from the front of the first spindle into the rear of the second spindle without operator input. The process

of drilling a part from both ends in a single-piece flow is unique to UNISIG. Workpieces with enlarged features on one side are loaded from the rear of the collet, solving a common problem in gundrilling medical surgical instruments with full automation.

Control of the UNE6-2i and a computer are consolidated into the Human Machine Interface (HMI), a menu-driven touch screen system for easy, intuitive operation. Training and operator engagement with the system is significantly reduced due to user-friendly UNISIG controller menus and prompts.

UNISIG's comprehensive and integrated approach to automating medical part manufacturing is a vision that sets it apart in the industry. It's more than drilling the impossible hole. It's a commitment to understanding and to the research that drives continuous improvement and innovation for automated part production at its full potential.

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).



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