



BCR
Building & Construction Review

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

Houtimport specializes in the import, trading and export of Tropical Hardwood from Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, Scandinavian and North-American Softwood, North American and European Hardwood.

Its experience and dynamism have made it one of the leading timber companies in Belgium. 20 Hectares of undercover storage stock 120,000m³ of finely presented timbers, allowing to satisfy every order.

Preservation of the forest

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

Rethink everything: a positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour.

Customers are increasingly seeking sustainable solutions and are asking questions about certification and the origin of the timber. Buyers are becoming more and more aware of the need to use certified timber.

Masters in diversification

Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. Therefore it is of vital importance to use a variety of different timber species.

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.

Strengths

The strengths of Vandecasteele Houtimport are the strong environmental credentials, the huge stock, the



variety of timber species and sizes and the prompt delivery from stock.

www.vandecasteele.be - Belgium
dave@vandecasteele.be
genevieve@vandecasteele.be

Carlisle builds on innovation with ARBOFLEX liquid system



CARLISLE® Construction Materials continue to go from strength to strength with its liquid applied roofing membrane system, ARBOFLEX®PU. The BBA certified, wet-on-wet PU waterproofing system provides a

completely monolithic roof, with no flames, no laps and no heat.

ARBOFLEX®PU is suitable for both new build and refurbishment projects and does not require the application of a primer, except on porous concrete surfaces. The single component, ARBOFLEX®PU liquid membrane is a single component system and, after the first application, a glass fibre matting is laid onto the wet membrane and rolled to draw the liquid through.

The glass fibre matt makes detailing easier and efficient for improved performance. It also enables the roofing contractor to verify that they have applied the correct amount of liquid membrane to the substrate, avoiding any risk of blistering or cracking. It is also faster and easier to install than traditional roofing systems, making it a cost-effective option.

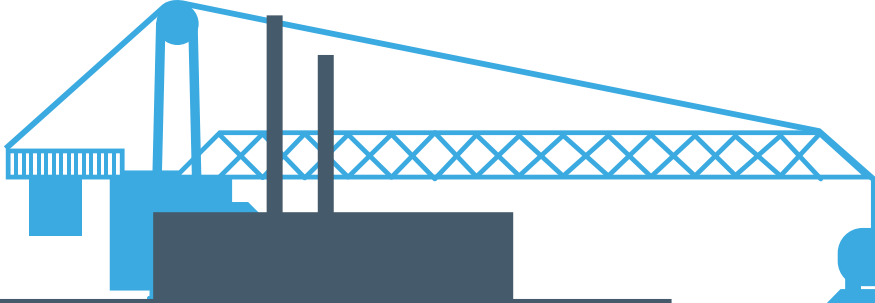


ARBOFLEX®PU is available as a single component 10-year system or with a UV protective top coat to extend the warranty to 20 years. Other features include:

- Flame and heat-free installation
- Weather-resistant: can be used all year round
- Adapts to any surface such as uneven, curved or irregular surfaces

ARBOFLEX® is available now from Carlisle Construction Materials or at any leading roofing distributor. For sales and distribution enquiries:

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www.ccm-europe.com



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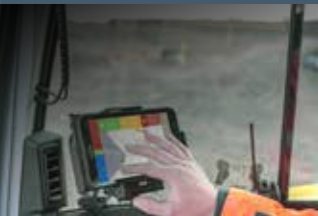
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Hello & welcome to Issue 401 of BCR...

In this issue of Building & Construction Review, we look at how businesses are coming together to support project management, supply Asian ceramics and porcelain tiles across the construction and commercial industries.

In this issue we have selected Elevate for its outstanding Commitment to Excellence, through the development of one-stop management solution software for the construction industry on [page 4](#). Elevate offers a revolutionary approach to project management: seamlessly linking all the design, financial and construction processes together to increase productivity and mitigate against risk.

Tile Central is the focus of our second featured Commitment to Excellence on [page 8](#). The Stoke-on-Trent company supplies premium Asian ceramic and porcelain tiles to the construction industry. With its own raw materials factory, the company has a strong relationship with the tile producers directly in Asia.

Adveco is our final featured Commitment to Excellence company on [page 6](#). Fusion from the hot water specialists: Adveco offers a complete range of packaged electric and packaged renewable electric heaters for commercial projects. With a heating capacity of up to 34 kW, FUSION systems offer greater versatility for meeting domestic hot water demands across a range of commercial properties, is cost-effective and reduces carbon emissions.

Other featured areas include: fire door safety, marine containers, lead/hard metal skills programmes, bespoke joinery and preservative-treated timber.

Don't forget to send us your latest construction updates and news.

Email us at: buildings@bestpracticeuk.co.uk



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The future of project management is here

In this issue of Building and Construction Review we are delighted to award Elevate for its Commitment to Excellence in Developing a One-Stop Management Solution Software for the Construction Industry.

Project management in the construction industry often requires a triangular pulling of heads between the client, architect, contractor, and sub-contractor, not to mention health & safety and contractual law, fire safety post-Hackitt review, urban planning law and a drive towards carbon neutral footprints. It's no wonder that project managers can feel under immense pressure knowing that all processes, no matter how small or large can create a

delay, which in turn has a knock on effect to other works.

Elevate offers a different / guided way of working and has been designed by Steven McGowan who has over 43 years' experience working in the construction industry: from the early days as an apprentice joiner, to climbing the ranks managing sub-contractor, Main Contractors and finally as a consultant.

Steve realised that three elements always had a major effect on a project and its outcome. These been Design, Finance, and Construction, any of these modules not completed on time had major effects on the following module finishing their

works on time, anyone could have an issue and in the worst cases All three at the same.

Steve then sketched out the dependencies and information flows, of the construction process and elevate was born.

With the main Brief of the company / software, to provide a one stop solution for the construction industry, which assists all to manage and guide the undertaking and completion of a construction project, no matter how big or small, and all at a very reasonable cost, making it accessible to everyone.

Elevate manages design, finance, and



construction, and seamlessly links all the processes together to guide all, increase productivity and reduce risk. Elevate is perfect for a construction company of any size and at the same time also allows for individuals to undertake their own project. This is achieved through each different sector electronically linked to each other, giving a comprehensive and easy to use guide for any project.

We spoke to Steve who highlighted how good Elevate is and why it comes so unrivalled in the industry.

“The software covers all instances within the management of a construction project and eliminates the duplication of works, which occurs between the different sectors. This creates huge savings in management time which in turn improves productivity and removes stress.

With features like the automatic programme which creates actual working programmes is the first of its kind, and with auto payment calculations as a minimum, everyone is protected financially.

The software has been developed from real experience, with specific emphasis on the end users, and their interface with the data screens, which have been designed so anyone with a basic understanding can set up and use the software.

Elevate also understands budgets are

very tight, to help keep costs down elevate decided to have no shareholders, this extended the development time, but allowed costs to be as low as possible which gives access for everyone, not just the ones with the deepest pockets!”

Elevate then looked at the training required for the end user, with Elevate decided that minimal training only, would be allowed for, so training requirements have been set to the absolute minimum.

Steve then moved to quality and stated “we ensured that all products are tested to the highest standards to ensure smooth operation and interfaces. In addition, we have set up a customer services instant chat where customers can talk to an expert regarding any advice or problems, and

this ensures the end user isn't left alone with the product. Having a strong and instant customer services system is vital to reducing overall stress which hopefully will make work enjoyable again.

The system has been developed from within the industry and deals with what happens on projects and what decisions must be made and how the decisions can have an effect further down the line. It also links the items that are not project / site based where decisions and performances away from the project can have a massive effect on the project itself.

The software has specifically been designed to help and assist all, to reduce stress in the workplace, to be kind on the environment, help and assist the end users.”

After a strong and successful 14 months of live testing now complete, Elevate has its sights set on the future where it will continue growing, investing, learning and listening. Steve commented on the future dynamic of the company, “the company will push hard and invest in R&D to ensure its standards are kept and that its products spread to help everyone in any field. We started from nothing with 15 years of development including 4 years of testing, and now the system is second to none at a very reasonable cost.”

Elevate can save your overall project up to 14% due to the unique way the system is automated and how seamlessly it can guide you in the right direction. A commitment to excellence can be portrayed through acts of being consistent in behaviour, paying attention, focussing on the happiness of the customer and delivering what is asked for. Elevate answers all these requirements and more. In light of this, we asked Steve how the company felt achieving our Commitment to Excellence Award.

“The Commitment to Excellence is a highly sort after award and is in recognition for the company and its employees regarding its products and services it offers. Thank you.”

For more information, see below.

To download a brochure or book a demonstration please visit their web site.

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steve@elevate-software.co.uk
www.elevate-software.com



The future of sustainable hot water is already here



Because of the ubiquitous need for domestic hot water (DHW) in commercial building projects - which can account for as much as 30% of a building's daily energy demands - addressing how it is secured is one of the best ways of making active carbon savings today. Looking forward, new build projects, unless exhibiting very large hot water demands, will struggle to receive permission (under Part L of the building regulations) for a new gas connection and as a result will specify electric-based systems. Larger retrofit projects could likely face the same issues, meaning many pre-existing commercial buildings, 80% of which are expected to still be in use by 2050, will eventually face the singular challenge of transitioning from gas to electric. This still should lead to application design tending towards that which blends heat pumps for preheat with other sustainable options that can include solar thermal, but particularly electric boilers.

Hot water specialists Adveco has been working with a range of commercial organisations, to meet the challenge of better understanding existing systems by non-invasive ultrasonic flow metering. This is necessary if accurate

system replacements are to be designed that balance the ratio of available electric power and hot water storage required without exceeding the building's existing electrical supply.

Deploying heat pumps and/or solar thermal as a renewable to provision the initial preheat, is the most logical approach to achieving sustainable water heating, but this is adding further complexity to a process that typically demands a bespoke approach. With accurate data gathering, it becomes possible to provide the most feasible system design that demonstrates predicted carbon reductions and optimises capital investment.

FUSION

To simplify matters, FUSION from Adveco is a complete range of packaged electric and packaged renewable electric water heaters for commercial projects. As an all-electric system, it uses familiar technology that is relatively simple and quick to install, cost-effective and reduces carbon emissions.

With a heating capacity of up to 34 kW, FUSION systems offer greater versatility for meeting DHW demands across a range of commercial properties. Projects with small to medium basin and sink-led hot water demands - such as cafes, restaurants offices or gyms - taller buildings with basement plant rooms and organisations that depend on 24/7 hot water provision for continuity of service all gain advantages from using FUSION.

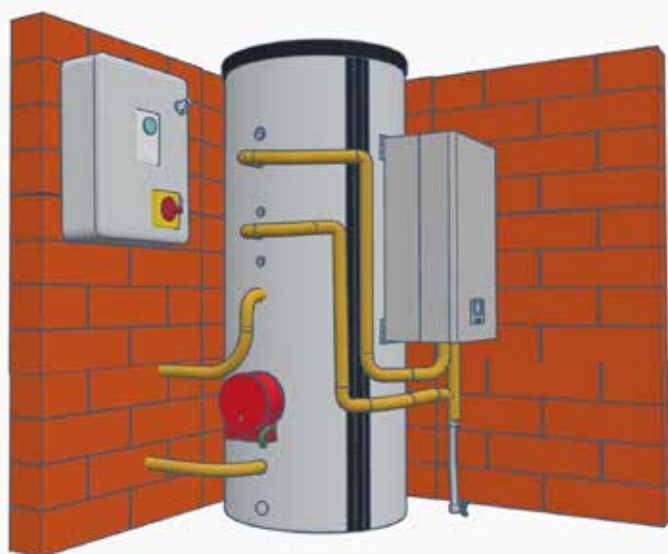


FUSION starts with all new specially designed single- (ATSI) or twin-coil (ATST) corrosion-resistant stainless steel high-pressure indirect cylinders. Offering capacities from 200 to 500 litres, the cylinders feature dedicated mounting points for Adveco's 9, 12 or 24 kW ARDENT electric boiler making FUSION-E a more compact, space-saving option. Supplied with pre-built pipework FUSION is now faster and easier to install.

For the FUSION-T renewable variants, the monobloc air-to-water FPI-32 heat pump (ASHP) is used as a source for system preheat. Contribution from the ASHP is maximised via the bespoke FUSION Control Box. These controls smartly balance the two heat sources, meaning the electric boiler is not required to work as hard to raise flow temperatures to the required 65°C. Electrical demand on the boiler is reduced by as much as 30%, delivering operational savings and reducing carbon emissions by up to 71%.

Where hot water demands become a business-critical service, FUSION systems can also incorporate an additional backup immersion (FUSION-Eplus & FUSION-Tplus) for enhanced resiliency.

Replacing gas-fired water heating with an electric system currently has a number of cost implications. Correct sizing with metered data can be clearly shown to reduce the system requirements seen in oversizing, saving considerably on the cost of purchasing and installing new hardware. This potential saving can number in the tens of thousands of pounds depending on the scale and complexity of the hot water application. Operational costs





do however climb - especially when using electrical immersions as the primary heat source, but also with heat pumps - and will continue to do so while grid electric prices remain much higher than those of gas grid supplies.

SOLAR HYBRIDS

Capable of offsetting typically around 30% of the energy demands for water heating, solar thermal systems are ideal for organisations which rely on large amounts of DHW and are seeking to reduce costs associated with electric-only systems. It also provides a way to further cut carbon emissions, not only from old gas-fired systems but new grid-based applications as well.

Modular, high-performance flat plate collectors are by far the most efficient way to heat water with solar energy, offering a smaller footprint compared to equivalent solar photovoltaics (PV) for DHW. A typical 4 kW PV system requires approximately 16 panels covering 25m² of roof to match just three flat plate collectors covering just 6.6m² roof area. This makes solar thermal a prime choice when roof or façade space is limited. A south-facing and unobstructed roof with an inclination of 30° from the horizontal is optimal, though by no means essential as modern solar collectors can be installed in a variety of permutations.

Adveco collectors feature a copper meander absorber through which passes the solar fluid (glycol) transferring solar energy as heat to the system's water via an indirect cylinder. Collectors with an integrated drain back heating module, which prevents damaging overheating of the solar fluid, offer a low-maintenance, more cost-effective and more efficient approach to

incorporating solar energy into a sustainability strategy.

For existing buildings with gas-fired water heating solar thermal is employed as a system pre-heat, reducing demands for gas to actively cutting carbon emissions from the buildings. For new build properties with electrical connection, the gas heater is replaced with an electric boiler and cylinder to supply the afterheat which raises system temperatures to a necessary 60°C. This hybrid approach maximises the solar thermal input which Adveco has simplified by integrating a packaged FUSION E electric water heating system. The all-electric solar thermal approach further reduces carbon associated with grid electric systems and aids in lowering operating costs.

This hybrid approach can be further extended with the inclusion of air source heat pumps to provide the initial pre-heat for the system. Operating at lower temperatures with the cold feed maximises the efficiency of the heat pump, reducing electrical operating costs and raising working flow temperature from 10°C to 40°C. This is not hot enough for commercial applications, so the pre-heated water is then passed to the mid solar thermal system. Essentially free to operate, the solar thermal system boosts the working flow temperatures from 40°C to at least 50°C. Although not operating at maximum potential, there is enough advantage gained from solar thermal to



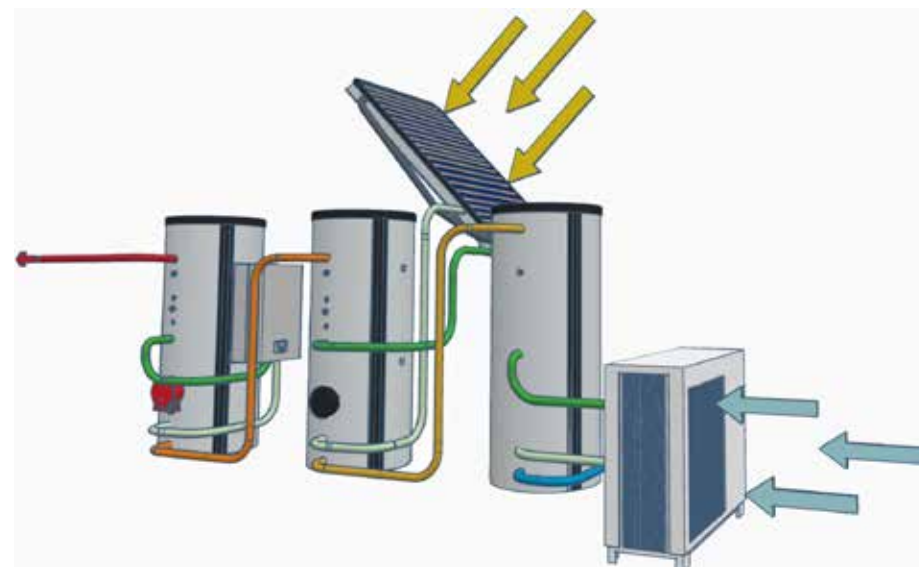
Live metering - ultrasonic monitoring of cold and hot water flow

warrant the additional system complexity and capital investment. During summer months it is possible for the solar thermal system to deliver the necessary 60°C working flow although a FUSION electric water heater is still required to ensure consistent water temperatures of up to 65°C year round.

First Steps

The application of renewables, whether heat pumps or solar thermal, or a combination of the two can reduce, but not completely offset all direct electric costs. The advantage is clearly defined in the reduction of carbon emissions. If considering a move to more sustainable operations, or faced with system refurbishment, data gathering on existing systems is still the simplest, low-cost first step you can take. It provides the intelligence and insight necessary for accurate, more considered decision-making.

www.adveco.co



Why companies around the world are choosing TileCentral UK as their Quality Asian Tile supplier



In this issue of Building and Construction Review we have recognised TileCentral UK for its Commitment to Excellence in supplying Quality Asian Ceramic and Porcelain Tiles for the Construction Industry.

Based in Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire which is known as the historic ceramic capital of the UK, TileCentral UK is a family-owned B2B company that specialises in supplying quality Asian ceramic and porcelain tiles.

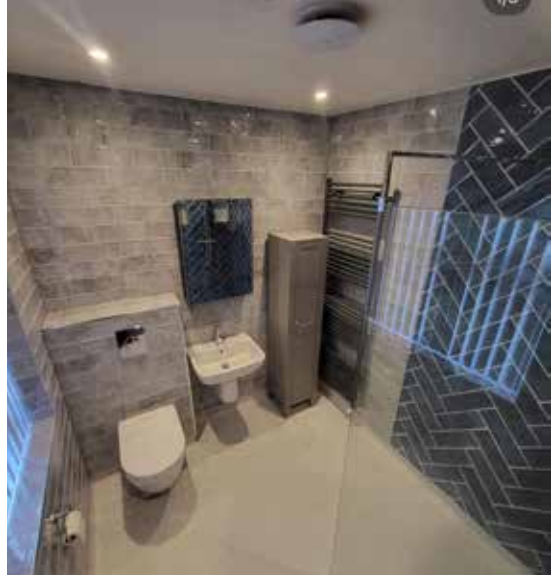
Since its establishment, TileCentral UK has strengthened its workforce and facilities, and now has its own offices and staff based in the major Ceramic clusters of South East Asia, India and China. "As a family-run business we also own a raw materials factory so we have a great relationship with the tile producers in Asia. We are proud of the fact that we can provide the safest, most secure route to accessing this dynamic continent," expressed Danny Bowers, Director at TileCentral UK.

The company supplies to a vast range of customers from distributors and shop builders to developers nationwide, and more recently has started supplying some major projects throughout the UK too. These projects include developments, restaurants, apartments, new build houses, and many more.

After just 9 months of being in business, TileCentral UK hit an astronomical milestone in its short history. This small family-run

company began importing quality Asian tiles in April 2022 and is already supplying goods internationally. This successful partnership came off the back of Danny identifying a gap in the market at a time when many UK companies were buying from European countries.





So far to date, TileCentral UK imports eight containers which hold 24 pallets a month – equalling close to 1,440sqm of tiles per container. Off the back of this success, TileCentral UK has large plans to expand.



“We are looking to confidently grow our tile ranges as well as to expand our showroom here in Stoke-On-Trent. Combined we have over 50 years’ experience in the ceramic sector and having family overseas working with our partners is very important.” mentioned Danny.

We work hard to deliver great quality at prices cheaper than retail

Professional, determined and passionate were three words that Danny described the company as, and it's clear to see why. In such a short period of time, TileCentral UK has developed an extensive portfolio that comes hand in hand with some of the best technical knowledge and expertise in the industry and a customer service that guarantees quality and consistency.

TileCentral UK offers some of the world's highest quality brands and products such as: Technical Porcelain, Mosaic, Ceramic Floor Tiles, Ceramic Wall Tiles, and Polished Porcelain. All these products can be used in a number of different locations including Airports, shopping malls, Universities and Education Institutions, Offices, Vehicle Main Dealer Showrooms, Restaurants, Hotels, and Residential Homes.

Some of their most well-known work has been recognised all over the world and includes partnering with large global brands such as KFC in South Africa, McDonalds in South Africa and Malaysia, Eden Hotel in Bangladesh, BMW in Malaysia and Singapore, Toyota Car Showrooms in South Africa, Darwin International Airport



in Australia, Food Bank Central Office in Australia, King Saud University Hospital in Saudi Arabia, Cascada Mall in Lebanon, and many more.

The new website <https://www.central-tiles.com/> has been designed to support all customers with any bulk orders. TileCentral UK also stock a large range of ROCATEX products that are developed and manufactured to the highest levels of performance. From standard set adhesives to rapid set adhesives, grouts, levelling compounds, primers, anti-fracture matting and specialist waterproofing solutions, you will find a full range of tile and stone care products from ROCATEX on pallet deals that start directly from £400.00.

Danny and the team are always keen to listen and react to all customers' wants and needs, therefore, if you are looking for a specific product or brand that is currently not stocked, as a family-run business they always welcome customer suggestions and do the best they can to find the right solution for you.

For more information, see below.
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Looking for quality landscape & building materials from a trusted supplier?

Established in 1998, Stone Zone and Landscaping Centre are a nationwide trade supplier, offering quality landscaping and building materials at trade prices.

Recently being awarded with the Gold Trusted Service Award for 2022, this family-run business offers a 10% discount to Trade card holders and fast delivery.

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To cater to the environmentally conscious, the Stone Zone have developed their own eco-friendly 'Sustainable range,' including FSC Certified Oak Sleepers, Composite Decking and locally blended soils.

Stone Zone pride themselves on being 'a service you can rely on' and are committed to putting their clients at the heart of what they do. With a dedicated account manager, best rates and exceptional customer service are guaranteed.

To find out more, call on: **01202 874207** or email: sales@stone-zone.uk.



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BespokeCrete creates custom and bespoke furniture, outdoor kitchens, kitchen worktops, waterfall islands, patio sets, indoor table & bench sets, coffee tables, baths, sinks and so much more. Every item is custom built, by hand – using local materials and trades, in our Norfolk workshop. BespokeCrete crafts furniture from wood or steel – that is coated in our full Microcement system, over several days – creating a strong and fully waterproof surface that is heat, stain and scratch resist.



With our team of in-house steel fabricators and master carpenters – we can bring our customers design concepts to reality. At BespokeCrete – we have a range of stunning furniture or we can create a completely bespoke design of your choosing.

BespokeCrete work with designers, architects, contractors and the general public with a large proportion of our work being completely bespoke.

Microcement is available in a multitude of colours – now with the option to colour match to RAL, Farrow & Ball, Dulux, Little Green, Fired Earth and Pantone colours.

Microcement is a thin 2-3mm cement and resin hybrid coating that can be applied to a multitude of surfaces. It is great for inside or outside use, creating stunning furniture from wood and coating it in Microcement – creating a personal and unique piece of art/furniture.

For more information, see below:

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Sustainable, low maintenance and stunning; it's no wonder that architects specify Shou Sugi Ban® timber cladding for contemporary builds and heritage renovations. Traditional Japanese timber homes were preserved using a charring technique called Yasisugi. The process blackens the wood and increases its resilience to weather, insects, flames and mould. When we first discovered this, our team were keen to master the process and develop a premium timber cladding range.



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Sustainable Solutions: It's time to make the switch

As the world continues to grapple with the effects of climate change, it's essential that we take firm steps to reduce our carbon footprint. One of the most impactful changes that can be made in both the building and landscaping industries is to switch to eco-friendly, low-carbon, maintenance-free solutions.



Eco-friendly products that last a lifetime

Recycled plastic materials offer a number of advantages over traditional wood and metal solutions. Recycled plastic is far more durable than wood, and will never rot or corrode over time. It's also easier and faster to install, often coming pre-cut to size and ready to assemble. In terms of eco-friendliness, recycled plastic is an excellent choice for both building and landscaping. It's completely recyclable, meaning that it can be recycled and reused many times.

heart of its business, recently working with the National Trust. From recycled plastic decking boards, fencing and cladding to outdoor furniture and building materials, their low-maintenance, affordable alternatives are designed to promote greener living.

T 01282 861325
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Kedel: A commitment to sustainable living

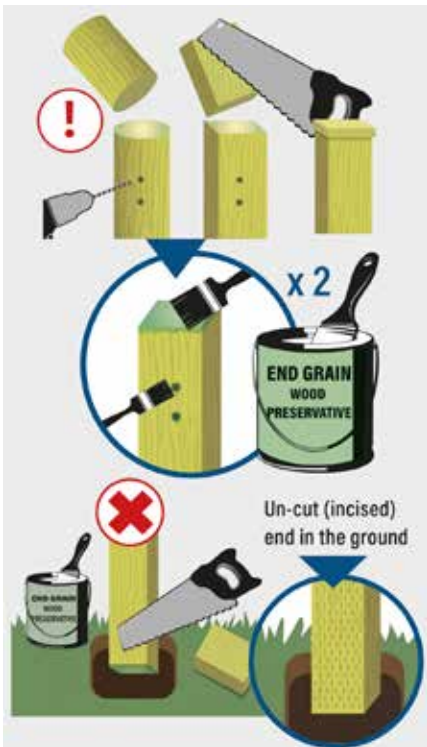
Leading the charge for more sustainable recycled plastic products is Kedel, a family-run business based in Burnley. With a mission to display the very best in recycled plastic materials, Kedel puts eco-friendly living at the



How to make preservative treated timber last longer



A cross-cut preservative treated post showing extent of formulation penetration.



Preservative treated, softwood decking and cladding components have been through an industrial process. This results in the timber having an effective barrier of protection against decay and insect attack – providing added durability and extended service life.

Re-working a treated decking or cladding board, post, joist or batten during installation should be avoided if possible – so as not to break the ‘envelope’ of preservative protection by exposing an untreated core.

Sometimes, re-working a treated timber component is unavoidable. But by giving each cut end, two liberal brush coats of a suitable end grain wood preservative or protector, you can maintain the integrity of the treatment. This also applies to areas which have been bored, drilled or notched - for example to accept fixings.

Your timber supplier should recommend a product to use. But if not then several of our members supply suitable products.

Post installation

Preservative penetration achieved by brush application is less than that achieved by the

industrial treatment process. So even if an end-grain product has been applied to a cross-cut end of a treated post, this end must NEVER be embedded in the ground. Put the un-cut end in the ground.

If a post does need shortening, cut the top (at an angle to shed water) and apply two coats of brush-on treatment. If you’re shortening a newel post, cut the top flat and fit a post cap, there are many styles available.

For more information contact the Timber Decking & Cladding Association (TDCA) www.tdca.org.uk

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The Timber Decking and Cladding Association is a not-for-profit, independent technical and advisory trade body. Recognised as the authoritative source of expert opinion in the UK.

www.tdca.org.uk

Quality bespoke joinery – crafted to perfection

Bluerun manufactures quality, bespoke joinery items and everything is made to order, nothing is 'off the shelf.'

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.

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.

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You can also contact our sales team on 01305 263300 or sales@doorcontrolsdirect.co.uk



Looking lean – Strand makes warehouse improvements

Strand Hardware has developed leaner assembly, dispatch and warehousing processes – saving hundreds of staff hours each year – in a joint project with a crack team from Warwick University.

The project with WMG (Warwick Manufacturing Group) has optimised warehouse layout and movement for the efficient flow of picking, assembly and packing operations across key ranges. It involved measuring processes via time study and motion analysis through site visits, video capture and process flow assessment. Findings outlined cycle times and mapped the movement of people.

The resulting report outlined a series of recommendations to improve process capacity, including quick wins and minor modifications to warehouse and workstations layout to introduce time savings. This has led to the introduction of mobile Kanban shelving within the assembly area to allow components to be picked and assembled more efficiently. The double-sided racks allow bins to be restocked by a dedicated person who conveys stock between Strand's warehouse and its head office on another part of the site.

Steve Marshall, Managing Director of Strand Hardware, said that the project had been 'thorough and exacting.' "Strand Hardware has grown over 30 years. Like most companies, while scaling up, we have focused

on customer requirements and day-to-day business operations. We felt that the time had come to review what we were doing and whether we could be doing it more efficiently, which led to the opportunity to work with WMG.

"Having experts come into the business with fresh pairs of eyes, ask the right questions and with the knowledge to assess and analyse our operations has been invaluable. It was important for us not to disrupt warehouse activity, so recommendations had to incorporate improvements that would be easy to apply. In the long term, this will make our business leaner and more efficient – the ideal foundation for future growth," he said.

The project was undertaken with funding from the Digital Innovation for Manufacturing programme.

Strand Warehouse and Production Manager, Andy Michel said that it had been fascinating to work with the University Team, "The results will make the job easier for many of the team and help Strand Hardware in its continuous improvement."

Chris Wang, of WMG SME Group added, "WMG and Strand Hardware have worked collaboratively to analyse their current assembly area in readiness for



optimising their production facility. Across the three recommendations put forward, a maximum 50% reduction in cycle times per unit has been predicted which allows for a 5.105% capacity increase."

For more information on Strand Hardware's range of products, contact: info@strandhardware.co.uk, call: 01922 639111 or visit: www.strandhardware.co.uk



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New small duct heating and cooling system set to tackle rising temperatures in UK homes

A new small duct heating, cooling and ventilation system by US manufacturer Unico Systems has been launched in the UK.

The Unico System, which is installed in half a million homes and businesses throughout the US, provides heating, cooling and ventilation along with improved air quality and well-being.

The decision to make the Unico System more widely available to UK residents follows a series of record-breaking summers, as well as increasing demand for greater climate control.

The near silent, system, which operates

at under 30 decibels, uses aspiration to deliver draft free heating and cooling ensuring temperature differentials are no greater than one degree throughout the home.

Richard Soper CBE, of Unico Systems UK, said, "The US is used to much larger variances in temperature, meaning that domestic ventilation and air conditioning is often installed as standard. As a result, the Unico system is fully adapted to the needs of domestic properties; providing effective climate control, but also operating at a barely audible sub-30 decibels. For self-builders and renovators this provides a unique opportunity to give occupiers the same level of climate control and comfort that



they've come to expect in cars, hotels and gyms, no matter the season."

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Whatever your needs, Chilled System Solutions has all the capabilities to assist you with all your Air Conditioning requirements. This includes Chiller Service and repairs, Chiller refurbishment, Danfoss Turbocor service and repairs, Compressor overhauls and replacement, Commissioning services, Project Management covering The Construction Design and Management regulations 2015 (CDM), Data centre cooling, Downflow units and close control systems, Air source heat pumps, Pipework installations, Refrigeration systems and so much more.

Chilled System Solutions works with both Domestic and Commercial Air Conditioning clients and can help to advise and recommend the right

equipment for your needs. Its trained project team have the expertise to plan your installation with the added benefit of a free no-obligation survey right through to the commissioning and handover of all equipment.

Air Conditioning brings many advantages to your building or home and can be a great cost-effective way to monitoring the temperature of your building at all times of the year. Whether you're looking for a small split system, a large capacity VRF or a 1Mw Water Chiller, Chilled System Solutions has the right application for your needs.

Get in touch below for a free no-obligation site survey and quotation.

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Air conditioning and heating solutions

Clima-Tech was founded in 2015 by Ashley Shemmings, a self-employed specialist in heating engineering with over 18 years' experience in the engineering industry. Clima-Tech is a family run business and alongside Ashley, wife Franki Shemmings works in the office. What started off as a maintenance and servicing company, soon evolved into a specialist multi-faceted service with a proven track record in the electrical, refrigeration, domestic, and commercial sectors.

Clima-Tech is well trusted and well established in the renewable energy field. Clima-Tech is hands on and works closely with its clients to ensure that the best service is delivered. Clima-Tech is an approved contractor by the following certified bodies: Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC), IWA, and REFCOM. Furthermore, Ashley has trained to the highest level, holding qualifications such as City and

guilds 2360 NICEIC certified, City and guilds F-GAS, B-PEC G3 unvented, B-PEC Heat pump design, and B-PEC water regulation.

Clima-Tech has been the receiver of many awards over the years receiving first, second and third place in the following: 2019 National Energy Efficiency Awards, Energy Efficiency Champion and Commend Renewable Heat Installer & Contractor 2020/21 and the National Energy Efficiency Awards 2020/21. Another milestone for the company was in 2021 when Clima-Tech employed its first member of staff.

Clima-Tech specialise in a range of core services in the renewable energy field for MCS/RHI registration systems, Heat pumps, Heating systems, Electrical system design and installation, System commissioning, Air conditioning, Solar panel specification, design, installation, repair and maintenance, and Underfloor Heating and Plumbing works.



We now have a showroom open in Martlesham. We want to help more households experience the benefits that heat pumps can bring – and to encourage early adopters to make the move. Our showroom will share information about all the advantages of heat pumps, while busting myths about barriers to adoption. Our showroom has a working heat pump in place to demonstrate the technology in action, alongside everything that goes with them, including cylinders and controls.

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Architectural Metalwork seen in famous places!



Leander Architectural has been providing bespoke architectural structures, cast products, way-finding and signature solutions for over 140 years.



Recently the team at Leander were installing new canopies at the Savill Court Hotel in Windsor, which has hosted many important functions and famous people. It was an extremely proud moment for all involved when the team's expertise was relied upon to create such products that were ultimately broadcast around the world by the BBC.

"It is always great to see glimpses of our products on news features and press coverage. We're very proud of our team and the products that they produce," said a spokesperson from Leander Architectural.

Whether you are looking for signage and street furniture design, pattern making, metal casting, structural and decorative ferrous and non-ferrous fabrication (including coded welding), painting and finishing, blacksmithing, decorative steel, iron and wrought iron restoration/repair, or restoration consultancy, Leander Architectural has the extensive experience and expertise to help in these areas.

Manufacturing for both trade and the public its range of products are extensive including some of its most popular being Plaques, Fingerposts, Interpretive Signage, Bronze Memorials and Bronze Plaques. For some of their latest projects, check out the company website.

For all other enquiries, please see below:

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Hebridean housebuilder specifying SterlingOSB Zero on sustainability grounds

Situated seven degrees west of the Greenwich Meridian, and exposed to some of the harshest weather conditions anywhere in the British Isles, the Hebrides present a challenging location for building projects, prompting a recently-established building company to adopt offsite construction technologies which make full use of the technical and environmental benefits of West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero.

70-22' Systems was established in 2022 by three business partners whose experience encapsulates architecture, education and manufacturing amongst other skills, and who decided to develop their own highly-insulated, modular timber building system. Growing organically by providing bespoke packages to clients of parent business, Fraser Architecture, 70-22' has already delivered properties on the Outer Hebrides; and has more than half a dozen schemes of different sizes in the pipeline for the coming year.

The trademarked system has been designed specifically to avoid the need for craneage, due to the inaccessibility of many sites, while the cellular component modules take the form of wall blocks, lintels and beams to span larger openings. The SterlingOSB Zero is CNC machined and assembled in the workshop before being filled with Warmcel recycled paper insulation.

Significantly, the 70-22' Systems design personnel were determined from the outset to utilise the West Fraser board because of its formaldehyde free formulation

and the fact the material is manufactured in the North of Scotland, using mainly locally sourced softwood from well managed forests.

70-22' Systems' co-founder and Commercial Director, Alex Durie, commented: "We use West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero to construct our ecological building components, that are prefabricated in our workshop utilising CNC technology to achieve 0.1mm tolerances for each beam and block. It is the ideal material to use as the shell for our components, which are then filled with recycled insulation to achieve a building system that can achieve market leading thermal performance, with a U-value of 0.1 W/m²k, and excellent airtightness, while maintaining a breathable floor, wall and roof construction.



The added bonus of being formaldehyde-free, OSB enables us to build ecologically, utilising timber grown and processed in Scotland as we aim to limit the travel miles in each of our builds. The OSB produced by West Fraser has performed very well in our structural testing, with our system proving to be 1.6 times stronger than a traditional timber frame – and as our system arrives on site as a component that is pre-fabricated,

pre-insulated and designed for manual handling, it is much quicker to assemble."

Not only do all of the 70-22' Systems structures exceed the thermal requirements of Section 6 to the Building



Standards, Scotland, but can also be delivered as a Passivhaus compliant solution where the client or planning consent demand it. In the medium to long term, the business is building a pattern book of standard house types and has plans to establish a pilot plant on the mainland. The company will also be showcasing its system at the Self-Build and Renovation exhibition in Aviemore this autumn.

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22mm as well as a T&G version ideal for flooring and decking applications. The high performance panel product, free of added formaldehyde, has also earned BBA approval and meets the requirements of NHBC Technical.

As is always the case, West Fraser's experienced technical team is available to aid with product specification, while downloadable data sheets are available at <https://uk.westfraser.com>

For further information, call 01786 812 921 or visit <https://uk.westfraser.com/>

Access Panels and Riser Doors

At Rapid Access, we understand visually aesthetic designs, evaluates the quality of your work! As a leading manufacturer in the Access Panel world, we are always looking for new sleek ways to improve our products and your projects.

Our new invisible ironmongery is now available on our Riser Doors with a sleek new element. Our magnetic fire door keep locked shut sign simply slides away from the door face to reveal the hidden ironmongery.

These door sets can be easily opened to provide access to services in buildings such as water, electrical, mechanical, gas, telecommunication compartments, HVAC systems, and many other maintenance options. Rapid Access offers either a piano hinge system or our fast, quick and user friendly RapidFit® hinge system, which has revolutionised the riser door. Say goodbye to old Piano Hinge technology and say hello to future of Access Panels.

As no cap is required to hide the lock, this new feature is completely maintenance free, this means we have eliminated additional moving parts when accessing the lock.

Our new design is available up to 2 hour fire rated and up to 36dB acoustic rated. Rapid Access can also offer this new feature in both single or double door units ranging from 2,400mm x 1,800mm.

The company specialises in manufacturing steel products, and it currently has two unique products that offer ease and money saving aspects when fitting the panels that Rapid Access Ltd have designed. These are the RapidFit® hinge system for Riser Doors and the unbeatable Flipfix panel for wall and ceiling use.

The FlipFix range launched in 2015, offers a unique fitting device, Mitreless frame and new Flush Lock system. The innovative box packaging for stock sizes doubles as a pop-out template – simply draw around the template and cut your hole ready. The FlipFix device easily secures the access panel against plasterboard or drywall with a thickness ranging from 8mm to 32mm, and this allows the panel to fit flush to the wall providing a clean overall finish. FlipFix complies with the performance criteria for integrity using the principles of BS EN 1634-1: 2014.

Rapid Access Ltd are also the inventors of the trademarked RapidFit® hinge system on its riser door range, and this hinge system has revolutionised the riser door by reducing door fitting times on-site by as much as 95%. Working on a spring-loaded pin hinge means that installation of the door, once the frame has been installed is much quicker than a door supplied with a traditional piano hinge.

In a crowded marketplace, Rapid Access Ltd



works hard to stay at the forefront of the industry, and it has a committed and exclusive team that works on product development. Using previous and market leading research the team constantly works on new products that its loyal customers can promote with pride. The company is also always looking to pioneer its established name into all industries by way of bigger and better ideas.

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We are appointed by CITB as a provider of this course across England, Scotland, and Wales. Grant funding is available to meet most of, if not all the course fees. CITB have also introduced the "Travel to Train Scheme" which gives financial assistance for accommodation, food & travel, where 80% of the costs are covered through this scheme. To find out more:

www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-and-funding/apprenticeship-travel-and-accommodation-funding-travel-to-train

SAPs are available at both Level 2 and Level 3 dependant on experience, in either Hard or Soft Metals (not combined).

The level 3 NVQ is fully funded. To find out more: leadsheet.co.uk/service/the-lsta-specialist-applied-skills-courses

The LSTA offers six certificated courses, each of these courses are CITB and City & Guilds Accredited Programmes. A deposit of 50% or £450.00 will reserve your place with the remaining balance due 10 days before the course starts. Please go to the following link: www.leadsheet.co.uk/service/lstas-lead-hard-metal-courses

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- Traditional Intermediate Hard Metal Craft (30-day course – split into 4 modules each taking 5 to 9 days) **Modules can be purchased separately.**
- Traditional Advanced Hard Metal Craft (15-day course)
- Safe use of STIHL Petrol Driven and Battery Powered Cut Off Saw with Abrasive Wheel (1-day NOCN Certificated course)
- Specialist Applied Skills Programme (SAP) in Lead or Hard Metal (Level 2 and Level 3). Each of these courses will take up to 18 months to complete including 30-days attendance at the LSTA centre, split into one-week blocks.

For more information on all our courses and CITB grants please visit our website or you can call the main office on 01622 872432 or email info@leadsheet.co.uk and speak to Sharon or Emmi.

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Could marine containers be your solution for **extra storage** capacity or used as secure on site stores

Lendon Containers is based in the Clapham Common area of London, the company was founded over 20 years ago by the company's namesake Lendon Meaby. Lendon Containers sell and rent marine shipping containers and has built a strong reputation for its containers and boasts an impressive portfolio of satisfied customers throughout a variety of different sectors including: The Army, Local Authorities, Leisure Facilities, Construction, Parks and Garden Centres, Hospitals, Static Storage Centres, Schools, and Utility Companies.

Shipping containers are an extremely cost-effective and flexible storage solution as they are easily transported, opposed to other storage facilities such as warehouse storage.

The company's containers are not solely hired or purchased for their storage capabilities and have been converted by many clients for a whole host of different applications and purposes, including generator units, laboratories, clubhouses, secure site offices, chemical stores, pop-up bars and food stalls.

In terms of the range, Lendon Containers provides containers for hire and for purchase. The containers are extremely competitively priced and can be rented from as little as £12 a week, plus VAT. Containers available for rent are either 20ft or 40ft x 8ft x 8ft 6ins. Hiring a 20ft container offers nearly 14 square metres – 32 cubic metres – of space.

Maintaining an experienced team, Lendon Containers can help customers with the entire conversion process; from the design of the container right the way through to fitting it out and transporting it to the customer's location. Regardless how big or small the project is, the team at Lendon Containers is always on hand and will guide its customers through every step of the way. There are many examples of previous conversions available for customers, with sample materials and styles available.

A great solution for cost-effective, simple and transportable storage or a unique conversion facility – Lendon Containers provides a plethora of options for customers.



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Five Technologies that are transforming the Construction industry



It can be easy when you're running a busy construction company to focus entirely on the day-to-day operations of your work and lose sight of developments in the wider industry. With so much volatility in the market and general angst around spiraling material costs, recruitment, logistics and more, you can be forgiven for not spending too much time researching new technologies. However, the reality is that new equipment and techniques are actually the solution to many of these issues you face

as a company director. Here's an overview of five that can help you to work more efficiently and safely:

Drones - there are tasks that can be performed quicker and more safely by drones than with traditional methods and with a variety of payloads from cameras to lidar and thermal imaging, you will soon see the benefits of an aerial perspective.

Non-destructive Testing - covermeters and

ground penetrating radar allow you to assess the structure of concrete without having to drill into it.

GNSS receivers - surveying with sub-centimetre level accuracy thanks to satellite positioning has streamlined many processes, especially with regards to topographical and GIS surveys.

Laser scanners and reality capture - you can create a 'digital twin' of your site for a variety of purposes, from design right through to marketing, and with easy access to every single measurement and a photorealistic 3D model, everyone can be engaged in the project without having to physically visit

Machine Control - combining satellite positioning with heavy machinery, the operator has a screen in their cab that guides them exactly where and how deep to dig with an excavator, as well as giving them the power to document positions with their bucket for as-built verification.

It can be difficult to know where to start with some of these advances, so Surveytech have been creating a series of youtube videos and webinars to explain everything you need to know, just look for Surveytech on google or follow on social media for more information.

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Elevate Your Business with Independent Access Sales



In the evolving landscape of access machinery, businesses don't just seek equipment, they seek partners that offer comprehensive solutions. That's where Independent Access Sales (IA Sales) shines brightly. As the sole distributor in England for the globally acclaimed manufacturers, Sorage and Easy Lift, IA Sales is more than just a provider; it's a partner for progress.

Imagine a machine that combines speed, efficiency, and safety all into one compact design. That's precisely what the Sorage 24D Speed truck-mounted machine promises. Tailored for the demands of modern cities and diverse terrains, the 24D Speed is not just a tool, but a game-changer, ensuring projects are completed with unmatched precision and timeliness.

Yet, the brilliance doesn't end there. The Spider Lift R180 from Easy Lift is another testament to IA Sales' commitment to excellence. Lightweight, yet powerful, the Spider Lift R180 is the epitome of flexibility and strength. Designed for the trickiest of spaces and the toughest of tasks, it's a machine that stands tall, ensuring that professionals always have the upper hand.

But what truly sets IA Sales apart is their comprehensive approach. Beyond offering stellar machines, they also ensure that these machines are always in prime condition with their top-tier servicing. With a team of experts just a call away, customers can have peace of mind knowing that their equipment is always ready to perform at its best. It's this dedication to customer satisfaction that makes IA Sales not just a provider but a partner in every sense.



Moreover, the offerings at IA Sales are vast. A visit to their website reveals a wide range of products, each designed to cater to diverse industry needs. Whether you're in construction, entertainment, or any sector in between, there's a solution waiting for you at IA Sales. So, if you're looking to elevate your operations, look no further. Partner with Independent Access Sales and experience the synergy of world-class machinery, impeccable servicing, and a partner that's dedicated to your success. With IA Sales by your side, the future looks not just promising, but elevated.

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Service Sealing Solutions Ltd visit DOYMA

Service Sealing Solutions Ltd is the sole UK distributor for the sealing industry's top manufacturers; DOYMA and HKD. Service Sealing Solutions Ltd supply the full range of DOYMA and HKD products, to suit all situations from sealing power cables, communications cables, pipes and ducts and district heating pipes, permanently preventing an infiltration of gases and water into the building. DOYMA's products are designed to solve all watertight sealing requirements and prevent against structural damage. DOYMA products are also guaranteed watertight for 25 years.

HKD which is now owned by DOYMA, manufactures a vast range of pipe sealing systems and service ducts with a guarantee that its products can withstand up to four bars of pressure. All of the HKD product range can be combined with the DOYMA's Curaflex range, one of the most popular DOYMA ranges.

Service Sealing Solutions Ltd specialises in high-quality service duct sealing systems for utility services and watertight seals, offering the highest level of expertise to developers and specifiers for sealing against water 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

gas entering around service entries in basements and high-rise buildings.

Contact
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Service Sealing Solutions Ltd – suppliers of DOYMA products



Service Sealing Solutions Ltd are the sole UK distributor of DOYMA products. Wherever services are installed through walls, ceilings or floors, penetrating water may cause damage to buildings. Lack of attention to the points of entry of pipes and cables into the building can have serious results: damp cellars, equipment damaged by water ingress and high repair costs. Service sealing systems ensure professional and perfect pipe sealing, thus presenting excellent preventative measures against structural damage. The very best in German engineering is used to seal penetration points at the wall to permanently prevent any infiltration of gases and water into the building, and the duct sealing systems are guaranteed for 25 years. Service Sealing Solutions supply the full range of products to suit all situations for power cables, communication cables, pipes and ducts, and specialising in sealing district heating pipes.



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