

Best Practice



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British Adhesives & Sealants Association



This is BASA's 40th year of operation and we are still excelling in our mission to remain the umbrella organisation for UK adhesives and sealants manufacturers. Focussing on technical and legislative aspects and on promoting awareness of the industry and technology by providing guidance on technical and compliance issues, we create a variety of networking opportunities for members and provide a huge library of documents on the website.

BASA is the voice of the adhesives and sealants

industry's and is an information source for manufacturers and suppliers. The association advocates on behalf of its members and liaises with Government regarding legislation and keeps Members well informed of UK, EU and International proposals and initiatives.

With the growing concerns around the environment and using sustainable products and raw materials, BASA is dedicated to helping its members minimise harmful chemical usage and educate the public on the industry's drive for safer products. BASA members work hard to formulate innovative products that positively contribute to the sustainability agenda whilst maintaining performance and durability.



BASA hopes to continue to reach more potential members, looking at ways to support its manufacturers post Brexit and help them to navigate potential new legislation and trade rules.

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Work smarter with RLJB

RLJB Business Consulting is Directed by senior finance professional, Roy Brown. Boasting significant experience and expertise in a variety of business sectors, Roy's background of being a finance director working with a fast-moving entrepreneurial managing director has given him the acute skills and insight that helped to turn a small Panavision Europe Ltd business into a complex worldwide organisation now making over £4.5 million profit.

Making £4.5 million. profit." Gaining further practical experience when RLJB undertook a 15 month contract to put in place policies and procedures relating to Sarbanes Oxley and Fraud Prevention Act in Aspire Defence for KBR after they purchased Aspire Defence after the collapsed of Carillion.

Whether you are a large

cooperation, or a smaller SME, RLJB can help to support your business through change, growth, crises or decline. Roy and his team work quickly to understand both the day to day and long-term operations to enable an easy partnership that is successful in driving your business forward. This is achieved though providing skilled experienced accountancy advice, bookkeeping and business strategy.

Exhibiting at The Business Show 2022 gifted Roy the opportunity to meet many entrepreneurs from varying industries. Attendees and other like-minded professionals took some valuable advice and lessons from what RLJB had to share at the Show, as Roy discussed and shared his thoughts on the challenges businesses face when looking for a professional financial advisor.



RLJB Business Consulting is again attending The Business Show 2023 on the 22nd & 23rd November at the ExCel London stand B340 so please stop by.

For an experienced and skilled finance and tax adviser who will understand your company's vision and goals, get in touch with RLJB today.

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Editors Notes



In this issue of Best Practice, we bring you a round-up of the latest innovations across automation and processing, to help businesses prepare for best practice in sustainability and customised odour and air pollution control systems.

We feature top companies preparing the industry for the UK Government's 2050 net-zero targets, alongside the latest innovation in automation components and leading customised plastic fabrication.

BONA AB is our featured Industrial Flooring Company of the Year on page 4. Even way back in the 1970's, Bona was a pioneer for the sustainability age by removing toxic and hazardous chemicals from hardwood floor finishes and offering a water-based finish alternative. Bona Traffic GO is the latest advancement in curing technology: free from isocyanate and PFAs, this 2K lacquer will be flying off the shelves.

In this issue, we recommend ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd for premium custom plastic fabrication to the process industries, in the shape of process industry vessels and associated components from GRP and composite plastic materials. Plastic fabrication technology provides a highly flexible, cost-effective solution for many bespoke industrial process vessels. Read more on page 3.

Our second featured Company of the Year is Matara UK: industry-leading provider of pneumatic and linear automation products for many businesses across the country. Matara manufactures and supplies four main product lines to industry customers: Linear Motion, Linear actuator systems, Aluminium Extrusion and Pneumatics. Head to page 24 to read more.

Other topics explored in this issue include: radar measurement technology, seal integrity tests, workwear and PPE, small parts storage and a workforce driving licence checking system.

Don't forget to send us your latest Industrial news and updates and email us at: sales@bestpracticeuk.co.uk

Cover Story

This is BASA's 40th year of operation and we are still excelling in our mission to remain the umbrella organisation for UK adhesives and sealants manufacturers.

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40 years of environmental engineering and contracting experience

In this issue of Best Practice, we have chosen to recommend ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd for its high-quality custom plastic fabrication that is provided to the process industries.

The ERG Group has over 40 years' experience in providing bespoke odour and air pollution control systems, and ancillary services around the world. The ERG Group functions through its three core divisions: ERG (Air Pollution Control) Ltd, ERG APC Maintenance Ltd, and ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd.

ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd specialises in the high-quality custom fabrication of process industry vessels and associated components from GRP and composite plastic materials. We spoke to Martin Bulman, who has worked in the plastic fabrication industry for 34 years. He began his career at ERG (Plastic Fabrication) on the production floor, and over the course of nine years has worked his way up to the position of General Manager and Director. "At ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd we design, manufacture and supply scrubbers, tanks, pipework, ducting and also skid packages. We can fabricate a range of vessels (which are mainly plastic lined with a GRP covering) and can also handle special commissions for the construction of one-off bespoke items."

Plastic fabrication technology can offer a flexible, low-cost fabrication solution for many bespoke industrial process vessels. ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd has fabricated vessels and units for end customers globally across a multitude of industrial process sectors including water treatment, food processing, pharmaceuticals, waste handling, ventilation, energy generation, metal processing and refining applications, and many more. Sectional vessels, fume hoods, dosing pump cabinets, and chemical scrubbers are just some of the applications these industries can be supplied with.

ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd has a vast arsenal of services to offer and specialises in manufacturing using a wide range of plastic materials including PVC, CPVC, Polypropylene, PVDF, and other speciality plastic for harsh environments such as ECTFE. "As the



manufacturing division, our services combine with ERG APC Maintenance Ltd to provide an on-site aftersales servicing and maintenance service. This service ensures any problems are rectified as quickly as possible with minimum disruption. We also have a regional headquarters based in Jordan, which deals with many projects across the Middle East for which we are often the source manufacturer," said Martin.

Other additional services include project management, testing, trial assembly, reconditioning and repair, and emergency call-out for repairs and maintenance. The parent company ERG (Air Pollution Control) Ltd, contributes strong process and engineering design capabilities. By using ERG for the design and ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd for the fabrication, clients can benefit from the in-house design, manufacture, installation and commissioning services available.

In 2021, ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd has relocated to a new four-acre site where it has invested in purpose-built factory and



office buildings. "The move has enabled us to consolidate all our UK based functions onto one common site which significantly improves our working efficiency, production quality and production capacity. The plastic fabrication workshop now benefits from a 60 m x 24 m workshop with overhead gantry cranes. This has enabled us to build larger diameter vessels more efficiently, and greatly improves production with a linear workflow of material through the factory via a fabrication shop, feeding into a GRP lamination shop, which then feeds into a final fitting out/trial assemble workshop," explained Martin.

The past 12 months have been challenging for many businesses, however. Martin explained how the company plans to move forward. "I can only see the company improving. Even throughout COVID-19 restrictions, we were lucky enough to avoid the need to place any staff on furlough, and we had a constant flow of work coming through. Our customer enquiry levels have remained high, so the future is bright for ERG (Plastic Fabrication) Ltd."

Of course, it's always good business to foresee any potential threats or challenges the future may bring, and we asked Martin how the company will address these. "We have a great management team that stays abreast of the movements in the supply chain. Materials have had a longer lead-time and prices have increased over the last 18 months owing to supply disruption. Things seem to be improving and currently we have had no issues obtaining materials. As a company we are trying to minimise any price increases to maintain our competitive position in the current market."

For more information:

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www.ergpf.co.uk





Beautiful floors with eco-friendly products



base is thriving, with a new, larger warehouse facility to help with growing demand. With a further emphasis on best practice, Bona has invested in a new training centre of excellence, where craftspeople in the flooring industry can enhance their applied knowledge of Bona machinery and products across three expert levels of training.

With the cost-of-living crisis impacting many businesses both here in the UK and across Europe, we asked UK Marketing Manager: Leanne Garvie how Bona was riding the storm,



“Bona has put into action a series of proactive strategies aimed at safeguarding and strengthening our business to address the challenges posed by the prevailing economic conditions.

We've observed rising demand for sustainable flooring solutions and services this year, which has greatly contributed to the growth of Bona's business. Bona's business model, which is founded on renovating rather than replacing flooring surfaces, is structured to ensure that future growth considers the sustainable perspectives of the environment, economics, and social conditions. It is our responsibility to ensure that Bona's value chain maximises positive impact and minimises negative impact.”

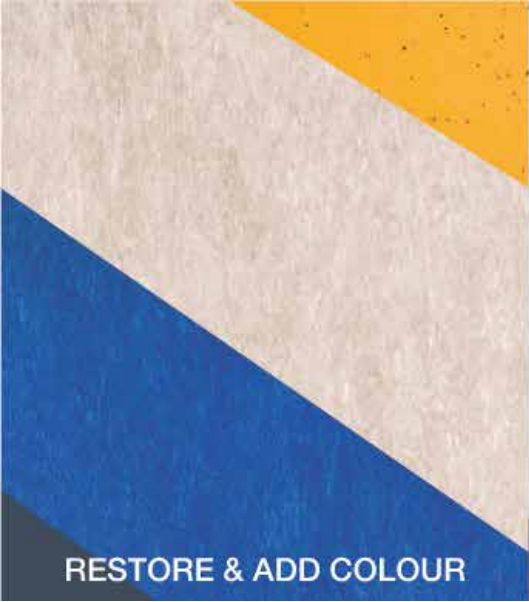
Bona has an impressive track record on sustainability, as an early adopter of sustainable sourcing and manufacturing processes, through to eco-friendly products and practices. As far back as the early 1970's, Bona was among the first in the industry to remove toxic and hazardous chemicals from hardwood floor finish and provide a water-based finish as a reliable and durable alternative. Furthermore, Bona was a pioneer

In this issue of Best Practice, we are delighted to select Bona as our Industrial Flooring Company of the Year.

Bona AB supplies market-leading flooring services and products for: installing, renovating, maintaining and restoring premium floors including: wood, tile, stone, vinyl,

resilient, rubber, parquet and laminate.

Established over a century ago in 1919 by Wilhelm Edner in Malmö, Sweden the family-run company has grown to global coverage across 17 subsidiaries, 70 distributors, five factories and 600 employees. The UK Milton Keynes distribution



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in dust containment systems that remove carcinogenic wood dust from the air and environment during the hardwood floor-sanding process, protecting both workers' health and biodiversity.



“Throughout 2023, we have celebrated some key milestones. In early October, Bona received the U.S. E.P.A’s Safer Choice Partner of the Year award for the third consecutive year. The award recognizes contributions of Safer Choice partners and stakeholders who, over the past year, have shown achievement in the design, manufacture, selection and use of products with safer chemicals, that furthers outstanding or innovative source reduction.

Additionally, Bona Germany was awarded the BSFZ-Seal for innovative companies by the German Ministry for Education and Research for three of our innovative and groundbreaking R&D adhesive projects.” explained Leanne.

Bona has purchased its first electric truck (E-truck) for its Limburg facility in Germany. The new Scania truck is fuelled by green electricity, generated from the solar panels at the state-of-the-art facility.

With geothermal energy now rapidly gaining traction outside Iceland and the USA, Bona has recently invested SEK 4.5 million in a geothermal energy system for the production unit in Malmö, Sweden, further signalling Bona’s ongoing commitment to renewable energy investment.

“With our company drive towards sustainability, Bona has introduced

a new product: Bona Traffic GO, free from isocyanate and PFAs. The next-level 2K lacquer provides the latest advancements in curing technology.

Since its establishment in 1919, Bona has consistently been a trailblazer in the flooring industry, and this dedication to sustainability and innovation remains unwavering as we progress into the present day.

The Bona team are delighted to have been selected for this prestigious Company of the Year award and

continuously strive to be innovation leaders within the flooring industry.” concluded Leanne.

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Taking a systems approach to solve electrification challenges

Industrial organisations can push decarbonisation forward by shifting process heater systems from fossil fuel-burning to electric. This kind of electrification needs to be done with a systems approach in mind — by considering the entire thermal loop.

Of all the components needed to switch to electric, control panels are one of the most important. For large-scale applications, control panels need to be designed to maximise reliability, accessibility and safety. In this article, Jeff McClanahan, Director EPC/end user segment of EE Tech at temperature controller manufacturer Watlow, explores why systems approach thinking is key in the manufacturing of components for electrification.

The question of electrification is less of an if or a when, and instead how. Globally, companies are prioritising the reduction of their carbon footprint. There is a huge push across different industries to “go electric” as part of a larger program of decarbonisation. But the details for doing so can be elusive. It’s not as easy as swapping out gas-fired heaters for electric heaters, for example, without also considering the size, location and connectivity of the control panel that will regulate those electric heaters. These considerations will, in turn, have a bearing on how and when the system needs to be maintained, how long downtime lasts and what the prospects are for future expansion.

The point of a systems approach is to take a step back, seeing how different design considerations an impact on the system and process might have as a whole, rather than focusing on the functioning or replacement of a single part. A systems approach also has an impact on the business aspects of an industrial process, as it encourages engineers to consider the total cost of ownership when comparing different options.

Meeting challenges at scale

Taking a systems approach to process heating was a foundational consideration behind the design of Watlow’s L and XL WATCONNECT control panels. Here, we take a deeper look at



what went into that design as a way of illustrating the power of this kind of thinking.

A systems approach means finding not just one or two solutions to meet a challenge, but finding as many solutions as possible to optimize a given outcome. Take reliability, for example. What are all of the different ways a system can be optimized to ensure near 100 per cent uptime? One way this was done in the design of the WATCONNECT panels was by looking at the thermal design of the system. All systems generate some heat, and excess heat is the nemesis of electronics. Therefore, optimising the system to keep heat under control is critical.

Watlow’s design looked at adding to the insulation of the system, reducing power where possible, and improving the airflow throughout the system. Airflow itself was improved by using high-reliability EC inlet and outlet fans with advanced monitoring, which provide up to twice the airflow compared to industry standard fans. Therefore, by better controlling waste heat within the panel, Watlow can extend the life of the

electronic components and significantly increase reliability.

Other design considerations include accessibility options. A smaller panel door in the unit provides access to 90 per cent of the system while still shielding the user from high-voltage components. This allows a person to troubleshoot the system while running, and without the safety concerns that come from opening the panel while “hot.” This also ensures longer uptime, as the panel does not necessarily need to be shut down for investigating smaller issues.

WATCONNECT panels are also designed with solid copper internal power interconnect for less expansion and contraction. This is especially important at high-resistance junctions, because the more this component heats up when made from an alternative to copper, the higher the risk of failure.

Lastly, while the panels are categorised as large, they use only 50 per cent of the space that competitive panels require. This can make it easier to install the panels when space is limited. Or, if replacing current equipment, the savings potentially frees up space for other critical equipment, allowing for future expansion.

Industrial organisations can push decarbonisation forward by shifting process heater systems from fossil fuel-burning to electric. But this is not a simple swap-out. A systems approach must be taken to consider how individual components will affect the entire system.

While control panel technology is nothing new, there are fresh new challenges that come with building control panels for large-scale applications. To be effective in solving electrification challenges, these control panels need to be designed to maximize reliability, accessibility, safety and provide a smaller footprint.

To learn more about Watlow’s electrification solutions, visit [watlow.com](https://www.watlow.com)

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oliver valves



Oliver Valves wins order for Major Green Field Project

Oliver Valves has won a significant order to supply a large number of Metal Seated Double Block and Bleed Ball valves to a Major Green Field onshore project located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Territory Manager for the Middle East, Haridas Embanath says "winning the order was the result of strong relationships with our distributor network and end users in the region, but it's really down to the efforts of our engineering and support team that provided the perfect valve solution to meet difficult cost restraints."

Value engineering is second-nature to Oliver's. By working closely with customers and engineering consultants, the scope of work can be understood and project objectives fully realised. Cost is a fundamental consideration for customers, and modelling scenarios using various combinations of materials and designs can help



to find the best valve solutions possible. Value engineering on this project has resulted in valves manufactured with Carbon Steel body and trim, and Inconel Weld Overlay. The estimated additional saving for the customer is around 20% – 30%.

For more information on how Oliver Valves can supply your project with the very best valve solutions, contact Oliver Valves on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk

Oliver Valves supply world's largest offshore wind farm

Oliver Valves are to supply a range of Modular and Monoflange double block and bleed valves to the Hornsea 3 Wind Farm project located in the UK sector of the North Sea. Hornsea 3 has two platforms, link 1 and link 2. These are unmanned and operated from shore with access to carry out maintenance done by vessel or helicopter.

These High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) offshore converter platforms have a combined capacity to produce 2.852 GW, enough to power the average daily needs of over 3 million UK homes. This makes it the single largest offshore wind project in the world.

Manufactured from 316 Stainless Steel, Super Duplex, and Titanium materials, valves are to be used in cooling systems and firewater applications. Regional Manager for Scotland and Scandinavia, Colin Wood, says, "We're extremely proud as a business to supply valves for operation on large-scale green energy projects, and it's



particularly exciting to be working with a UK-based green project, such as Hornsea 3."

We're committed to supporting a Net Zero Emission future, and have recently launched a range of zero seat leakage valves for hydrogen applications. Our investment in designing new and innovative valve technologies is having an enormous impact and is hugely significant – even a game changer!"

For more information on how Oliver Valves can support your green energy project with the very best valve solutions, contact us on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk

Oliver Valves Custom-design DBBs for Offshore Project

Oliver Valves have manufactured a number of 2" double block and bleed valves for a huge offshore project. The bolted end trunnion DBB valves have been designed using ASTM A350 LF6 carbon steel material and are designed to API 6A, with a maximum pressure rating of 5,000 psi. The order forms part of Oliver's continued supply of DBB valves to the project that include Tie-in and Wellhead platforms.

Valves currently in production at our UK factory in Knutsford, Cheshire, are undergoing a specific manufacturing and assembly process at the request of the customer. This includes custom spray-paint finishing for added protection against the harsh offshore environments of oil, water, and gas injection platforms.



Pictures show valves in production.

For more information on how Oliver Valves can custom-design valves for your energy project, contact us on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk

Oliver Twinsafe engineers let off steam

Oliver Twinsafe, in partnership with their official distributor HT-PCE, collaborated with an industrial processing plant in solving huge leakage problems experienced on steam applications.

Their existing metal-seated valve design had to be improved and even replaced, and for good reasons. Their valves had only a single isolation design, and exposed the risk of leakage due to the number of potential leak paths they contained. The perfect solution would be for the valve design to have far fewer leak paths, metal-seating with zero-seat leakage, and a compact design that reduces overall space and weight.

Fast forward a few weeks and the engineering team at Oliver Twinsafe custom-designed a 2" / 300lb Double Block and Bleed (DBB) valve supplied complete with actuators and utilisation of all ball valve operation. The team took onboard all of the technical requirements, used existing and proven valve technology and materials to create the perfect solution to this problem. It's



often said, that when engineers creatively let off steam, it usually results in some of the most amazing solutions, and this has been no exception.

On completion of initial trials, the 2" DBB valves are to be installed on other UK and overseas processing plants.

For more information on how Oliver Twinsafe can custom-design valves for your processing plant using the very best in valve design and technology, contact us on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk

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More usage options – fewer Costs

New versions of the Safety Fieldbox from Schmersal for additional fieldbus systems

Schmersal is launching two new versions of its Safety Fieldbox. This means that the box can not only be integrated into systems with PROFINET/PROFIsafe as before, but is now also available for the EtherNet/IP with CIP Safety and EtherCAT with FSoE bus systems.

The Safety Fieldbox from Schmersal enables flexible safety solutions, fail-safe and fast installation and maximum process transparency. It also enables easy connection of up to eight safety switchgear devices with plug and play. Universal device interfaces for eight-pin M12 connectors allow a wide range of different safety switchgear devices to be connected, including electronic and electromechanical solenoid interlocks, sensors, control panels, light curtains and switches. Unique features of the Safety Fieldbox from Schmersal include the need for just a single M12 slot for solenoid interlocks and safety light curtains and the connection of control panels with



EMERGENCY STOP function and up to three non-safe command and signalling devices.

Connecting safety devices via the Safety Fieldbox also helps to save costs, as up to eight devices can be connected to a single Fieldbox, which is much more cost-effective than equipping each individual device with a bus interface.

An integrated digital input on each device slot allows the diagnostic signals of all connected safety devices to be evaluated. This means that safety-related and operational signals, such as those required for diagnostic purposes, can be collected and transmitted.

www.schmersal.co.uk

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Rotaflow provide solutions that have enabled all manner of different fluids (including oils, fuels, corrosives, food) and/or air/steam to be transferred through awkward, and often, already established production infrastructure.

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Rotaflow is a global leader in swivel



joint design and manufacture. We engage with clients all over the world to produce swivel joints for a wide range of industrial uses, from drilling and mining, food and drink production, pharmaceutical, process and plant, to subsea oil and gas extraction.

We have off-the-shelf solutions that are ready to go, or we can redesign and in-house manufacture to enable a quick turn-around with minimal fuss and maximum design experience.

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 NO • NO₂ • NO_x

The one- and two-channel chemiluminescence based NOX analyzers of the nCLD "Facelift" box-solution analyzers detect NO, NO₂ and NO_x at concentrations ranging from 5 ppm to 5000 ppm with minimal detection limits averaging from 0.4 ppb to 0.5 ppm. 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 preconfigured 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. Additionally, all nCLD-models are capable of a remote power down/up including a failsafe feature. nCLD AL² and EL² are TÜV approved, qualified according to ISO EN 14211 and 15267 1-3.



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Replace your paper based daily vehicle checks with CheckedSafe

Checkedsafe is the award-winning vehicle compliance for all fleets and has recently launched its own Remote Driver's Licence Checking Service via DVLA to its already groundbreaking app. This added extra essentially allows users to conduct remote licence checks using innovative technology remotely via the CheckedSafe app. Negating the need to see the driver or scan the driving licence, the app gives a direct link to the DVLA Access from the Driver Data service.

This completely remote drivers licence checking solution is a game changer for anyone working from home or in a remote place, but in particular, for businesses with dispersed workforces. The remote use of optical character recognition software that delivers 95% accuracy uses the same platform as the previous software but instead it is now pay as you go meaning there are no contracts involved.

This new piece of software from CheckedSafe is already making noises in both commercial and fleet industries and has been nominated for numerous awards including the Operator's Choice Award from the RouteOne Innovation Challenge.

How it works

For drivers, the app delivers a platform for mobile defect reporting that is user-friendly, and allows drivers to conduct vehicle

walkaround checks with ease. Utilise the full reporting tools using excel, PDF or CSV, schedule any reports, and even record all your costs to any vehicle. The cloud-based solution uses AWS server's and is endorsed by the Border Force Agency.

For the office, the app offers complete fleet management. From monitoring user activity to viewing comprehensive maintenance reports in real time, managers can comfortably identify outstanding tasks and vehicle defects, as well as schedule services to remain fully compliant remotely. The app is suitable for: HGV walkaround checks, van daily checks, plant & equipment checks, forklift checks, FORS checks, vehicle pre use checks, and more.

We spoke to Gary Hawthorne, Co-Founder and Director of CheckedSafe and asked him what the real benefits of their products are over those of their competitors.

He responded, "we offer industry expertise from the creators. I, myself have been in transport for over 30 years as a Driver, Operator/Owner, Transport Executive, and DVSA Auditor. Darran Harris (Co-Founder) has been a Transport Litigation Lawyer for over 20 years, therefore we really know our stuff and understand the industry better than most. Because of our backgrounds and experience, we can articulate the needs of the client into a vision in terms of technology. We also take time




to listen to our clients and get them involved at the idea level which then evolves into even greater ideas that we can then develop and push out to our entire client base. Not to mention it's also all-inclusive in terms of cost!"

Keen to continue evolving its system, CheckedSafe is also currently looking to develop its job card system further so that remote engineers can be sent jobs, action those and update the system remotely. "Next to launch will be our groundbreaking WTD/ Domestic hours App that we believe will revolutionise the way Domestic Hours are recorded for legal purposes," added Gary.

Available for just £1 per vehicle, per week including a 30-day free trial period, try CheckedSafe out today.

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

Making the best use of storage space. However, it is not uncommon for companies to use shelving and containers that are not really suited to small parts storage. Because of their size or nature, thereby wasting space. BITO, however, has developed special,

torsionally rigid racking that takes up little space. RK container racking allows 25% more bins to be stored than on other shelves, thanks to an exceptionally thin base that doesn't compromise on stability. The shelves of the container rack are a mere 25 mm thick, which allows storage of a significantly higher number of items. The container racking is made from a galvanised material and comes either with or without containers. A boltless design that requires no additional screws or expensive tools means it can be installed quickly and easily and there is plenty of flexibility for expanding storage. A starter and extension bay design means that shelving can easily be added to at a later date.

RK containers are available in depths from 300 to 600mm and a choice of heights and widths. They can be further sub-divided into smaller



compartments with length or width ways dividers meaning the variety of components that can be stored is vast. For convenience, spring-controlled handles can be added that allow containers to be tilted out of the shelving without falling out.

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

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The Industrial Solution in Hand Protection Development

The Industrial Solution in Hand Protection Development Manosun is a brand-new innovative company that designs and manufactures an innovative range of quality industrial hand protection available for all industrial applications.

Developed in 2020 from the aftermath of the first COVID-19 lockdown, Manosun is the brainchild of Steven Patterson with the support of his factory sponsor. Located in the North East of England in South Shields, Tyne & Wear, Manosun works closely with its manufacturers in China to bring product development and innovation to the UK market.

Breaking the mould of traditional offerings, Manosun's core range of hand protection is designed to bring a change to the end-user experience with industrial gloves, gauntlets and sleeves that offer a safe and perfect fit for anyone that requires Personal Protective Equipment.

Steven added, "Manosun have the ability to work on small MOQ's from our sponsor factory in China and the ability to develop new products for an ever-changing work environment offering products where 'not all solutions are off the shelf'. From ARC, Impact, FR, CUT and General handling applications, our products are the ideal solution for a range of industries from Utilities, Oil & Gas, Electronics and Automotive, to Maintenance, Hot Handling, Circuit Boards, and Renewable Energy."

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

"We also offer case quantities that is much lower than any of our competitors, and because we are a company on the rise that has the capabilities to develop and tweak products to make them more suitable to our client's requirements, we can deliver a more personal service that is tailored to suite the end-user. As we continue to grow throughout the UK, we will be advertising to employ our field sales team for the North (Scotland) and the South," stated Steven.

For more information, see below.

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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.

When it makes sense, our experienced sales team or engineers will visit a customer to see what is needed firsthand. Whether a site visit or just a virtual meeting, this initial investment of time to clarify the need saves the customer money and provides them a truly valuable solution.



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.

Once we have identified a standard machine as a starting point, our engineers seek out smart, practical ways to meet the customer's application needs. The goal is to innovate within the machining operation planning, work holding or automation, as opposed to engineering a completely special solution without first exhausting opportunities to solve problems with standard products.

For our customers, this approach provides them a reliable, standard machine that can be used for many years and that has the built-in flexibility for easy re-tooling to adapt to future needs. For us, initially working within the boundaries of our catalogue cultivates new ideas that can then be applied to improve our standard products as well as help us direct future research and development budgets.

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.

One of the key reasons our customers are confident moving forward with a UNISIG custom machine is that they know we will stand behind it and that we have substantial capabilities to ensure it always exceeds their production expectations. We approach these special projects with the mindset that a custom machine will be used for decades in production, which is why we provide the same documentation and long-term technical support for all our machines whether standard or custom.

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.

Typically, though, when a customer comes to UNISIG with a specific part need, at that point they've most likely already struggled with a conventional machine and realised that a deep hole drilling machine is obviously the way to go.

However, our team knows how to identify whether or not an application would truly benefit from a UNISIG solution. When it wouldn't, we will suggest viable alternatives. It's not that we don't want to sell a machine. But the fact is that our experience has shown that at some point the alternative-solution direction becomes obvious, and we want to make that apparent early on in the process so as to avoid wasting a lot of our customer's time.

Our customers expect the best from us, and we believe that our proven process ensures we never disappoint. Our goal is to leverage our core values to serve our customers as best we can and build strong, productive relationships for years to come.

For more information:
www.unisig.com



Game changing installation of Mycronic equipment

European Circuits Limited is a privately owned company based in Glasgow. Established in 1999, ECL is one of the few companies in the UK that genuinely offers PCB fabrication and assembly from a single location as well as services such as cable assembly, product build and test.



next level precision and flexibility in a fast, small and smart format.

In November 2022, European Circuits installed a Mycronic YPro Series MY700 Jet Printer and Dispenser and Mycronic MY300LX Pick-and-Place.

Mycronic jet printing technology makes it possible to dispense solder paste for the most challenging circuit boards and components, with micrometer accuracy, maximum speed and perfect quality solder joints.

Philip Briscoe, Sales Director of European Circuits Limited, commented, "The investment in the Mycronic equipment was described by one customer as a game changer for ECL. It absolutely is and demonstrates our commitment to supplying high quality Printed Circuit Board assemblies produced right here in the UK for a whole range of industries throughout the UK, Europe and beyond."

In addition to the Solder Paste Printer, European Circuits has also invested in a Mycronic MY300LX Pick-and-Place. The MY300 delivers SMT pick-and-place at

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Ford Aerospace Acquired by SPIROL

SPIROL are delighted to announce that Ford Aerospace Ltd, will be joining the SPIROL group of companies.



Ford Aerospace Ltd, based in South Shields was established back in 1910 by Robert Ford and ran until recently by Robert's great-grandson: Chris Ford. With an illustrious history, dating back over an impressive 113 years, the company is a leading manufacturer of advanced-precision metal components and sub-assemblies for the aerospace, industrial and high-technology industries.

With grandson of Herman at the helm, CEO: Jeff Koehl, this third-generation family-run business has an impressive legacy dating back 75 years.

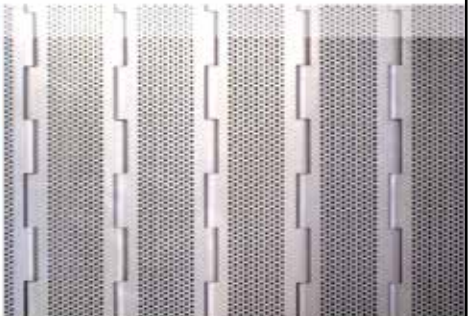
SPIROL is similarly a highly-successful, family-run business, with an equally illustrious aviation history. Established in 1948 by Herman Koehl, SPIROL has grown exponentially over the years from a single USA manufacturing facility in the USA to a truly global powerhouse. With manufacturing or distribution locations across four continents: North America, South America, Europe and Asia and twelve countries, it is now a global leader in fastening, joining and assembly, with expert in-house Application Engineers.

With SPIROL's already impressive global coverage, the acquisition of Ford Aerospace will bring enhanced international market appeal. One of SPIROL's main tenets is to ensure company reinvestment, safeguarding future success and customer satisfaction, a tenet equally shared by Ford Aerospace. Such synergy in business approaches, alongside similar rich company history and expertise will unite the two companies unconditionally.

www.spirol.com

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Safeguarding Quality: The vital role of seal integrity testing in the UK food industry

In the bustling landscape of the food industry, one factor stands above all when it comes to ensuring the safety, quality, and shelf life of products: the integrity of packaging. It might seem like a minor detail, but seal integrity of food packaging is an absolutely crucial element that can make or break a brand's reputation, impact consumer safety, and influence regulatory compliance.

The UK food industry is known for its diversity, ranging from fresh produce and dairy to processed and packaged goods. However, what all these products have in common is the need for secure and effective sealing. An improperly sealed food package can allow oxygen, moisture, or contaminants to enter, causing spoilage, degradation of product quality, and even posing health risks to consumers. Consequently, the importance of seal integrity testing and the detection of possible leaks cannot be overstated.

This article delves into the pivotal role that seal integrity testing plays within the UK food industry. We will explore why it matters, how it's done, and the far-reaching implications of ignoring this crucial aspect of food safety and quality assurance.



Ensuring Product Freshness and Safety

Consider a packet of fresh salad. The moment air or unwanted pathogens breach the packaging, the countdown to spoilage begins. Not only does this result in significant financial losses for producers and retailers, but it could also jeopardise consumer safety.

Package leak detection and seal integrity testing serves as the sentinel against these risks. By meticulously assessing and continuously testing the seals on various food packages, manufacturers can rest assured that their products remain untainted during transit, storage, and display on store shelves. The repercussions of failing to employ a seal integrity and package leak detection system can be dire – from foodborne illnesses caused by bacterial contamination to the frustration of consumers who encounter spoiled or deteriorated goods.

The testing process is straightforward and easy and doesn't interfere with the manufacturing process. Samples are taken as and when testing is required and performed without the production line being stopped. Various different testing methods exist depending upon the food or packaging type. The different methodologies can test for air bubble leaks by immersing the packet in water, or test the strength of a seal by forcing air into the pack until it bursts. Testing equipment is also available for checking a packet can withstand the changes in altitude experienced during air freight.



Preservation of Brand Trust

In an era where consumers are more discerning than ever and through the efficacy of social media are quick to complain, brand trust is an invaluable asset for any company operating in the food industry. Consumers rely on trusted brands to provide them with safe and high-quality products consistently. A single instance of seal failure leading to spoiled or contaminated food can erode years of hard-earned trust and goodwill. Put simply, it's not worth risking it!

Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability

As the UK food industry continues to embrace eco-friendly packaging materials and designs, seal integrity becomes an essential component of the design and research process. Sustainable packaging often involves thinner,

more delicate materials, making the sealing even more critical to ensure the

product's integrity. Seal integrity testing is essential in guaranteeing that these new, environmentally conscious packaging options maintain the same level of protection as their traditional counterparts.

Throughout the UK's food industry, seal integrity testing emerges as the unsung hero, diligently guarding the safety, quality, and sustainability of the products we consume daily. In essence, seal integrity testing is not just a practice; it is a commitment to excellence. It's a promise to consumers that the products they purchase are safe, fresh, and worthy of their trust.

To find out more about the different types of seal integrity testing available and how to detect leaks in packaging, then get in touch with a product specialist at LIMAB UK who provide a full range of testing equipment for the food and beverage industries.

For more information:
www.limab.co.uk





Factory automation made easy - with radar sensor VEGAPULS 42

With VEGAPULS 42, VEGA brings its extensive experience with radar measurement technology to factory automation. Equipped with IO-Link and versatile hygienic adapters, the new level sensor meets the key requirements of modern industry: to perform complex measuring tasks faster, be simple to use and more cost-effective.

VEGA has launched a new radar level sensor especially for highly automated processes with stringent demands on hygiene and capable of following fast level changes. By introducing VEGAPULS 42, the instrumentation specialist completes its IO-Link portfolio, which now offers a range of solutions for level measurement, point level and pressure.

Radar reduced to the essentials

Since the various automation technologies in many factory environments are increasingly converging, VEGA's IO-Link portfolio is now able to offer optimal solutions for applications that extend beyond the boundaries of primary processes. "Our customers can rest assured that they're in good hands with us for all their applications," says VEGA product manager Marvin Moser, explaining the current situation. "This requires us to proceed with the greatest care. For that reason, we've carefully integrated cutting-edge technology into all the main functions of this sensor. At the same time, we've consistently refrained from 'over-designing' the sensor. That means it has also been stripped of everything that makes it unnecessarily expensive and technically over-complex."

Everything but complicated
This means that VEGAPULS 42 is designed specifically for medium measuring distances of up to 15 metres and temperatures of up to max. 150 °C. The instrument is geared to circulation systems in production, dosing processes and downstream processes, like those found in conveying and filling systems. It ensures a smooth-running process wherever a level changes quickly and requires continuous monitoring. Or in short, VEGAPULS 42 design has been focused on what is absolutely necessary, it is tailor-made for all standard applications where more



functions would only make things more complicated.

A big lead in radar know-how

"If you can do the one, you can also do the other," it is often said, referring to the merging of process automation and factory automation. However, the two areas are so different from each other that it is easier for the measurement technology of process automation to establish itself in factory automation than the other way around. VEGA's success story, which culminated in its current position as the world market leader in radar level instrumentation, began more than 30 years ago. The company is now applying the experience and knowledge gained to factory automation solutions. Accordingly, VEGAPULS 42 is based on the best radar chip currently available on the market – with the widest dynamic range, which offers excellent performance and application versatility.

High quality stripped down to the basics

To still be able to monitor current operating states in a highly efficient and cost-optimised manner, every design element of the chip was

critically examined for its usefulness. The same principle applied to the IO-Link communication technology, which is common in factory automation, enabling bidirectional data transmission together with extensive diagnostics and parameterisation. For IO-Link sensor VEGAPULS 42 this means: maximum signal quality at minimal cost and complexity.

Radar is the better choice

With the instruments in its IO-Link portfolio, VEGA now adds the advantages of radar measurement technology to a wide variety of processes in factory automation and focusses even more on hygiene-critical industries like food and pharmaceuticals. Radar is the right choice for continuous, non-contact level measurement because, unlike ultrasonic sensors, it is not influenced by the process and ambient operating conditions. Use of the most reliable, cost-effective measurement technology available makes all the difference, especially in factory automation.

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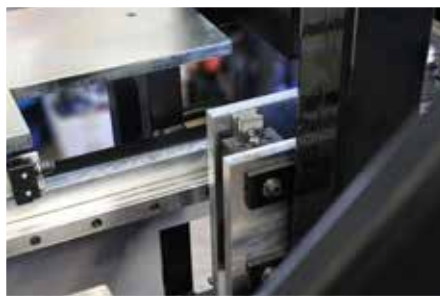
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Specialists in Automation Components

In this issue of Best Practice, we are honoured to select Matara UK as our Automation Components Company of the Year.



Matara UK is an industry-leading provider of pneumatic and linear automation products and is widely considered company of choice for businesses across the UK.

Established in 1995, the company joined Rubix UK in 2021: one of the world's leading suppliers of industrial equipment supplies. As a specialist supplier and manufacturer of industrial automation products and automation components, Matara provides Rubix UK with a significantly expanded footprint in the mechatronics sector. This strategic partnership has driven the company forward, with new lines of investment that have enabled the delivery of even more high-quality linear motion, automation and pneumatics products to our customers.



James Chanin, Managing Director

The company provides customised solutions to machine builders across aerospace, automotive food and pharmaceutical.

We spoke to Aidan Shearer: Product Marketing Executive to find out more,

“Over the last year we have seen a large increase in the volume of sales and enquiries through our upgraded Matara website online shop. Customers are able to buy custom-cut lengths, as well as select machine options, and additionally choose from a wide range of accessories. The new site also saw the inclusion of various products from our linear motion and pneumatics product ranges.

We've recently attended Automation UK in June and Machine Building Live this October. At both shows we showcased a demonstration unit that included an aluminium profile frame, with belt and ball screw linear actuators, with Gapp's control units to give motion to the actuators. Machine building live was the first time that we exhibited with our sister companies: Gapp Automation Ltd and KJN Automation Ltd, as part of the Rubix UK's Motion Control and Automation division.”

Matara manufactures and supplies four main product lines to industry customers: Linear Motion, Linear actuator systems, Aluminium Extrusion and Pneumatics.

Firstly, within Linear Motion, custom-length Linear Rail is available from supply partner: PMI, with various types of linear rail and carriages available from stock. The supply partner for Ball Screws is TBI Motion, with ball screws cut to demand and machined

in-house to bespoke customer CAD dimensions. The Linear Clamps are available in Linear Rail and Linear Shaft types and are often used as a safety mechanism, if a linear motion system fails. Furthermore, Rack & Pinion and Lead Screws are machined in-house to customer specifications.

Secondly, regarding Linear actuator systems, the Belt-Driven Actuators are perfect for use in long stroke, high speed, horizontal applications. They are built in-house to custom stroke lengths and internally guided as standard, with external guides also available. The Ballscrew Driven-Actuators are ideally designed for vertical applications, with custom-strokes available. Furthermore, complete Motion Control Systems are available for the range of linear actuators, in partnership with our sister company: Gapp.

Thirdly, as part of Aluminium Extrusion, the Aluminium Profile is cut to specific sizes and machined in-house and available online for purchase. Customers can purchase modular, easy-build work benches and workstations, with standard options available to buy online. Bespoke options are also available upon request. Assembled Machine Frames and Guarding are available, alongside many online Profile Accessories from the large stock.

Lastly, there is a wide range of pneumatic products available, with supply partners: Mindman Pneumatics, including ISO Pneumatic Cylinders- assembled in-house to custom stroke lengths, Rodless Cylinders, Pneumatic Control, Pneumatic Filters and Regulator Units.

“Looking to the near future, we are currently increasing the size of our factory's footprint, expanding into the unit next door. This will allow us to have organised and dedicated areas for the assembly aluminium profile machine frames and guarding, allowing us to increase our volume of output, and increasing efficiency,” concluded Aidan.

www.matara.com