

Best Practice



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SIL 3 Certification for Oliver Twinsafe's Single Isolate and Double Block & Bleed Valves

Oliver Twinsafe Trunnion Mounted valves and Floating Ball Valves have successfully been SIL certified at level 3. This new and important milestone provides operators with safety assurances at the highest level and has resulted from many months of engineering design, QA reviews, and audits.

A SIL (Safety Integrity Level) is a measure of safety system performance, in terms of probability of failure on demand (PFD). The higher the SIL level, the higher the associated safety level, and the lower probability that a system will fail to perform properly. SIL 3 is the highest rating that can be given to a valve.





PERSONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

Pambry Electronics releases the latest version of the PED 1780 Personal Environmental Monitor.

The new wearable instrument provides a complete profile of particulate matter, noise (level/dose), temperature and humidity as well as the option to monitor gas levels using a variety of available sensors.

The small size and light-weight (~280g) allow the instrument to be attached to clothing using the industry standard Klickfast adaptor.

The new instrument is extremely configurable. The base model provides the noise, temperature, humidity and movement sensors as standard and allows up to **four** gas sensors, or a particulate sensor and **one** additional gas sensor within the housing. The instrument is self-contained with no external equipment required. The internal lithium-ion battery provides up to 160 hours of use between charges.

For more information contact Pambry Electronics Limited or one of our distributors.

01202 624910
sales@pambry.co.uk
www.pambry-instruments.com

High Integrity Pressure Protection Systems (HIPPS) and remotely located well-head manifolds are normally associated with SIL certification. Operators are to gain additional safety assurances from installing our ball valves, in that, when the valve is required to perform its fail-safe function, the probability of it not performing is extremely low.

SIL 3 certification has been awarded by Exida, a third-party safety assessment organisation. The certification covers our range of Single Isolate valves, and Double Block and Bleed valves comprising two separate isolates within the assembly. Bore sizes for Trunnion Mounted valves range from 1" – 16" and 1" – 3" on Floating Ball valves.

www.valves.co.uk

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Editors Notes

Liz Dickinson

Editor



Welcome to our bumper February issue of Best Practice. 2024 is already shaping up to be another exciting year for innovation, grab a hot drink and read all about the latest machine inspections, PCB fabrication and assembly, industrial vacuum cleaners and cutting-edge chemiluminescence analysers.

Here at Best practice, we are recommending Davies Turner on page 9 as the leading international freight operator for its innovative thinking despite ongoing, fraught geopolitical challenges. Read more about the express freight rail service from China to the UK that is drastically reducing ocean rail times.

We are delighted to showcase Sibor as our celebrated New Year Spotlight company. With a history spanning over thirty years, Sibor offers turnkey design and build service solutions across manufacturing and automation control. Read more on page 16.

Here at Best Practice, we love innovation and have selected Coinadrink Ltd for our Product Innovation Award for outstanding refreshment solutions. If you need to streamline your work refreshment culture, read more about this award-winning company on page 27.

Email us at sales@bestpracticeuk.co.uk

Cover Story

Oliver Twinsafe Trunnion Mounted valves and Floating Ball Valves have successfully been SIL certified at level 3. This new and important milestone provides operators with safety assurances at the highest level and has resulted from many months of engineering design, QA reviews, and audits....

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Importers utilise Chinese rail service, reducing ocean transit times!

Here at Best practice, we are recommending Davies Turner as the leading international freight operator for its innovative thinking despite global economic and warfare challenges.

Davies Turner was founded an astonishing 150 years ago in 1870 as the first fully legitimate economic operator in Europe and now a truly international freight forwarder. With such established longevity comes a trusted reputation within the industry. The latest exciting expansion is an express freight rail service across Asia from China departing twice weekly from Wuhan in the central Hubei Chinese province. The LCL rail service currently departs on Wednesdays and Saturdays, directly to a UK rail terminal and takes approximately 20-25 days from door-to-terminal. Shipping rates from Asia to the UK increased exponentially last year to a record 14 times higher than pre-COVID-19 rates.

Industry analyst S&P Global Platts saw costs rocket to \$18,000 per container with shipping transit schedules double from 35 to 70 days. The Chinese rail links are notably faster than sea freight (saving approximately 22 days) and on average it is 70% cheaper than air freight, offering customers a quicker alternative to more traditional transportation. It is this kind of ingenious, bold thinking that has maintained Davies Turner's position as a leading International Freight Forwarder.

With 23 UK branches including its head office in London this company successfully swerved the fallout from COVID-19 by thinking outside the box. Andrew Ford, Branch Manager from the Rotherham branch focuses on less conventional transportation,

"We specialise in awkward and out of gauge



shipments. We have shipped many vehicles ranging in sizes and type to small rail engines as well as large machinery moves."

Although the majority of the pandemic restrictions have lifted alongside a slow reduction in shipping costs, there are new unprecedented challenges from the war in Ukraine, organised port strikes and the cost-of-living crisis as Andrew highlights,

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had various impacts on various different industries: freight and logistics being one of them. The port of Odessa was shut down for almost six months after the city was hit with Russian missiles. Ukraine is a big part of the global food industry, exporting grain via the sea out of Odessa. With this coming to a temporary halt, global food prices have shot up with the limitation of grain available for food production. This has also affected the freight industry as fuel rates increase and has in effect accelerated a global recession."

As an International Freight Forwarder, the company is at the mercy of world events such as the war in Ukraine and to mitigate further risk, is always looking for positive news to pass onto end-user customers. Whilst shipping transit rates continue to fall after peaking last year, Andrew is confident that the company can ride the storm of new challenges ahead.

"The cost-of-living crisis may affect how much manufacturers are able to import and export, due to consumers not being able to afford buy these goods. However, we hope that the freight rates dropping will make it so that manufacturers will still be able to afford to ship and import goods to keep the supply chain moving."

As the company continues to navigate its way through many challenging external aspects it has continued to receive many heavyweight industry awards. In 2020 Davies Turner won not only the coveted European Logistics



Category Award from The British International Freight Association (BIFA) but was also shortlisted for the Supply Chain Management category. Philip Stephenson, Chairman of the Davies Turner group was delighted,

"Davies Turner is well known for its comprehensive European overland portfolio which offers direct groupage, part load and full load trailer services with dedicated express transit and super-express options. The market for European overland operations is very mature and highly commoditised, so the opportunities to differentiate the service offering are limited. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the traffic on the network is booked and contributed by other freight forwarding and logistics companies, which do not operate their own services. Increasingly these important third party co-loaders have sought the ability to obtain immediate rates for any of our European overland export and import trailer services in real time, without having to resort to time-consuming telephone calls, emails or filling in online quotation request forms."

The ingenious unique selling proposition of e-freight quotations and third-party bookings 24 hours a day has led to a substantial increase in business development, especially across the European sector.

With digital innovation and the express Chinese rail system, Davies Turner will be leading freight forwarding services well into the next future.

For an Air, Sea, Road freight quotation and further information, see the details below:

T 01709 529709
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www.daviesturner.com

Davies Turner

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Gold & Wassall have been manufacturing hinges for over two centuries, so it's safe to say we know what we're doing. Our team of experts can design and manufacture almost any hinge, for any application. We have made upwards of 250,000 unique hinge designs, with more designs being drawn up each day.

SEE MORE AT GOLDWASSALLHINGES.CO.UK/BESPOKE



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GOLD & WASSALL

EST. 1790



Gold & Wassall Hinges launches brand new website



Gold & Wassall Hinges has established itself at the forefront of the industry since its inception over 200 years ago. With its manufacturing facilities situated in Tamworth in Staffordshire, Gold & Wassall provides an impressive range of services for design, production and manufacture of hinges, all produced in house and distributed throughout the whole of the UK. Boasting an enviable reputation within the industry, the company has positioned itself firmly as the UK's number one manufacturer of hinges.

Gold & Wassall has provided its services to various customers throughout its years in operation and serviced customers from construction to engineering companies. With a proven track record of quality, reliability and durability, Gold & Wassall ensures it maintains complete control over the design and high quality of its goods.

We asked Scott Bareham Sales and Marketing Manager at Gold & Wassall what makes the company stand out and how would he describe its services.

"All our hinges are manufactured in house, in our purpose-built facility in Tamworth, Staffordshire. We have been manufacturing hinges for over 200 years using a mixture of tried and trusted methods along with modern technology. Our offer of a bespoke hinge service enables us to manufacture any hinge for any application, and as we have over 200 years' experience, we are greatly knowledgeable in what we do. Our

services portray the highest quality ensuring each product goes through a rigorous testing procedure and receives the upmost attention to detail. We pride ourselves on our customer service and treat every customer fairly and with respect."

In keeping with the company's goal of providing unrivalled customer service, Gold & Wassall also provides an abundance of finishing options for its customers. The company is dedicated to providing not only durable, high-quality hinges, but also to understanding the importance of an aesthetically pleasing, customised design. In light of this, the company is able to customise colour, add branding and create a smooth premium finish to all products. Gold & Wassall Hinges' array of finishing options are the perfect complement for its hinges to create a smooth premium finished look.

Going into 2024, Gold & Wassall is proud to announce the launch of its brand-new website.

"The new website has been a long-term project. Initially, the website needed updating for technological and security reasons, however we thought it would be a good idea to give everything a freshen up. As well as detailing all of the usual information, we have also now made it possible to download CAD drawings and 3D models of each hinge. Furthermore, we have introduced our new "Hinge Finder" which allows the user to narrow down suitable hinges based on their required dimensions.

This will help customers utilise our full range of hinges, showing hinges that they might not have found or considered previously," added Scott.

On the website you will find their complete range of hinges from continuous/piano hinges, butt and backflap hinges and standard, to heavy duty and bespoke made to order hinges. Using the company's automatic section which contains eight lines of automated machines, Gold & Wassall is able to make hinges quicker and to almost any length. The company also maintains the specialist tooling for these machines which can complete multiple operations in each press.

Please note: Gold & Wassall is the only hinge company whose hinges are UK made and all of Gold & Wassall Hinges' stock is available for immediate dispatch.

As a new year begins, we asked Scott what in store for the company in 2024 and beyond.

"In 2024 we hope to continue to strengthen following the pandemic and period of economic uncertainty. We are also looking to expand on our growing relationships with overseas customers as well as further grow our UK customer base."

For more information, see below.

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BITO Storage Systems

Edward Hutchison, Managing Director, BITO Storage Systems, answers questions about the company

How have the past 12 months been for the company?

BITO has maintained a consistent growth trend over the years and this continued during 2023. All of BITO's routes to market are performing well, the bito.com web shop enables customers to order standard items, many from stock. A regionally based team of designers travel the country to understand clients' needs and pain points in order to design a solution that helps improve their business. Finally, a national key accounts team work on the larger scale projects, often with systems integrators. We are seeing growth in a number of sectors including food & beverage, e-commerce, fashion retail, and pharmaceutical.

What were the biggest challenges the company faced in 2023, and how is the company addressing these challenges going forward?

Many companies today are challenged by increasing order volumes, labour availability and cost pressures. Companies know their business best and often have their own great ideas for solutions to their particular issues. Turning a client's ideas into reality requires a considerable amount of expertise. BITO works with clients on projects to turn their ideas into reality through innovative, high quality and reliable solutions that address these challenges and can also contribute to the increasingly important task of helping companies to demonstrate their sustainability credentials. Many projects involve designing bespoke solutions to successfully overcome a specific operational challenge.



How has the industry evolved over the past 12 months and how did you adapt?

Consumer expectations for greater choice and shorter lead times are driving the need to store a broader range of SKUs as well as ensure rapid and flexible order fulfilment. We are seeing a particular trend towards lower cost storage and order picking solutions to help meet such requirements.

These might include multi-tier shelving, adapting pallet racking for picking small items, installing live storage flow shelves to give greater pick face density, investing in bins and containers for efficient storage and delivery, and adopting technology that allows staff to spend their time more productively picking orders.



Pallet and carton live storage systems are an efficient means for providing dense storage for rapid, efficient and accurate order picking. Compared with fully automated systems and traditional racking, these 'mechanical' solutions strike the right balance between investment, storage density and speed for fast moving goods picked on a First In, First Out (FIFO) basis. Adding simple automation technologies such as pick-to-light and voice picking can further improve accuracy and throughput speed.

What are the current goals that the company is focused on, and how is your team working to support hitting said goals in 2024?

To support the growth in clients and revenue, we are increasing the size of our sales and fulfilment teams. Importantly, capacity has also increased with the completion of additional pallet racking manufacturing capability which will enable even better service & lead times.

To ensure growing order volumes are fulfilled, BITO is bringing more full load deliveries into its Nuneaton hub, both for restocking the warehouse and to cross dock customer orders. Crossdocking allows BITO to, for example, send several incoming pallets of plastic containers direct to a customer's site on local transport. In addition to reducing paperwork and speeding delivery, the customer is provided with a more precise delivery slot, making it easier for them to book in their delivery.

Through 2024 and beyond we are likely to see more companies wishing to deal with suppliers that can demonstrate sustainable practices. It is increasingly vital that companies cut their emissions

and demonstrate their environmental credentials. This is particularly important when it comes to complying with the requirements of the procurement departments of customers seeking to minimise their own carbon footprint.

BITO, an industrial company that manufactures durables from raw materials in our plant in Meisenheim, Germany, has demonstrated how manufacturers can take measures to reduce their CO₂ emissions and thus actively minimise their environmental impact. We are proud of our quality products, which are designed to last and have positive contribution to sustainability.

What gets you most excited about the company's future?

It has become more and more clear that an efficient and cost effective logistics strategy is an important part of a company's success. BITO products are an integral part of a logistics strategy, so by helping to enable a client's success also supports our continued success – quite an exciting concept.

How do you see this company evolving over the next five years?

BITO has been in the UK since 1999 and since then, the company has grown and evolved in terms of capacity and complexity of solution supplied to the market. As client requirements change over the next five years, BITO will continue to evolve to meet those requirements.

We see companies investing in intralogistics systems that help fulfil orders seamlessly. They are seeking systems that are efficient, reliable and have the flexibility to adapt easily to changing business circumstances and to meet peaks in demand.

Anything else you would like to add?

Clients requiring innovative solutions will need a supplier with experience and expertise. They also need equipment of a quality they can depend on and we pride ourselves that BITO equipment provides that quality. As a company that can design and manufacture racking and shelving as well as compatible bins and containers means that equipment provides storage and picking solutions that ensure the optimal use of space and efficiency of process.

BITO
STORAGE
SYSTEMS

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Robotics Automation Company Launches

Autrix, a new robotic automation company, launched this month with the mission of making automation accessible for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the UK. Formed from leaders in the robotics space and talent from automation companies, Autrix aims to enable SMEs to compete globally through increased efficiency, productivity and innovation.

Autrix provides end-to-end automation services, from initial conversations about automation potential to installation and ongoing optimisation of automated systems. With a strong software focus, Autrix offers strategic guidance to help businesses determine how and where to implement automation to best support their growth.

"SMEs are the backbone of the UK economy, yet many struggle to keep up with larger competitors that have already invested heavily in automation," said Joe Daft, Managing Director and Founder of Autrix. "We started Autrix to give these smaller players a fighting chance, with automation solutions tailored to their needs and budgets along with the expertise to help them benefit as much as possible."

The leadership team at Autrix brings decades of experience in delivering solutions within the SME space. By exclusively focusing on SMEs, Autrix

can offer customised and cost-effective automation services that allow these companies to achieve quick wins, foster innovation, and gain a competitive edge.

"Automation is key to the future of manufacturing and business in general, but the resources required have put it out of reach for most SMEs until now," said Ian Shay, Co-Founder of Autrix and Director of L&S Engineers. "With Autrix, SMEs across the UK finally have an automation partner invested in their success".

With locations strategically located throughout the UK, Autrix is well positioned to serve SMEs nationwide. In Birmingham, Autrix operates a live automated warehouse and service centre where technology partners can demonstrate solutions. The Lincoln office focuses on designing custom automation systems and software to meet specific customer needs. Autrix works with best-of-breed technology partners including Hikrobot, VisionNav and ProGlove to provide SMEs with automated mobile robots (AMRs), robotic arms, automated guided vehicles (AGVs), smart gloves and more.

By bundling technologies from multiple vendors, Autrix can provide SMEs with integrated automation systems from single robotic solutions to large deployments of 50+ AMRs tailored to their needs at a



lower cost than purchasing from individual technology providers.

Autrix's dedication to democratising automation for SMEs through their tailored solutions, strategic guidance, and commitment to success positions itself as a valuable partner for SMEs seeking to thrive in an increasingly competitive global market. Autrix is set to empower SMEs with the knowledge, confidence and tools they need to embrace automation and unlock their full potential.

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The new Global AGV product!

We spoke to Nicholas Hughes, a freelance consultant, to learn more about what he does and the new Global AGV product!



What is the main role of the company? What services/products do you provide?

I'm a freelance consultant focusing on both helping end users with their automation journey within warehouse logistics, as well as helping OEMs/ integrators set up sales operations and grow sales.

How do you see the company developing over the next 12 months?

This is a new venture for me so I'm testing the market to see what it wants. There are two ways that seem logical. Right now, it's just me offering services. I see a lot of potential to expand the service offering to help with sales such as telemarketing, lead generation and content creation. Alternatively, growing the consultancy side too as there seems to be a lot of demand for that right now.

Another route could also be to introduce physical products that complement the service offering.

Are there any particular products/services you are promoting at the moment?

Yes! A big topic at the moment is AGV's. I'm promoting a truly unique AGV product, the Global AGV, made by BILA, a leading Danish automation house. It's a super simple and innovative product.



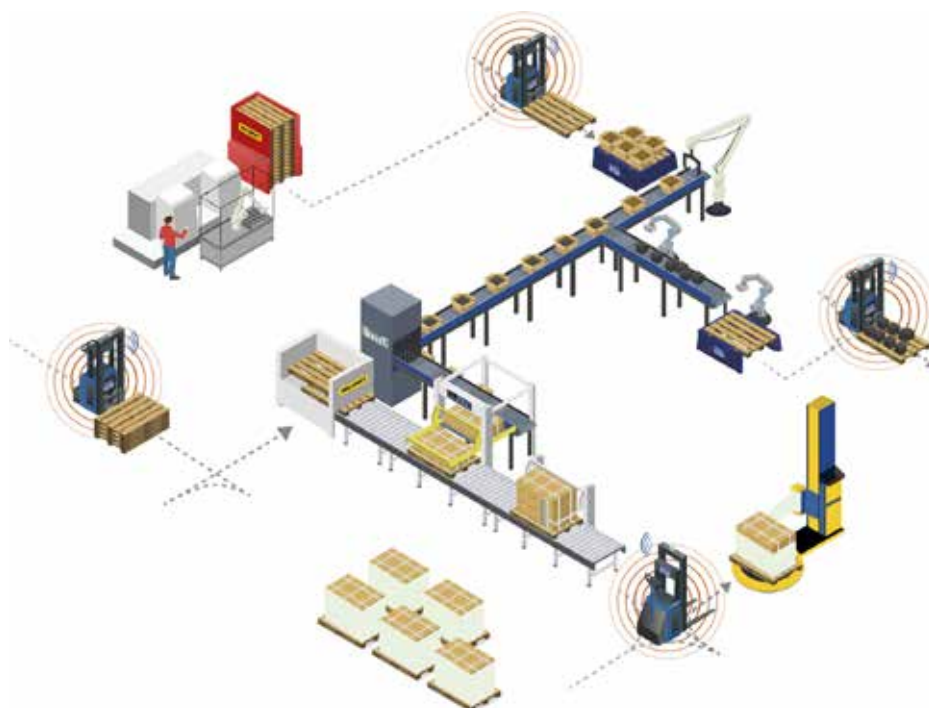
The team have taken a product that has been traditionally, and still is, complex, cumbersome and risky to deploy and created a product that is perfect for the simple applications of A-B pallet transports. Examples of this would be from end of line or a palletising cell to a wrapper or dispatch area. It has everything onboard, so only needs a Wi-Fi connection so it can receive tasks, and can be installed in a few days.

Do you foresee any challenges in the industry in the next year? If so, how will you address these?

Over the last few weeks many of the conversations I've had with people have

all brought up very similar issues. The real challenge, in my opinion, is not the challenges themselves, such as rising costs, labour shortages and the like, but the way that companies go about solving them. If we take the Global AGV as an example, the AGV monthly lease is usually less than an FTE head. In many cases that person can be redistributed to other more productive tasks (double win!) If you have multiple shifts, the AGV effectively pays for itself, as well as the person that's been redistributed. The challenges in this case are that there is usually a complex procurement procedure or that the overall agreement of the spend takes time, even though the OPEX spend reduces. With the OPEX model, you could do both whilst improving cash flow. Companies will need to start thinking of equipment spend in the same way as recruitment. As a capital purchase, the payback can be as little as 12 months, with the majority paying back in 24 months. With lead times of only eight weeks from order to delivery on site, it scares me the amount of money potentially left on the table by businesses not acting promptly.

If you need help with your operation, call Nick on: 07485 189631 or [click here to learn more about Global AGV.](#)





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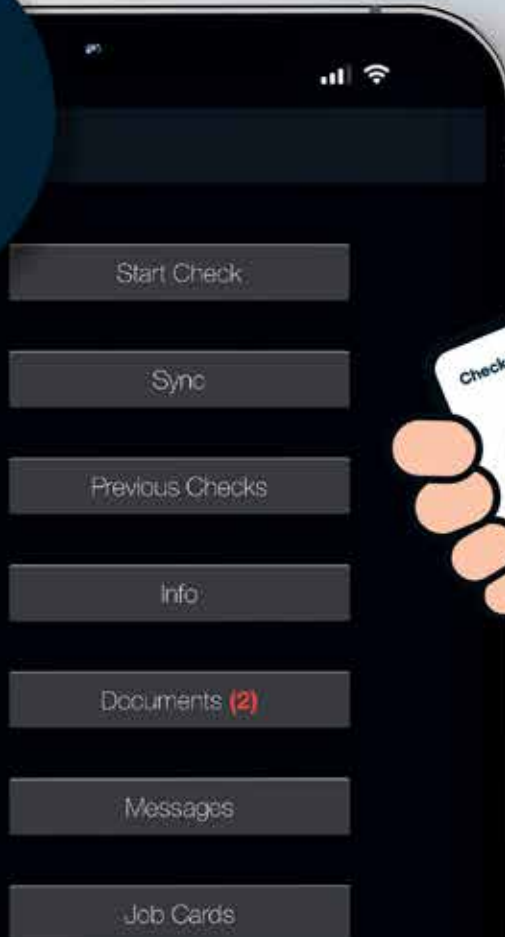


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Fleet Licence Check solutions from CheckedSafe



Alarming statistics from RAC Insurance show that only 1 in 10 motorists (13%) would tell their employer if they received penalty points whilst driving. Meanwhile, a whopping 25% of motorists with penalty points on their licence did not inform any organisation when they received them.

These numbers should ring alarm bells for any company with drivers on the road, highlighting the critical necessity of routine licence checks - a task that, unfortunately, too many businesses push aside. However, missing this step could see companies facing up to £20 million in corporate manslaughter fines and recklessly putting lives at risk.

Here in 2024, showing that you're serious about health and safety means checking your fleet's driving licences should be top of your list when it comes to promoting safety.

Are you burying your head in the sand?

Consider this: You're confident your team is up to scratch and equipped with the right qualifications and legal permissions to drive. At least, that was the case 10 months ago, the last time you checked. But what if things have changed?

Imagine the shock when a routine DVSA inspection uncovers that one of your drivers has racked up 10 penalty points for speeding and using their phone while driving - all within the last 9 months.

Digging deeper, you discover this same driver has violated work-hour limits and manipulated their vehicle's tachograph. Such violations could strip them of their driving licence. But it doesn't stop there. What does this mean for you as the fleet operator?

The ripple effect leads the DVSA to scrutinise your entire operation. They find several drivers with undeclared points on their licences. One case is particularly severe: a driver with a drink-

driving conviction and a driving ban.

The outcome? You're called to a Public Inquiry by the Traffic Commissioner, facing the possibility of your operator's licence being suspended, reduced, or revoked. The worst-case scenario? £20 million pounds in fines for corporate manslaughter. Not exactly the vision you had in mind for 2024, is it?

Taking a proactive approach...

To avoid a scenario resembling the one described above, it is worth familiarising yourself with compliance requirements surrounding licence checks...

- ▲ Conduct regular licence checks on all of your drivers
- ▲ Keep full records of your checks
- ▲ Ensure the Traffic Commissioner is informed of any relevant convictions

How often should you carry out licence checks?

The rule of thumb from the DVSA is that licences should be checked at least every three months, especially for those with points to their name. However, if you're managing a bunch of vehicles, keeping tabs on every driver might seem like a mammoth task.

That's where modern technology comes to the rescue. Solutions like the CheckedSafe Fleet Management app can streamline the process, making it easier to keep up with checks without breaking a sweat (or the bank!).

Licence checks by CheckedSafe...

CheckedSafe successfully streamlines this process for businesses, offering a convenient, cost-effective and innovative method of ensuring fleet drivers are regulated and have a clean driving record. Using innovative Optical Character Recognition technology, with an accuracy rate of over 95%,

CheckedSafe is able to check driver licences on behalf of businesses, ensuring that all drivers are fully qualified to drive.

Moreover, unlike traditional solutions for checking licences, fleet managers can use the software remotely without the need to be physically present - a particularly beneficial solution for businesses with dispersed workforces.

At just £1.60 plus VAT per check, the pay-as-you-go service is accessible and affordable for businesses of all sizes, delivering a more economical solution than their direct competitors.

The service is also integrated into the original, multi-award-winning Fleet Management platform, but it can also be used separately as a stand-alone solution.

"Innovation is at the heart of what we do here at CheckedSafe", explains Co-Founder and Director, Gary Hawthorne, "Which is why we're really excited to have launched our licence-checking system. The development represents a significant step forward in our efforts to revolutionise compliance within the transport industry, and we're confident this will be a valuable asset for businesses looking to streamline their fleet compliance."

Key factors to look for...

▲ Licence types

Verify drivers' details and ensure they hold the appropriate licence for their role, whether it's a full, copy, HGV, or professional licence.

▲ Driver offences

Identify any past offences such as speeding or drink driving.

▲ Points on licence

Confirm the accuracy of the points recorded on the driver's licences.

▲ Tachograph & CPC

Check the expiry dates of the drivers' Tachograph Cards and CPCs.

Indeed, in 2024 it is clear businesses need to get ahead of the game when it comes to checking licences.

Embracing frequent licence checks says a lot about a company. It says you value safety, you're committed to doing things right, and you care about the well-being of your employees and the public.

At a time when ethical business practices are under the microscope, showing you're proactive about driver safety can really set you apart - but also safeguards your business from potentially severe consequences.

To get started or for more information, see below:

01282 908429
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www.checkedsafe.com



Hydraulic & Pneumatic Presses and Sheet Metal Clinching Machines

BTM Automation Products (UK) Ltd are specialist providers of sheet metal clinching machines, hydraulic press machines and pneumatic press machines.

At BTM we present our flagship technology "Tog-L-Loc", the sheet metal clinching technology that is simple, economical and an efficient solution to your metal joining needs.

This patented clinching system is: –

- consistent – Non-destructive testing & repeatable joints
- economic – Long tool life 300,000 joints common
- versatile – Dissimilar metals can be joined
- simple- Simple Punch & Die arrangement

With todays complex designs, high quality standards and global markets our expertise in clinching sheet metal enables the customer to benefit from over 40 years' experience.

BTM offer a full and complete package from initial enquiry to commissioning. Our expert specialist engineers have served the Automotive, Lighting, Heating, White Goods and many other industries. Whether it is a simple hand held unit, robot cell or special purpose machine BTM Tog-L-Loc has a solution for you.

For detailed information on the Tog-L-Loc process please see our Tog-L-Loc product page.

In addition to Tog-L-Loc, we also provide aluminium clinching technology "V-Loc", a harder rotation resistant version of Tog-L-Loc called "Lance-N-Loc" and our leak proof version "Oval-Loc". Please see our Products section for more details and product information download sheets.

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Visit: www.clinching.co.uk



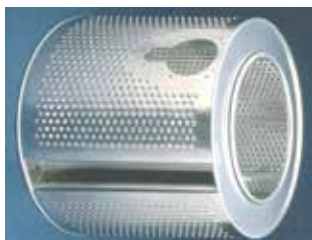
RMIG: We make ideas come to life

As the largest perforating company in the world, RMIG has over a century's experience in the perforation industry. This impressive size and experience means RMIG has a local presence in a range of markets, providing accessible contacts for customers no matter what their query.

RMIG is dedicated to being an innovative and reliable solution provider in the perforation industry, as well as being recognised as a benchmark for customer service and optimised logistics.

RMIG's perforated sheets can be used effectively within a number of areas, and RMIG has six dedicated market sectors covering Industrial Processing, Food Processing, Buildings and Interiors, Multimedia and Communication, Automotive, and Household Appliances.

One particular area of Industrial



Additionally, RMIG works with biomass drying applications. The demand for alternative sources of sustainable and renewable energy is always growing. RMIG's Bridge Slot sheets are the most effective way of drying woodchip to an optimum moisture content, ensuring boilers operate efficiently to benefit farming and agriculture.

The RMIG Bridge Slot sheets play an essential role when it comes to the design and manufacture of biomass drying floors. The combination of sheet thickness and opening size allows RMIG's sheets to be used either as a suspended floor in wood chip drying containers and trailers, or as drive-on drying floors in outdoor buildings. The bridge slot opening size determines the products that can be dried, which range from fine oilseed rape through to larger grains and cereals, as well as logs and wood chip drying.

In the production of perforated dishwasher



filters, RMIG offers the complete service from perforating and forming, including surface treatment, right up to final assembly complete with plastic rings and funnels. RMIG also has decades of experience in the manufacture of perforated sieves using highly developed technical methods and strict quality control systems to guarantee customers are receiving the best possible product.

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UNISIG
DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS



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



Measurably better Chemiluminescence analysers

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) are chief villains in the battle for climate control; belonging to a family of gases that are formed during the combustion of fossil fuels. When Nitric Oxide (NO) reacts with other gases, for example with Ozone, it forms Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), which is considered highly toxic to human health.

The reaction with Ozone is also an indicator for why Nitric Oxide (NO) is considered a climate active gas, that interacts with Earth's protective Ozone layer. Human exposure to high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), but also Nitric Oxide (NO) can cause airway inflammation, susceptibility to allergens and exacerbate pre-existing lung or heart conditions.

Nitric Oxide (NO) is a biological marker of inflammation and is also produced by cells involved in the inflammation process. It is typically used to diagnose allergic/eosinophilic asthma. Legal ambient air limit value (annual average value for the European Union) for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentrations is 40µg/m³. Maximum occupational exposure limit is 950µg/m³. Indoor air limit value for maximum exposure is 250µg/m³ but the precautionary value 80µg/m³. The WHO defines 40µg/m³ as precaution limit. (www.baua.de/EN/Service/)

[Legislative-texts-and-technical-rules/Rules/TRGS/TRGS.html](#)

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural affairs (DEFRA) has also reported soil chemistry and biodiversity changes across many UK habitats, through gas (dry deposition) and precipitation (wet deposition.) Anthropogenic Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) influence tropospheric chemistry, which directly cause photochemical smog and concentrated levels of urban ozone.

ECO PHYSICS AG offer world-leading measurements of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx), through trailblazing chemiluminescence analysers. These innovative analytical solutions are unprecedented in speed and sensitivity, with a cutting-edge range of sensitivities from 1% down to 1 ppt (part per trillion). Chemiluminescence Analysers use a unique thermally-stabilised semiconductor photodiode, to measure light intensity produced by reactions between Nitric Oxide (NO) with Ozone (O₃). The light intensity correlates to the proportion of Nitric Oxide (NOx) converted to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) by the reaction.

We caught up with Dr Grischa Peter Feuersänger, Head of Sales & Marketing, to find out



more about ECO PHYSICS, "ECO PHYSICS was founded in 1990 through a management buy-out, by co-founders Dr Matthias Kutter and Dr Werner Moser and we now operate from our base in Duernten, Switzerland. We offer innovative analytical solutions for measurement tasks in the fields of environment, health and process control. With our interdisciplinary research and development team, we are delivering customer-oriented and tailor-made products and services. The initial know-how focus was centred on the principle of the chemiluminescence, thus developing and manufacturing analysers for the ambient pollution and emissions. We have

perfected analytical technique in speed and sensitivity. Today we are proud to claim world leadership in the fastest and most sensitive chemiluminescence analysers and the broadest commercially available range."

This Swiss-based innovative company has EN ISO 9001: 2015 quality management and EN ISO 13485: 2016 medical devices-compliance, offering quality assurance to customers across many industries. There is a new range of gas analysers and boxed set gas analysers available: nCLD AL, nCLD AL2, nCLD AL3/8555, nCLD EL and nCLD EL2.

The nCLD AL3/8555 is a next-generational modular gas analyser, offering state-of-the-art simultaneous measurements of NO, NO₂, NOx, NH₃ and NOx-Amines. Even lower detection limits can be detected through the newly designed reaction chamber, enhanced gas flow paths, improved pressure and temperature stability. This analyser is adaptable to non-standardised applications, with the unit calibration running smoothly on an automated basis.

To see the whole product range: **T +41 55 220 22 22**
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www.ecophysics.com

Sibor: committed to engineering excellence since 1992



In this issue of Best Practice, we are delighted to showcase Sibor as our New Year Spotlight company.

Sibor has a long history, spanning over thirty years providing leading process control, engineering and project management expertise. Established in 1992, to originally provide process control systems and industrial automation to many industrial applications, such as large blue-chip companies, the company has been focusing on the energy sector more recently, notably the anaerobic digestion renewable energy sector.

Sibor provides turnkey design and build service solutions across manufacturing and automation control, including the following services:

- ▲ EIC/mechanical design and installation services
- ▲ Process control services
- ▲ Process instrumentation services
- ▲ Atex design and installation services
- ▲ Project management services
- ▲ Software development services
- ▲ Support services

With a vision for providing automated control systems that provide manufacturing benefits

and added assurance throughout, Sibor are trusted professionals throughout the project. From initial requirements analysis, expert software engineers define user-needs from the offset, through to application design and software, component selection and assembly for a successful outcome.

Sibor runs applications as local stand-alone systems or alternatively, as Ethernet/IP networked solutions. Utilising cutting-edge Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Sibor ensures streamlined services across all customer applications.

We caught up with Managing Director: Rob Mockridge to find out more,

"We have always enjoyed organic growth and over the last 12 months, the company has gone through a major transition and has now been accredited with ISO 9001 and 14001 and we have also been accredited by safe contractor.

We have gone from strength to strength completing many major upgrade projects for the MOD and several renewable energy companies, ranging from replacing old for new to major electrical infrastructure and controls installations.

We have seen a 40% increase in business over the last 12 months- an accolade to our strong team.



We are very excited for the year ahead in the anaerobic digestion renewable energy sector and are in the process of signing two contracts with major renewable energy companies to provide LV power distribution design and installation combined with control and instrumentation design and installation. With a pipeline of projects to follow, allowing us to keep investing in our staff and business activities.

Our growth in control and automation projects is a tribute to our innovative approach to design and comes from our long history in many industrial sectors."

For further information, see the website below:
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www.sibor.co.uk



Stylographics sets new trends with Marc Jacobs and Soyang Europe

The large-format print and Fabrication Company recently used Print Floor from Soyang Europe to help create an eye-catching retail display for world famous design brand Marc Jacobs.

Watford-based large-format print and specialist fabrication company Stylographics recently used Print Floor from Soyang Europe to produce a striking retail window display for global fashion brand Marc Jacobs.

A diversified business, Stylographics works with clients across a wide range of markets, producing all kinds of inspiring print applications. The company counts a number of high-profile brands amongst its customers including Costa Coffee, Lindt, Primark, Sony and Netflix.

Among these clients is Marc Jacobs, which has partnered with Stylographics on a series of projects to showcase its brand in a number of innovative ways. The latest collaboration was a retail window display at one of Marc Jacobs' stores.

Stylographics was tasked with creating an eye-catching display that would help draw the attention of passers-by and tempt them into the store to view some of the latest products from Marc Jacobs. The design featured a bold black and white pattern that was to stretch around the entire window frame.

With this in mind, Stylographics opted to use Print Floor, a PVC flooring material from Soyang Europe ideal for use in applications such as floor graphics and retail displays. Stylographics used its Durst P10 250HS UV inkjet



printer to print the design onto the material.

"Having used Print Floor from Soyang Europe for a number of years and on a whole range of projects, we knew straight away that this application would require the same solution," said Siobhan Storey, Marketing Manager, at Stylographics.

"What stands out for us and what we like the most about Print Floor is that it is a very hard-wearing and reliable product; we rely on it time and time again for all sorts of applications."

Stylographics is a long-term customer of Soyang Europe, having worked together for more than 10 years. Speaking about this relationship, Siobhan said that the service from Soyang Europe goes much further than simply supplying and delivering materials.

"Soyang Europe are always on hand for advice and technical back up when required," Siobhan said. "As Stylographics is an innovative company, we are impressed by the range of materials they hold and we are always keen to see new products they bring to the market."

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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.

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

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."

Contact
T +44 (0)141 941 1388
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www.european-circuits.co.uk

Rotaflow designed and manufactured swivel joints

Rotaflow swivels are regularly utilised in the following engineering sectors with tailored or stock designs for specific needs: Brewery, Chemical, Dairy & Farming, Food & Drink, Nuclear, Process & Plant, Drilling & Mining, Oil & Gas, Subsea, Water & Waste.

Through in-house design and manufacture our swivel joints allow one or more different flows through a single unit, enabling the pipework to rotate 360 degrees whilst carrying fluids (including hydraulic and pneumatic) of different pressures without cross-contamination or leakage.

There are many different forms of Swivel Joint... from very straight forward designs of our F and FS series, Compact swivels, or Heavy Duty to Articulated Pipework configurations, Floating Suction Arms, Jacketed, High pressure. A Swivel Joint reduces costs by reducing the risk of leakage with

its associated downtime. By fitting a quality designed swivel, you are improving your production capacity.

Swivel joints will allow the movement on a slowly rotating drum or remove the damaging effect of twisting on hoses. The photo attached is of a 3" hardened carbon steel unit with specific end connections for use in the oil and gas drilling. Please visit our Previous Projects page on our website for more examples of our swivels in use.



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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Handheld fibre laser welding from Wilkinson Star

HANDHELD FIBRE laser welding technology is new to the UK welding industry, offering excellent welding performance, improving production efficiency and reducing operational costs.



jobs offers easy set up and high repeatability to the user. Shooting mode offers controllable and repeatable tack welding and single sided spot welding, whilst pulse mode offers aesthetically pleasing welds similar to that of traditional TIG welding methods.

Up to four times faster than traditional welding methods, it offers high precision and neat welding seams on various materials. The Weld Star - Max Photonics system advanced air-cooling with self-adaptive fans ensures long-term stability and a neat, compact design. It is lightweight and ergonomically designed welding torch offers comfort and manoeuvrability to the user at only 680 grams and guarantees multiple safety precautions for welding operations.

A full colour 7" graphical user interface with synergic set up and the possibility to save up to 32 stored

Quick training times with the laser process gives employers the opportunity to up-skill workers and increase production

Laser safety is a big factor with this process being a Class 4 appliance. As such, it is imperative that the guidance is followed and this equipment is operated within a suitably approved class 4 enclosure. Wilkinson Star can offer a full package solution in compliance with EN 60825-4. Machines come with a 2 year warranty and torches a 12 month warranty.

www.wilkinsonstar247.com

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Christeyns Food Hygiene wins Training Company of the Year at the SOFHT Awards 2023

Warrington based Christeyns Food Hygiene, part of Christeyns UK, were proud to receive the SOFHT Training Company of the Year Award at the event in London last night.

SOFHT is an independent consortium of food industry specialists set up to keep members advised of the current hygiene and technology issues through the provision of technical support, training and topical information as well as a vital forum for networking and sharing best practice across the entire food chain. The annual awards, now in their 19th year, recognise and celebrate excellence within the food industry and its associated industries.

As well as designing hygiene chemicals and equipment, Christeyns Food Hygiene run an educational platform for the training of hygiene professionals. The Christeyns Academy has evolved since its inception in 2013 to become a valuable

resource for manufacturing companies in the food sector. What started as a requirement to provide chemical safety training has grown into a package of training materials to support all food sector requirements.

Commenting on the award win, Martin Mann, Senior Customer Development Manager, states:

“We are delighted to have been named SOFHT Training Company of the Year 2023. This recognition of our specialist knowledge and training programmes highlights the range of support we can provide to the wider industry to assist them in attaining manufacturing excellence.

Food hygiene is paramount in safeguarding the public, a firm’s reputation and in managing a successful food production business. It underlines all we do, and we are passionate about



ensuring food and drink safety across all sectors of our business.”

Christeyns Food Hygiene provides innovative hygiene solutions and specialised technical support for the food and beverage industry that ensure compliance with procedures, legislation and industry codes of practice.

www.christeynsfoodhygiene.co.uk

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- ▲ CPD of 110 hours and 5-year certification via examination to industry requirements.
- ▲ Adapts to engineering needs of each Learner, company, and site - via a 2-hour Induction ahead of the course.

The next MIPC course runs from 4 March 2024 for 27 weeks, 4 hours flexibly per week. Open to all practitioner-level engineers - Registration open now. Induction to fit around work schedules during February 2024.

EEMUA 231 MECHANICAL INTEGRITY BASICS - NEXT COURSE BEGINS 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Blended online learning for people responsible day-to-day for ensuring mechanical integrity of plant and equipment where hazardous substances are present.

- ▲ Managing the primary containment envelope.
- ▲ Ageing plant.

- ▲ Delivering and demonstrating integrity management.
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- ▲ Learning on-site - live online classes, e-learning, 1-1 tutorials for real-time interaction.
- ▲ CPD - 15 hours including exam.

Open to all, learning on the next EEMUA 231 Mechanical Integrity Basics course starts 26 February 2024, with a 2-hour Induction to fit diaries - open now.

Please feel welcome to contact your EEMUA team:

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Discover the Power of the SDHmini-Ex: Your Compact Solution for Measuring Trace Moisture

Moisture control is critical for product quality and safety but some traditional analysers can be bulky, slow or require specialised training.

The SDHmini-Ex changes everything. This innovative handheld hygrometer is fully self-contained and intrinsically safe, certified to ATEX, IECEx and UL standards, making it the most reliable, accurate tool for industrial applications.

Shaw Moisture Meters designed the SDHmini-Ex to deliver quick, reliable spot check measurements of trace moisture in process gases and dry compressed air. Its powerful microelectronics and unique SHAW AutoCal function provide real-time data logging graphical formats, allowing users to capture and display up to 300,000 readings before

downloading them to a PC via the SHAW SDHmini User Tool software.

The SDHmini-Ex also features a robust housing with a full-colour graphics LCD, integrating the proven SHAW dewpoint sensor, desiccant chamber assembly, signal conditioning circuitry, memory management and operates in ten different languages.

Its onboard rechargeable lithium-ion battery provides over 150 hours of continuous operation, supporting USB charging and connection to a PC interface, Bluetooth connection and printing.

This powerful, real-time hygrometer is the perfect solution for industrial applications that require accurate, reliable trace moisture measurements. Its versatility and

robust design make it an ideal choice for even the most demanding environments. The ultimate tool for spot checking your process gases and dry compressed air is free from trace moisture.

The SHAW SDHmini-Ex is the most innovative and reliable handheld hygrometer available. With its comprehensive range of features and intrinsically safe design, it delivers accurate and reliable measurements in even the harshest environments. Experience the capability of the SDHmini-Ex and take your industrial applications to the next level.

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Introducing the 5-Point Maintenance Program for On-Site Safety Shower!

At Aqua, we understand the importance of keeping your on-site safety product in optimal condition to ensure the well-being of your workforce. That's why we're excited to offer our comprehensive 5-Point Maintenance Program, designed to maximise the longevity and effectiveness of your safety equipment. With this program, you can minimise downtime, enhance safety compliance, and prolong the lifespan of your investment. Let's take a closer look at the five key points of our maintenance program:

Regular Inspections: Our team of trained technicians will conduct regular inspections of your on-site safety product, carefully examining each component for signs of wear, damage, or malfunction. By catching potential issues

early on, we can address them protectively and prevent any major breakdowns or accidents.

Cleaning and Lubrication: Proper cleaning and lubrication are essential for the smooth functioning of your safety equipment. We will thoroughly clean all parts, removing dirt, debris, and other contaminants that could compromise performance. Additionally, we will apply appropriate lubricants to ensure optimal operation.

Maintenance and inspection: Failsafe maintenance and inspection are crucial to guarantee safe and reliable operation. Our experts will calibrate your safety product according to industry standards, making necessary adjustments to maintain availability



in times of need. This step is vital for equipment used in remote site locations with variable environmental temperatures.

Component Replacement: Over time, certain safety product components may wear out or become obsolete. As part of our maintenance program, we will identify any worn-out parts and promptly replace them with high-quality, manufacturer-approved replacements. This proactive approach minimises the risk of equipment failure and maximises overall safety.

Documentation and Reporting: Our maintenance program includes comprehensive documentation and reporting. We will keep detailed records of all inspections, repairs, and replacements performed on your safety product. These records can be invaluable for compliance audits, insurance purposes, and tracking the maintenance history of your equipment.

By enrolling in our 5-Point Maintenance Program, you can enjoy the following benefits:

Enhanced safety: Regular maintenance ensures that your safety product is functioning optimally, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.

Improved equipment lifespan: Proper care and maintenance extend the life of your safety equipment, saving you money on premature replacements.

Compliance assurance: Our program helps you stay in compliance with safety regulations and standards, giving you peace of mind during inspections.

Minimised downtime: Proactive maintenance reduces the likelihood of unexpected breakdowns, keeping your operations running smoothly.

Expert support: Our trained technicians possess the expertise to identify and address any issues, providing reliable and efficient service.

Invest in the longevity and reliability of your on-site safety product with our 5-Point Maintenance Program. Contact us today to learn more and schedule your maintenance sessions. Your workforce's safety is our top priority at Aqua!

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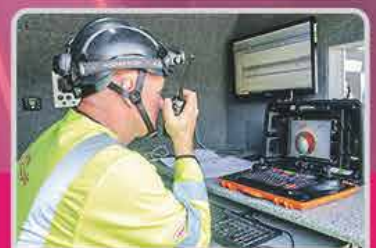


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UAV survey lands data and cost benefits for factory owner

A drone survey carried out by Lanes Group plc is helping a major manufacturer investigate the drainage system on one of its sites in readiness for future development.

The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) survey provided a highly detailed digital map of the factory site near Peterborough, which engineers can use to plot drainage assets with impressive precision.

It was carried out by Lanes Group Rail (LGR), Lanes Group's rail division, in just one day when a conventional ground-based survey would have taken up to four days.

Significant cost saving

LGR Business Development Manager Bill Waring said: "The aerial mapping surveys we carry out are fast becoming an essential element of site investigations across all sectors, including rail.

"In many cases, they can be carried out by a team of one, rather than the three or four operatives needed to work at height from ground level. It's a significant cost saving, especially when time saved is factored in.

"Drone surveys also provide a hugely rich array of data that can be manipulated in many different ways to more accurately plot and understand the topography and built assets across large areas of land.

"They don't just allow surveys to be carried out more quickly, more safely and with less site disruption. They also allow data

then be prepared more quickly and more flexibly for analysis."

Eliminates site disruption

LGR's drone survey unit holds the required Civil Aviation Authority commercial operating permission and is on the drone survey framework for Network Rail.

Lanes drone pilot and surveyor Adam Blakesley carried out the survey of the factory site that manufactures ground engineering infrastructure assets.

He flew a DJI Matrice M300 drone fitted with the latest 4K video camera to capture all the required data across an area covering 68,000m². Esri Site Scan software was then used to process the images captured.

Adam Blakesley said: "We can stitch together many thousands of images taken during the drone flight into highly accurate orthomosaic images of the site. We can also create 3D models and point cloud images.

"These allow clients to view structures in very close detail without having to work at height, which may involve working from access platforms or erecting even more costly and disruptive temporary scaffolding.

"The advantages can be even more pronounced on rail networks. With the right precautions in place, drones can be flown over live rail assets with no disruption to services, negating the need to carry out surveys during engineering

possession time."

Flexible data analysis

The data gathered can be combined with other mapping software to plot assets across large areas with a great degree of accuracy.

This include WinCan drainage survey software used by Lanes CCTV survey teams, allowing data captured via drones to be merged with digital maps of underground drainage systems.

LGR has more than 30 years' experience of working in the rail industry on national rail and Transport for London networks, while Lanes subsidiary UKDN Waterflow (LG) holds a Principal Contractor Licence (PCL) from Network Rail.

The ability to deliver drone surveys adds significant value to LGR's capabilities and services, which include: conventional CCTV drainage surveys; track drainage and culvert cleaning and replacement; drain, sewer, and culvert lining; and vegetation control.

It also complements engineering services provided to the rail industry by Lanes Professional Services. They include drainage system investigation and design, and hydraulic engineering project management.

Talk to Lanes Group Rail about its drone survey service – for rail, commercial and industrial clients.

bill.waring@lanesgroup.co.uk
T 01708 528770.



Oliver Twinsafe Valves Supplied for MEG Injection Pump Systems

Oliver Twinsafe is to supply Double Block and Bleed pipeline valves for use on Monoethylene glycol (MEG) injection pump systems. MEG is a widely used hydrate inhibitor designed to reduce the risk of hydrate formation in pipelines that could cause blockages.

The order includes a batch of 2 1/16" API 6A 5000psi Double Block and Bleed valves in A182 F55 Super Duplex material that have been dynamically tested to meet the requirements of API 6A PSL level 3. In addition, the valve designs were pre-qualified to API 6A PR2 Appendix F,

which involves multiple cycle testing at low, ambient and high temperature with zero leakage allowed across the valve seats throughout these cycles.

A number of Oliver instrumentation valves have also been ordered, taking the total number of valves supplied for this offshore project overall to over 300 with more valves in the pipeline.

For information on how Oliver Twinsafe can provide pipeline valve solutions for your project, telephone +44(0)1565 632 636 or visit our website at www.valves.co.uk



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Smart fridge technology next-generational vending

Here at Best Practice, we have selected Coinadrink Ltd for our Product Innovation Award for outstanding refreshment solutions.

Work breaks enhance our productivity, overall wellbeing and happiness levels and are integral to higher levels of company morale. Having access to cost-effective refreshment solutions such as high-quality office coffee machines, snacks, cold drinks and fresh food is the perfect way to boost happy workplace cultures.



Award-winning Coinadrink Ltd are a leading supplier of workplace coffee, vending, fresh food, micro-market and water cooler solutions, spanning over 60 years in the West Midlands area. From hot and cold drinks, to snacks and even fresh food, this Walsall-based company provides a customer-centric approach to refreshment solutions to industries such as: manufacturing, automotive and logistics industries, and a growing customer base in the legal and financial services sectors.

The family-run company was recently delighted to win, 'Best Overall Operator' at The Vendies Awards 2023 and is eagerly awaiting results of the Black Country Chamber of

Commerce Business Awards 'Family Business of the Year' category later this Autumn. Many existing customers have left glowing reviews such as Jayne Houlston: Health & Safety Executive at LW Cole Appliances,

"We have used Coinadrink for many years and have always found their service to be first-class. Your service is exceptional and your delivery guy was a credit to your company: extremely polite and helpful."

This successful company was originally founded by Roger Williams in 1962 and was one of the first vending machine companies to gain the Investors in People Award. With an emphasis on optimal management and development of its staff, this award-winning company is focused on nurturing happy staff and customers alike.

Roger's son Tom is now Managing Director and we caught up with Tom to find out more about Coinadrink,

"We endorse workplace wellbeing programmes, giving businesses facilities that keep their staff on site at break times, encouraging staff to make the most of their breaks by having easy access to food and drink on site and encouraging those people to sit together and get to know their colleagues better and collaborate over a break.

The service provision we offer, being mainly fully managed, is enabling businesses to not have to worry about the tea and coffee being restocked in kitchens as we are providing vending machines with all the filling, cleaning and maintenance provided.

Our unique hygiene procedures for our hot drinks vending machines enable us to stand out from the crowd when it comes to our commitment to cleanliness and drink quality. The procedures ensure our machines are maintained to the highest of standards so our customers and their staff get the best tasting drinks possible.

All of our systems are uniquely bespoke, no off the shelf or third-party software is used which enables us to tailor our services and make constant improvements where necessary.

When our customers do have an issue such as a machine not working, we have an industry



leading response time promise of under two hours, no one in our industry promises that. We actually achieved 58 minutes across 2022/23 financial year, which is remarkable.

We are currently developing our own Smart Fridge technology: a modern take on vending with a bigger focus on a retail feel. The Smart Fridge incorporates fresh food, cold drinks and ambient snacking products, into one total system operated through an interactive self-service menu. This allows us to offer meal deals, offers, promotions and loyalty through the system: something very difficult to do through traditional vending.

We are extremely excited for the future, as we are in a period of considerable growth, with plans to expand our premises and grow our team to better serve our existing and new customers."

For more information and support, see the details below:

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Rubix sets new warehouse safety standards by leveraging Kardex solutions for hazardous storage

Rubix, a renowned global distributor of industrial products, teamed up with Kardex, to develop a cutting-edge hazardous materials storage solution. Rubix was faced with the daunting task of safely storing hazardous items like flammable liquids, that would not only meet the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) regulations but would also meet the standards of COSHH (control of substances hazardous to health).

At Rubix national distribution center in Wolverhampton, UK, operators pick and maintain multiple components and provide the available stock to customers. Rubix has been a long-time partner of Kardex, a global leader in smart intralogistics solutions. With more than 30 machines nationwide, they rely on Kardex's advanced technology to ensure fast, accurate, and safe order picking. After an audit, they needed a solution that adhered to strict regulatory standards.

Rubix made the decision to meet the strict HSE (health and safety executive) regulations and protect colleagues, customers, products, and the environment.

The idea was to find a solution that would ensure safe storage while reducing the touchpoints between operators and hazardous items. "We were driven to find a best practice health & safety warehouse solution, particularly one that would meet the standards of COSHH", explains Alistair Yates, Programme Manager - Logistics Function, Rubix UK. A solution was required that adhered to strict regulatory standards.



The Kardex solution enabled Rubix to centralise hazardous item storage, significantly reducing touchpoints and minimising risk. Labour demand is also more manageable requiring just 5 specialised and trained people touching these items. Overall, the solution supports fast and very secure picking. "To create a secure environment for



storing classified COSHH products like greases and aerosols, we installed two Kardex Shuttles and two Kardex Compact Buffers," explains Richard Ellis, System Sales Manager at Kardex Remstar UK.

Ensuring fast and accurate access to stored stock is a must and with a focus on safe, secure and clean storage, Kardex Compact Buffers store all small items, and all other items of mixed sizes are stored in Kardex Shuttles. "Our future plans include implementing the Kardex Frame Pick System to enhance our processes further. This will provide complete stock transparency and facilitate batch picking, supporting the ambitious goal of a fivefold increase which will deliver growth in the near future," shares Matt Luke, Logistics Director, Rubix UK.

[You can view a video of how this is managed here](#)

About Rubix

Rubix is Europe's leading distributor of industrial maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) products and services, carrying all premium brands. More than 8,500 employees are armed with the specialist knowledge and technical expertise to help customers solve their manufacturing and processing problems.

About Kardex

Kardex is a leading intralogistics solution

provider of automated storage, retrieval and material handling systems. With two entrepreneurially managed divisions, Kardex Remstar and Kardex Mlog, the Kardex mission is to provide solutions and services to increase the efficiency in storing and handling of goods and materials on a global scale.

The two divisions serve as partners over the entire life cycle of a customer's product or solution. From project analysis to realization and service, Kardex helps improve a customer's performance every step of the way. With three own production plants in Germany and one in North America Kardex ensures high quality solutions. To maintain and strengthen its competitive position within technological innovation and outstanding customer loyalty, Kardex is investing in research and development, its supply chain, the expansion of its service organization as well as in new technology via acquisitions. Kardex actively partners with global leaders who share the same values and complement the Kardex solutions including AutoStore, Rocket Solution, Robomotive, Intertex and Sumobox.

Kardex employs 2,000 team members across 30 countries and has installed over 140,000 industry-specific solutions worldwide.

www.kardex.com