

# BUILDING UPDATE

ISSUE: 665 May/June | [www.solutionspublishing.co.uk](http://www.solutionspublishing.co.uk)

## Creating perfect sleep and storage solutions

### studio™ next bed™ beta bed™

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

Wallbed Systems Ltd. is a London-based global business established by Managing Director, Jeremy Waller, who has extensive experience selling mattresses and beds across Asia, who saw opportunities for sensible designs of reliable, safe and flexible wall beds, which could feature comfortable mattresses. With the latest designs and accessories (such as with the Alpha bed and Studio desk pairing) small or odd shapes rooms are transformed into multi-use spaces with cleverly concealed sleeping areas.

Taking inspiration from the original models, which originated in the USA in the early 20th century, the company has been manufacturing in-house spring balance systems over a 20-year period, allowing for precise tension adjustments and easy lifting, so there is no compromise on comfort or convenience.

All are easy to install and fit full height mattresses up to 300mm, meaning there is no compromise on an excellent night's sleep. The full wall bed design includes the bed counterbalance mechanism (SBLM), bed frame rails, mountings, pivot system, springs and fasteners. The powder-coated parts are ergonomic and durable, offering assured longevity. Even more remarkable is the 'finger-tip' control mechanism with minimal effort to open and close each bed.

The Alpha bed system is the most popular product globally, available in standard and special sizes, vertical and horizontal mounting, with a choice

of leg options and even a desk. The lightweight design comes with robust steel bed frames, with strengthened steel stiffeners for a strong platform. Alpha bed frames are available in single, double, queen or king sizes and come with the adjustable SBLM, allowing perfect balance and easy, safe 'finger-tip' operation every time.

Latest designs include the NeXT bed which gives an immediate, ready to use solution with or without cabinet, and which still delivers comfort levels indistinguishable from a conventional bed. All products are stocked at multiple locations globally with advice provided around options and sizes.

**For more information on the full product range and cabinet designs:**  
**T +44 (0)208 704 5796**  
**T +44 (0)7780 661958**  
**[jeremy.waller@wallbedsystems.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.waller@wallbedsystems.co.uk)**  
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CM EUROPE

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## Midlands firm invents a world first in sustainable resin flooring

**L**eicestershire-based Abacus Flooring Solutions has made history by inventing a way to use waste plastic, that would otherwise go to landfill, in industrial resin flooring.

The ground-breaking invention, named Abaplas, is set to transform the flooring industry as well as providing an eco-friendly method for replacing harmful bulking materials in other products such as tile adhesives.

Nick Megson, managing director of Abacus Flooring and the brains behind the pioneering Abaplas system, has already proven his idea after carrying out a painstaking series of tests over several years.

Having arrived at the perfect formula, which performs even better than traditional resin flooring, his world-beating patent for Abaplas has now been approved.

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

Abaplas instead contains non-harmful



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

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

The company has since gone on to install Abaplas flooring in warehouses, medical facilities and football stadiums throughout the UK.

Nick has established a new firm, Abaplas Recycling Limited, to handle all the plastic recycling for Abacus as well as beginning the sales of treated plastic for use by other product manufacturers.

Abaplas has already led to Abacus winning a number of awards, including a Green World Award – a global environmental campaign that rewards the world's greenest countries, communities and companies.

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## Landscaping

# Landscaping and Tree Surgery experts

Established as a forestry company by John Dolwin and Don Gray in 1969, Dolwin & Gray is now a successful landscaping and tree surgery business offering outstanding services to both domestic and commercial customers.

Now run by Colin Goss and Frin Noakes, Dolwin & Gray specialises in the care of trees in gardens and forests, looking after a tree throughout its life from seed

through to old age, finally offering felling services when necessary. With 50 years of experience to utilise, Dolwin & Gray can offer expertise in pruning, cleaning, reduction, reshaping, crow lifting, sectional dismantling of trees both large and small, and grinding of stumps.

Dolwin & Gray also provides outstanding landscaping services, starting with an initial meeting to plan and discuss the

best option tailored to the needs of the customer. Then, the company can offer ground clearance, ground preparation, turfing, grass seeding, hedge cutting and planting from small shrubs through to semi-mature trees.

Furthermore, the experts can offer tree reports and surveys to BS5837:2012, with advice on design, demolition and construction. Dolwin & Gray can assist

with applications for work to be carried out under Tree Preservation Orders in conservation areas with local authorities.

For more information, contact Dolwin & Gray's friendly and professional team using the details below.

**T 01892 853232**  
**enquiries@dolwinandgray.co.uk**  
**www.dolwinandgray.co.uk**



## Sustainable Construction

# Why 'Design and build' for passivhaus



### What is Passivhaus?

**P**assivhaus is an energy and comfort standard for buildings.

Using the PHPP energy-modelling tool, we can calculate the heating (or cooling) required to maintain a steady, comfortable internal temperature. The result must be no more than 15 kilowatts of heat per m<sup>2</sup> of useful floor area per year. For a 200m<sup>2</sup> house, something like 2kW of heating power will provide what is needed when external temperatures are at their lowest.

In order to achieve this we need a highly insulated, airtight, building envelope with heat-recovery ventilation, efficient heating and hot water systems, and carefully positioned windows to maximise solar heat gain when it's needed, without creating an overheating risk when it isn't

Low energy building is at once a design and construction discipline. There are many excellent architects with a solid understanding of the design issues, and a growing number of builders well versed in the implementation but having contractor on board with the expertise in-house to cover both ends of the process has un-deniable benefits for the self-builder. Not least the benefit of knowing precisely who is responsible for any given part of the process.

### How does using a design and build company help self-builders to achieve their project goals?

Managing costs is challenging for anyone involved in the construction projects at the moment. As both designers and contractors, having up to date cost information means we can use that knowledge to inform design decisions. Amending and revaluating as the project develops.

**How important is it to aim for certified Passivhaus?**  
The passivhaus certificate is a record of the buildings performance, a stamp of excellence if you like so it certainly has value, probably adding to the re-sale value of the property but it's the actual performance of the building that really matters.

### How important is it to aim for certified Passivhaus?

I think we should all take a pragmatic approach to achieving the best possible results given the priorities and resources we are working with. The focus may be in-use energy consumption, as covered by PH, or embodied energy and material toxicity, which aren't.

Passivhaus is an invaluable part of the picture. It isn't the only approach worth considering.

Passivhaus is an invaluable part of the picture. It isn't the only approach worth considering.

**T 0117 942 9717**  
**info@greenheartuk.com**  
**www.greenheartuk.com**

**greenheart**  
sustainable construction & design

"The Greenheart team take real pride in their work which makes it a more enjoyable process for everyone. They are respectful and have integrity and this was extremely important to me when making such a significant investment." - Louise, Stroud

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## Portable Buildings

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## Landmark Windows & Joinery launches NEW Partner Program

"We are extremely proud and excited about our Partner Program. Our Partner Program will ensure we reach more customers homes and maintain original period properties in England. We will continue this focus further into 2023 alongside building a community of other window companies around us of whom we can partner and grow with together," stated Tom Hunt, Project Manager.

As well as being a 'Which? Trusted Trader,' Landmark is also London's leading sash window and joinery manufacturer. Becoming an approved partner with Landmark comes with a vast number of benefits from receiving job opportunities that ensure that warm leads are filtered and forwarded to approved partners based on companies' preferences and location, to being provided with the best marketing material for business growth.



Furthermore, you will also receive preferential pricing on all joinery with priority lead times,

access to Lead Tracking Software that will enable you to manage and track leads including admin material and support, and be assigned a Dedicated Account Manager who will be your single point of contact for all your needs.

For over 35 years, Landmark has been tailor-making quality hardwood sliding sash windows. As a family run business whose team of craftsmen boast an extensive history

of experience in the manufacture, repair and restoration of traditional windows, Landmark is committed to maintaining and preserving London and the surrounding counties English heritage and period properties.

**For more information, please see below:**  
**T 01992 761455**  
**info@landmarkwindows.co.uk**  
**www.landmarkwindows.co.uk**

## Roofing

### Waterproofing you can rely on

Carlisle Construction Materials Europe (CCM Europe) manufacture high quality waterproofing systems for new build and refurbishment flat roofing projects, along with the ARBO® range of sealants and EPDM tapes for façades, providing complete building envelope solutions for the construction industry.



CCM Europe is a dynamic company, driving innovation in speed and ease of installation, sustainability, and waterproofing performance across a variety of roofing technologies, including EPDM, bitumen and liquid Waterproofing. Offering expert technical advice to specifiers, CCM Europe supports optimised specifications, leveraging the variety across the company's waterproofing and sealants ranges.

CCM's RESITRIX® single ply waterproofing for flat roofs is the only roofing system that combines the properties of EPDM synthetic rubber and polymer-modified bitumen to create a durable hybrid membrane. An extremely flexible, single-layer waterproofing membrane, it can be applied on almost all substrates and provides fast and neat installation, with each section of membrane welded together quickly, easily and safely using a hot-air device without any need for naked flames.

Suitable for mechanical installation using induction technology, CCM's HERTALAN® EPDM system enables roofs to be made watertight quickly, with the company able to produce EPDM membranes up to 30m in length and in various widths up to 20m, thanks to its vulcanisation factory in Mansfield.

Another hero product within the CCM range is the ARBOFLEX® PU single component liquid waterproofing system. Made from pure polyurethane, which, once cured, forms a seamless elastic roof covering without any joints, ARBOFLEX® PU delivers air tightness and waterproofing on most substrates.

A high performance and wear-resistant membrane, ARBOFLEX® PU can adapt to any surface, including uneven, curved or irregular substrates. With its rapid-curing properties, it allows foot traffic within 24 hours. The single component liquid waterproofing can be applied straight from the tin, allowing fast and easy installation, and it is green roof compatible.

In addition to offering state of the art flat roofing and façade solutions, Carlisle supports expertise and knowledge sharing with the company's training courses at the CARLISLE® ACADEMY. Designed by professionals for professionals, CCM's training courses enable attendees to learn about the proven advantages of EPDM waterproofing solutions in an up-close, hands-on manner, ensuring construction industry professionals can maximise the products' performance benefits on site. For more information, visit: <https://www.ccm-europe.com/gb/academy>

Anticipating change creates opportunity for innovation and exceptional customer service. CCM has recently strengthened its sales and distribution network for the UK and the ROI market, welcoming new professionals to the company's sales team, with appointments including Charlie Patrick, who looks after the Eastern region, and Crawford McAllister who looks after the North and Scotland.

With ambitions to continue the company's impressive growth, CCM Europe has a clear strategy in place for further expansion. As a dynamic company that aims to support and motivate its people as much as possible, the business is constantly reviewing and developing its high performance product range.

**T 01623 627285**  
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**You can watch installation videos for CCM Europe products here:**



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# The seriously multi-purpose GRP Roofing System

Established in 2012, Tuff Waterproofing Ltd is the UK's premium designer, manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty GRP waterproof flat roofing systems. TuffStuff® has a dedicated product development team that work closely with customers and its own UK based manufacturing facility to produce an evolving product range that is suitable for multiple flat roof applications.

From its base in Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, TuffStuff® is the UK's premier GRP flat roofing system and supplies its products through a dedicated stockist network throughout the country.

The advanced TuffStuff® formula uses the latest liquid polyester resins, glass fibre mat reinforcement and flexible trims, to create a fully integrated waterproof, seamless attractive finish with a 25-year guarantee on materials.

Tuff Waterproofing has further expanded its TuffStuff® product range and is now offering its latest GRP roofing innovation; TuffStuff® flexible GRP. This is a single resin solution that provides an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. It is extremely quick to lay and does not require stripping or re-decking of the roof, saving customers both



time and money. It can be applied to a variety of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

Managing Director, Greg Gimenez commented, "Standard GRP is rigid when it is cured, and it is specifically designed for flat roofs. However it can only be applied to OSB3 (Timber), and while this has been very successful, contractors have been looking for overlay systems which can go over other substrates." TuffStuff Flexible GRP can go onto many substrates including felt, asphalt, single-ply, GRP, concrete, timber and metal.

While other companies have standard GRP, TuffStuff® knows that this flexible GRP provides



an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. TuffStuff® flexible GRP has become a very important product already, for a number of reasons. It is a one-pot system, whereas standard GRP comes with a base coat as well as a top coat, and this saves a contractor plenty of time and, comes with a 20 year product guarantee on the full system.

However, the major advantage is that while it is curing, it is actually showerproof, and Greg commented, "If contractors experience a rogue shower while installing, they may have to go off-site, but upon returning they can carry on knowing that their work is not ruined (showerproof whilst curing), as it would be with standard GRP. This aspect of our product will really excite contractors that work with GRP regularly." This plus the fact that it is crack resistant, with no weak points has meant that facility



companies have also begun using the flexible GRP for patch repairs too.

TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane – an ideal solution for areas of heavy-duty foot traffic.

Tuff Waterproofing Ltd will be exhibiting at the UK Construction Week in October in Birmingham, during which clients can find out more about this amazing new product.

**For more information,  
please see below:  
T 01977 680250  
info@tuffwaterproofing.co.uk  
www.tuffstuff.co.uk**



SCAN ME



## FLEXIBLE GRP

Providing an exceptional combination of versatility and durability. Quick to lay, with no need to strip or re-deck a roof, this fast-curing system saves time and money.

It's a single-resin solution which can be applied to a multitude of surface types and structures including vertical sections.

With two coats applied within one hour, TuffStuff® Flexible GRP will form a highly flexible, extra tough and seamless waterproof membrane - can be a solution for areas of heavy duty foot traffic.

# TUFF STUFF FLEXIBLE GRP



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# Make your project possible

**D**CON Safety Consultants Limited offers leading health and safety consultancy and construction statute advice services. The company prioritises and specialises in the highest levels of informed and intelligent advice, senior project resource allocation and compliance assurance. Informed by industry expertise, DCON Safety Consultants Limited knows that every project has potential risks, no matter what its potential benefits, so its team of highly experienced construction professionals helps to ensure clients' statutory conformity.

Upon gaining understanding of the specific needs, goals

and desires of each client and their project, DCON Safety Consultants Limited is dedicated to implementing a design and construction management plan that will meet or exceed these requirements. And, DCON Safety Consultants Limited ensures that there is honesty, integrity, trust and professionalism underpinning every project. Moreover, the company's services are centred on three delivery principles:

■ **Maximising Quality:** The company implements proven health, safety and wellbeing strategies to help clients achieve high quality and cost-effective work commensurate with the design of their projects.

■ **Minimising Risk:** The company effectively manages design and delivery risk on projects to match each client's desired risk level profile.

■ **Managing Compliance:** The company relies on its extensive background working on a wide variety of projects to assist clients in developing, monitoring and maintaining compliance performance.

This excellent service would not be possible without the leadership of Diarmuid Condon, a construction industry leader who brings unique perspectives to encourage, support and mentor the abilities of his colleagues. As a

construction professional with a surveying background and experience spanning two decades, Diarmuid is emblematic of DCON Safety Consultants Limited's commitment to providing outstanding services to clients.

Diarmuid has contributed his invaluable expertise to over 400 projects over 20 years, with a client list including public sector departments, corporate owners, real estate developers, main contractors, design professionals and infrastructural bodies. With this incredible portfolio, Diarmuid is helping DCON Safety Consultants Limited to become a leader in health and safety consultancy across the construction industry.



## Leaders in Built Environmental Safety and Health and Wellbeing Consultancy

Consulting on various aspects of project design, constructability and operational lifecycle matters for local and global commercial clients.

### CONTACT US:

**DCON Safety Consultants**  
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Email [info@dconsafety.com](mailto:info@dconsafety.com)  
Phone +353 (0)1 611 1556

[www.dconsafety.com](http://www.dconsafety.com)

Key to DCON Safety Consultants Limited's services is working as a Project Supervisor for the Design Process and CDM Advisor in various sectors across the Irish construction market. No project is too simple or too complex for the company's construction safety consultants, all of whom are construction professionals with an average of 20 years' experience in the built environment. The ability to maximise this knowledge and skillset means DCON Safety Consultants Limited can generate distinctive and innovative ideas from traditional PSDP service inputs and outputs.

Additionally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited offers planning compliance assurance services. The ability to strategically support a positive planning decision is exclusive to the company. Its Draft Construction Management Plans (DCMP) inform the overall planning, coordination and control of a project from the beginning of construction to completion. The DCMP also safeguards the obligation placed upon a client to produce a safe, functional and financially viable project.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited also provides its main contractor clients with intelligent, practical, and reasonable physical site safety advice to support compliance and good practice adherence. Behavioural safety outcomes inform how the company approaches each solution with the contractor and their supply chain, identifying opportunities for improvement.

To complement this, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can also help with clients' health and safety strategy. Its holistic and integrated approach can help unlock substantial benefits for clients by providing a structured, objective and SMART framework for full optimisation through the creation of an environment that embraces health, safety and wellbeing.

This means DCON Safety Consultants Limited helps clients to improve their health, safety and environmental performance; enhance staff satisfaction thanks to improved performance; improve risk management and corporate governance with a clear audit trail; gain confidence from long-term planning, better sustainability and performance; and improve overall corporate reputation, including greater staff satisfaction and a more efficient procurement and supply chain.

Finally, DCON Safety Consultants Limited can offer a safety expert witness service, which is headed by Diarmuid himself. He has extensively supported safety-related matters, and is a certified and competent safety professional who will work with clients to identify exactly what kind of safety expert is needed. Then, he will use an extensive network of contacts to recruit the right person to protect clients' interests.

DCON Safety Consultants Limited's fantastic service offering and proven track record of offering leading health and safety consultancy services makes the company a worthy winner of our Commitment to Excellence award. Such achievements are proof that DCON Safety Consultants Limited is well-placed to help ensure your safety, health and wellbeing and make your project possible.

If you are interested in finding out more information on DCON Safety Consultants Limited's full range of excellent services, head to the website or get in touch directly using the contact details below.

**T +353 (0)1 611 1556**  
**[diarmuid.condon@dconsafety.com](mailto:diarmuid.condon@dconsafety.com)**  
**[www.dconsafety.com](http://www.dconsafety.com)**





# Redefining best practice in the external wall insulation sector

Approved and recommended by leading manufacturers, Swifix Ltd offer the most cost-effective solutions to enable the fitting of external furniture through external wall insulation and rain screen cladding, with the added benefit of being specifically designed for the job. Its solutions are held in high regard for the future of retrofitting and the Modular housing sectors as well as being the ideal solution for a longer-term maintenance provision.

Previous best practice called for timber pattresses to be installed prior to the insulation being installed, however due to introduction of PAS2035 to enable improvement in the quality



of installation, timber is no longer accepted in the sector.

Swifix Ltd has engineered and designed the innovative range of products to eliminate the use of timber when installing external wall and rain screen insulation systems, and an environmentally friendly solution as manufactured from partially recycled materials and a fully recyclable product.



The company's proven multifaceted solutions are designed to help customers working across a number of industries. These include System Manufacturers, Main Contractors and Installers, Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords, Architects, Homeowners and Private customers, as well as those involved in the Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) sector.

No matter the problem, Swifix Ltd maintains a strong and dependable ethos to deliver a service that is consistently high-quality and reliable. And, will always strive to keep its message clear of having the most innovative and cost-effective products currently available

on the market, to produce products that are highly robust and technically better than that of any competition, and to accelerate its efforts towards keeping the maintenance of all products risk free and easy to install.

Its extensive portfolio of products includes a solution for securing, rainwater goods, satellite fitting plates, tap fittings, connection point fittings, canopies, lights, alarms, fences providing a solution for both lightweight and heavier items, and all its products are recommended and also available from many leading system designers across the UK and Ireland ensuring that your investment is protected.

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All fittings meet stringent technical requirements by preventing the compression of insulation and providing a watertight seal. They are also approved by many leading manufacturers and organisations developing modern methods of construction to support the requirement for new homes in the UK.

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





# Bluerun Ltd once again achieves excellence in the workplace

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

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

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

Based in Wimbish, near Saffron Walden in Essex, Bluerun

manufactures quality, bespoke joinery items and everything is made to order, nothing is 'off the shelf.' Dee commented, "We manufacture items for the commercial market from door and window packers, to shopfronts, reception desks, mainframes, pub doors, and years ago we even made a trebuchet for Stansted Mountfitchet castle!"

Of course, the company has the capabilities to manufacture most things from timber, hardwood, softwood, panels and



sheet material. Some common items Bluerun Ltd manufacture for the domestic building market include windows, doors (exterior and interior), bi-folding doors, staircases, bespoke storage units and wardrobes, all of which come with the option of being sprayed in primer or to a finish.

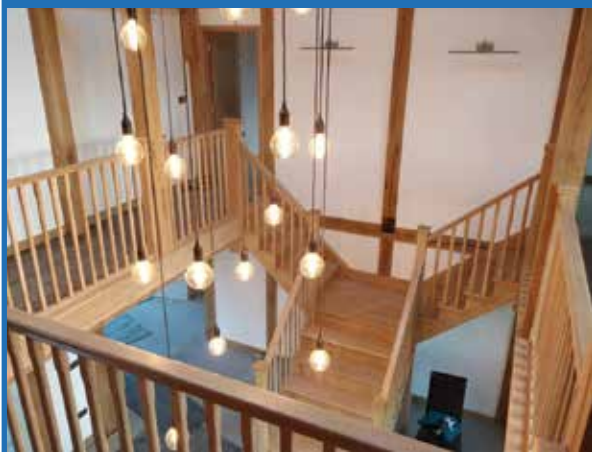
If you're looking for items made from both hard and softwood or even veneered and painted panels, Bluerun can reproduce an array of items including replacement sashes, where it can manufacture a brand new one on a



## Bluerun Limited

quality bespoke joinery since 1991

## QUALITY, CUSTOM MADE JOINERY



**Bluerun Ltd have been manufacturing top quality, purpose made joinery for the domestic and commercial markets for over 30 years.**

**Contact us to discuss your requirements.**



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

like for like basis, so the mouldings will match. "Similarly, if a domestic client has found an image of a door, for example, that they would like us to reproduce, we can usually do that. Recently we have started using a glass supplier that can supply us with stained glass effect units, complete with leading that has been aged and soldered, which looks absolutely breath-taking," added Dee.

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

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

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

T 01799 599995  
dee@bluerunltd.co.uk  
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## High quality, high capacity mowing systems

In this issue of Building Update, we are pleased to announce that we have selected L S Products BV as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its dedication and innovative design of the best mowing systems for the maintenance of large area turfgrass.

As a response to the increasing market demand for an upgrade to the 15-year-old electrically driven rotary mowers, the company started working on a newer, more improved version. Combining his years of experience and expertise, Syb Leijenaar – LS Products BV owner and Eco Clipper® inventor developed a new line of electric mowers that graced the market in 2018, and this was when the Eco Clipper® was born.

Built from experience, the Eco Clipper® Mowing System has evolved from the mowing system that was originally developed in the nineties on the turfgrass farm of the Leijenaar family in the Netherlands. Since the first electric mower product launch in 2002 to the latest Eco Clipper® range, L S Products BV has developed an extensive portfolio of machinery and equipment that has grown rapidly and been revolutionary to the turfgrass industry.

“Eco Clipper® is a range of large area mowers with a high productivity that help field managers to minimise their mowing costs, while producing a professional cut. Our mowers are electrically driven and use a special mowing deck design with small mowing blades. The mowing decks have good contour following capabilities and disperse clippings well, even in wet grass. This means we have a few important advantages over other mowers. These include delivering the highest mowing speed possible thus producing a higher productivity, they are quieter and more fuel efficient because of the small blades and electric drive, and they are more versatile to schedule because they can deal with wet grass and any other adverse weather conditions,” said Syb.



The Eco Clipper® Mowing System offers many advantages over traditional cylinder and rotary mowers. Because it consists of an independently suspended 106cm wide deck section, it is cleverly linked together in larger, flexible contour following mowing decks. The entire design and development of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System delivers a clean cut, even clippings dispersion and excellent following of the ground contours with minimal soil compaction.

The system also caters for bespoke requirements so customers can attach the decks to different frames, whether it be Carried or Towed. Offering three options, the Front Mower consists of a single deck with 2-6 sections, a Towed Mower consists of three separate decks of 10-14 sections wide, and a Carried Rear Mower is combined with a Front Mower and consists of 10-14 sections wide.

We asked Syb if he were to describe the company in three words what would he choose and why, and he answered, “Innovative, we believe that it is always possible to improve. Secondly, our serving. What we offer our customers is ultimately a solution to the problems they are facing. Our products are designed to help our customers to do their job better. And thirdly, we are agile. Every member of our team has the ability to act fast and adapt to the ever-changing



industry. We are also quick to react to any problems our customers may be facing and work hard to do what needs to be done to help them.”

One particular product to note is the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport for sporting grounds.

Similar to the entire Eco Clipper® Mowing Range, the goal with the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport was to maintain the cutting performance of a properly tuned cylinder mower, but without the high maintenance required for mowing conditions such as wet grass and weeds.

The smooth cutting decks with fast rotating small blades ensure a high quality of cut and a good distribution of the clippings. The clippings are also well spread in wet grass, which makes it possible to schedule the mower almost independently to all weather conditions.

Due to the electrically driven blades, the mower is very economical and quiet. The large wheels and clever deck linking system ensure good contour following and enable high mowing speeds.

Municipalities, sports field and park managers have taken delight in the advantages that the Eco Clipper FM4 Sport brings. The EC-FM4 Sport is a 4.11m

wide mower that has four independent cutting decks. The forward position provides excellent visibility and comfort for the tractor operator.

Previous users have reported high productivity gains, a factor two compared to 5-gang self-propelled cylinder mowers, and showed a large appreciation to the low maintenance and the mowers ability to schedule the mowing even under less favourable mowing conditions such as early morning dew and wet autumns.

“We started our focus on increasing mowing productivity in turfgrass production. With a few adjustments, this mowing system has proven to be a major step forward in reducing mowing costs on sports fields and large recreational grass areas. Some users have cut their mowing costs by more than half since using it!” stated Syb.

Going forward, L S Products BV is looking to continue its successful start in the sports field market in the Netherlands and is keen to now debut this line of products here in the UK to British sports field managers so they can also enjoy the benefits of the Eco Clipper® Mowing System.

With the development of a robotic mower for turfgrass production in the pipeline, L S Products BV has a busy yet exciting few years ahead. In closing, we asked Syb what a commitment to excellence means to the company, “We feel we achieve excellence because we are completely committed to offering the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass which is of course, achieved by our Eco Clipper® Mowing System.”

**For more information, please see below:**  
**T +31 6 46 75 35 60**  
**info@ecoclipper.com**  
**www.ecoclipper.com**

### ‘Dedicated to offer the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass’







Eco Clipper FM4 Sport  
for sporting grounds  
[www.ecoclipper.com](http://www.ecoclipper.com)





# Expert architectural metalwork for high-profile heritage buildings

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

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

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

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

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

are repeat customers, trusting the highly skilled professional approach and end results.

Recent prestigious projects included designing new cast iron



columns to repair a roof structure and replicate original features at an operational railway station: designed and built during the Victorian era as Managing Director, Gareth Roberts explains, "Several of the cast iron columns were cracked and needed replacement, due to ground subsidence. The damaged sections of cast iron columns were removed, then new ones installed, without removing the roof. Our skilled engineers worked with the prime contractor to carry out the design and manufacture, smoothly and efficiently, allowing the busy commuter station to carry on working without significant disruption."



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

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

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

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

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# Environmentally friendly plastic lumber

**A**t Building Update, we are proud to announce that we have selected Kedel as the recipient of our Commitment to Excellence Award for its ongoing efforts in producing eco-friendly plastic products for a more sustainable future.

Kedel is a family business founded on ethical and ecologically sound principles. Dedicated to making sustainable living attractive, Kedel believe that by incorporating sustainable recycled plastic products into personal and working environments, it can create a happier, healthier and infinitely more sustainable future for generations to come.

Established by three brothers, Kieran, Dermot and Lewis Walch, Kedel is based in Burnley and supplies nationwide. We spoke to Dermot who explained what commitment to excellence means to them and how they feel they achieve it. "Commitment to excellence is an attitude towards work. You're only as good as your weakest link, so we try to give our staff an autonomous responsibility around servicing our customers and through this we are achieving service excellence."



Because of this, people can make quicker decisions and our customers end up 100% satisfied much quicker. Eco-Friendly Plastic is what we do. Not many people believe plastic can be green but it can. We manufacture plastic wood made from waste polystyrene, and are also suppliers of many other types of recycled plastic profiles from other manufacturers, which allows our customers to keep their carbon footprint down. We maintain excellence throughout our business through our sustainable products, sustainable supply chain and sustainable manufacturing policy."

Winners of the Feefo Trusted Service Award, Kedel's range of recycled plastic lumber reflects the future of the construction industry. From plastic fencing pales and edging board pegs to round posts, boards and



planks, tongue & groove planks, decking, and so much more, Kedel's extensive product range comes with a number of benefits. Of course, the largest advantage of plastic lumber in general is that it does not rot, absorb water and is highly resistant to damage. This much more versatile material means it has a life longevity to be placed in all weathers and climates making it a perfect material for use in construction, leisure, education, gardens and any water applications.

Some could claim that plastic wood is bad for the environment, however, Kedel would argue that yes, initially the cost of plastic wood may be higher but the outcome is that you have a product that will last a lifetime due to its extended longevity and zero maintenance properties. To add to this, Kedel only uses recycled plastic that would otherwise go to landfill, therefore, its contribution towards a circular economy is something to be highly commended.

Moving forward, Dermot explained what the future holds for the company. "We are about to increase the working hours of our extrusion plant to be operating 24 hours



a day 5 days a week which will double our production time, and to support this we are recruiting more extruder operators. In the future, we plan to build a

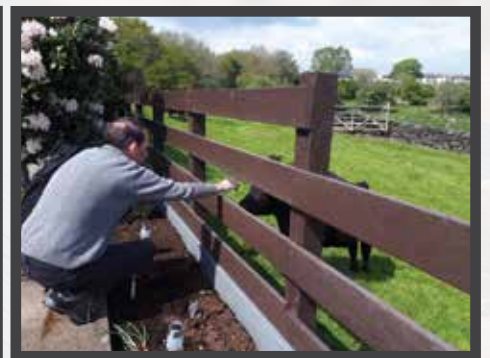
network of resellers around the UK, as the current cost of transport is at an all-time high so we are looking at ways around this for better business practice and to allow for an eco-friendlier way of working."

In closing, we asked Dermot how he felt receiving our award, he responded, "We are thrilled. It shows we are doing all the right things and going in the right direction and we will endeavour to live up to it."

**For more information, please see below:**  
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companies, landowners, housing associations and councils to advise the best practice and the most useful ways to utilise all assets and resources, and how to acquire them.

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up to date with how the construction of houses will look in the future. Think modular housing, electric vehicle charging, the use of photovoltaics, Bright Ideas already has plans in place to overcome these potential barriers with its Bright Ideas Energy that is designed to provide highly efficient and cost-effective green energy solutions for your development.

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## Industrial Technology & Thermal Products

### Watlow reflects on 2022

2022 has lots to be remembered for, challenges and triumphs. But for electric heating element manufacturer Watlow, it's been highly significant year in the company's journey to date. Here Johann Lainer, Marketing Communications Manager Europe at Watlow, reflects on the company's achievements in 2022.

#### 100 years in the making

Halfway through 2022 marked Watlow's 100 year-anniversary. The company, which was founded in 1922 in Missouri, USA, is now a global electric heating specialist with over 1,000 patents and 4,200 employees working across locations in North America, Asia and Europe.

Watlow began manufacturing electric heating elements for the shoe industry, before widening its product offering in the 1930s to introduce electric immersion heaters to replace steam pipes and fire-hazardous gas. Then, in the 1980s, Watlow expanded its global reach with the opening of sales offices in Italy, France, the UK and Taiwan.

Since its founding in 1922, the company has developed into a highly



regarded industrial heating technology manufacturer, holding more than 1,000 patents and employing over 4,000 people working in nine manufacturing facilities and five technology centres across three continents.

Additionally, Watlow gains sales coverage in 178 countries and, most recently, opened a facility in Cebu, Philippines in October 2022 to support local customers focusing on energy and environmental technologies.

#### Eurotherm acquisition

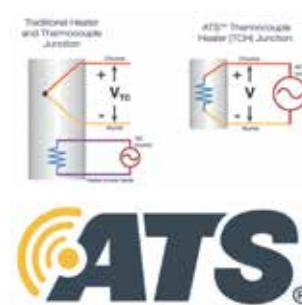
In June 2022, Watlow announced it had signed an agreement to acquire Eurotherm® from Schneider Electric, the global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation.

Eurotherm is a premier global provider of temperature, power and process control, measurement and data management equipment, systems, software and services for global industrial markets. The company's headquarters are in Worthing, UK, with core manufacturing operations in Łódź, Poland, and a headcount of about 650 people worldwide.

[www.watlow.com](http://www.watlow.com)

### The new alternatives in power conversion

Power conversion is familiar in most consumer and industrial technologies, which typically use AC adapters to convert to DC and supply the required voltage. However, while the method of conversion allows a heater to



operate at a given set temperature, it receives the full voltage when turned on, which can cause damage over time in some cases. Other solutions, such as phase-angle controllers and DC power supplies also have their own setbacks, making power conversion a tough task. In this article, Stan Breitlow, chief system designer at industrial temperature controller manufacturer Watlow, discusses the new alternative in power conversion.

#### The necessity of power conversion

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

The issue becomes worse when constructing devices for an international market. Heaters often have very specific voltage requirements, but the power sources can vary from country to country. In today's global economy, there is a great need to normalise this power for use with heaters built for the voltage requirements of any country. In short, power conversion is an old idea, but current technologies in the market are not well suited for some applications.

#### The problem with power conversion

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

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

#### New power conversion technology

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

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

For further information, please contact Johann Lainer, T +43 6244 201290 [jlainer@watlow.com](mailto:jlainer@watlow.com) [www.watlow.com](http://www.watlow.com)



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

Originally published in Modern Machine Shop

Photos: UNISIG



**F**or deep-hole drilling, part handling might be the most visible automation element, but it's not necessarily the most impactful. Often, it's internal process automation that yields the most significant results even with a manually loaded drilling machine.

When it comes to automating deep-hole drilling, there are challenges unique to the process itself. These include fixturing complexities – where maintaining alignment requires elements such as guide bushings and tool supports not present in a conventional lathe or milling machine – and part attributes such as length and weight.

Long parts mean a long drilling cycle time, and maintaining production rates often requires multi-spindle, deep-hole drilling systems. Unfortunately, stopping a two or four-spindle machine means two or four spindles sit idle until the parts are loaded and unloaded. So in these instances, the more parts in the machine at one time, the more automation can actually inhibit cycle time while the machine is running.

Solving this problem in multi-spindle machines requires internal automation to achieve the objectives of lean manufacturing and one-piece flow. In-machine loaders singulate processes so that even within a small four-piece batch you maintain one-piece flow. The operator or automation device puts in a part and takes a part out and the machine does a bit of maneuvering inside to sequence those four parts in such a way as to minimize spindle downtime while maintaining upstream and downstream processes for one-piece flow. For instance, parts could be loaded onto a smart conveyor, indexed, and lifted into chucks for the drilling cycle before robotic unloading on the out-feed side so that there are no bottlenecks to a steady production flow.

Tool life management is another form of internal



automation. Getting feedback to the machine enables the deep-hole drilling process to adapt or halt, if necessary, before tools and parts are damaged.

Tool life management is built into a machine's control, and the machine senses torque thrust and coolant. Chip condition is usually the first indicator of wear, which would otherwise require an operator present to detect, so the machine actually monitors the process and can predict tools starting to wear and identify when they need to be changed. A tool life management system also can count distances drilled and the number of cycles then prompt a tool change at the appropriate time.

That kind of in-machine automation smooths the path for external automation. As the process builds, highly standardized options for robot-ready machines such as an automatic door, workpiece-present sensors and programmable workpiece fixturing makes it easier to add a robot at a later date. These robot-ready

machines also create efficiencies before they are fully automated. Even with manual loading, the automatic doors and programmable clamping make the process more efficient.

In UNISIG's experience, an embedded reamer tool changer enables manufacturers to manage significant throughput increases, even with an operator. With this technology, operators can maintain the pace of production loading the machine, while eliminating the task of inserting reaming tools for each cycle. This allows the operator to redirect efforts towards tasks such as additional quality checks and off-machine setups.

**Please visit us at EMO 2023, Hannover from 18th-23rd September. Further information on all machines of the UNI series and the complete UNISIG machine program is available at: [www.unisig.com](http://www.unisig.com) or follow the company on LinkedIn and Twitter (@UNISIG).**





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DEEP HOLE DRILLING SYSTEMS



# Vandecasteele Houtimport are one of the leading European timber importers and have ambitious aims to trade only in certified timber by 2025

The Belgian fifth-generation family company, founded in 1883, Vandecasteele Houtimport specialises in the import, trading and export of tropical hardwood from Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, Scandinavian and North-American softwood, North American and European hardwood.

Sustainability and reliability are an essential part of Vandecasteele Houtimport's DNA. With over 140 years of experience, the company is determined to achieve the goal of trading only certified timber by 2025. The challenge lies with the hardwood and especially the tropical hardwoods. Today they are at 80% certified and have a clear vision: only certified timber has a future.

A long-term goal that can only be achieved by including all partners. Substantial investments have been made over the years to be able to realise this future goal. You cannot achieve this goal overnight. This is a long-term job in which all partners must be included. If we want to assure our customers that we keep our promise to only trade timber that comes from well-managed, certified forests, we need to be sure that all our trading partners share the same strictest certification and sustainability processes as we do.

Vandecasteele Houtimport has a unique business model. Importing timber from all over the world, keeping in stock for several years, in some cases, even decades. Stock is our strength and our specialty. In times where supply is difficult or tight, we can count on our invested stocks to guarantee continued supply.

In order to achieve our goal we have taken several actions within the company. First, we were assisted by external experts to get the procedures and protocols in place. Secondly, the team at Vandecasteele was reinforced with two forest engineers in Brazil. That way we can keep a finger on the pulse of every shipment and we are able to accurately apply the ever-changing legislation in Brazil with great precision. This sends an important signal to our suppliers. They know that doing business with Vandecasteele Houtimport means complying with a procedure that is continuously refined and adapted. All timber transport requires our approval. When in doubt the timber is not accepted.

## Masters in diversification

Vandecasteele has a long-term commitment to preserving the forests. The family business imports more than 130 different species of timber coming from 40 countries and has over 120,000 cubic meters in stock, mainly certified hard and softwoods. We support the LKTS program of FSC® Denmark with which we want to help promote the use of lesser known species. We keep these lesser-known species in stock and offer them as alternatives. Timber is too often prescribed from a specific well-known species. From the point of view of responsible forest management, we must dare to choose the right durability class for an application instead of a specific timber species.

## Rethink everything: a positive evolution in consumer purchasing behaviour

Customers are increasingly asking questions about certification and the origin of the timber. Buyers are becoming more and more aware of the need to use certified timber. Importing tropical wood goes further than just asking for timber. There is a continuous evolution, because of new insights and new legislation.

We work together with external experts, we are broadening our internal knowledge and we continually make progress. Making progress is an ongoing process. Considerable steps have already been taken with the EU Timber Regulation but we can and should do better. We want to see and monitor a stronger application and support for certified timber. Vandecasteele communicates continuously with the users via its website and campaigns in order to spread that message. This is necessary because the purchase of FSC® certified wood contributes to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purchase of FSC® certified timber contributes to biodiversity.

Since the year 2000, Vandecasteele Houtimport has committed itself through the Corporate Durability Charter by signing up to environmental objectives exceeding the applicable legislation. In 2018, the charter started a partnership with CIFAL Flanders, the local HUB of

UNITAR, the Training and Education Centre of the UN. In 2020, Vandecasteele Houtimport was the first timber company in the world to obtain the international recognised 'SDG Pioneer certificate' from UNITAR CIFAL. In 2022, we were the first timber company in the world to

have achieved the 'SDG Champion award.'

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**RE: THINK WOOD**

**Nature's first choice**

- View and order stock on MY VDC
- Prompt delivery
- 2025 – our aim is to trade in Certified timber only from 2025 onwards

**VANDECASTEELE**  
HOUTIMPORT

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