

10th Anniversary Edition Quest

Environmental
SPRING 2004

ISO CERTIFICATION LATEST

Fluent in good business practice

As a main distributor of Swagelok Company and Kenmac products, Aberdeen Fluid System Technologies is a leading supplier of fluid system components. With headquarters in Aberdeen and newly acquired premises in Irvine, the business serves a wide range of market sectors throughout Scotland - from oil, gas and power to paper, pharmaceutical and food processing industries.

Contracts are managed by a highly motivated team of 20 staff, working in areas of customer support, field sales engineering and supply chain management. This innovative company is totally committed to providing the very best working conditions and team welfare support. As a result of their

efforts to combat stress in the workplace, Aberdeen Fluid System Technologies won 'Best Small Business' in the prestigious national awards, part of the European Week for Safety and Health campaign, which is promoted in the UK by the Health & Safety Executive. In December 2003 they also received a commendation from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency for their entry in the 2003 VIBES national environmental award competition.

As a highly professional company committed to meeting ISO9001:2000 quality standards, they also recognise the importance of good environmental management practice and in February 2002 set out to achieve ISO14000 certification.

"ISO 14001 brings us a distinct advantage".

As Managing Director, Gerry Farrell explained, "We have based a key element of our business strategy on our ability to demonstrate to our customers and to our people that our registration to International Standards is our route to continual improvement and also to ever higher levels of the service we provide as an organisation.

"ISO14001 brings us a distinct competitive advantage. You don't have to be a large corporation to gain the benefits that are available from having world-class management systems. We are a small business with the vision of continued and sustainable growth. We want to be viewed by our customers and our own suppliers as different and as a company that can help deliver service excellence and add value. IMSM/QAS are helping us to deliver this vision."

When asked why Aberdeen Fluid System Technologies chose IMSM, Mr Farrell told us, "During the first half of 2002 we carried out a business review on the provision of our

standards registration support services. Our incumbent service provider (a major international company) had lost focus on us as a customer and had stopped 'listening' to us. We were looking for a best total cost and service solution and IMSM/QAS demonstrated to us their ability to deliver this. We are now looking forward to further strengthening our relationship with IMSM/QAS over the longer term."

www.swagelok.com/aberdeen



Members of the AFST team - Sam McCulloch, Craig Robertson and Nicola Morrice with Managing Director, Gerry Farrell (pictured right).

10 years of success

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In 2004, we are celebrating IMSM's 10th anniversary and would like to thank all the valued customers who we have helped to achieve ISO and other industry specific standards over the years for their business. As always, our aim is to make the certification process as efficient and cost effective as possible.

We look forward to being of service to you in future so that you can continue to enjoy the benefits of having the ISO14001 Environmental Management Standard in place.

Raising Standards

Founded in 1994, IMSM adds value to businesses by raising the standards of quality and environmental management systems.

For an affordable fixed fee, IMSM provides flexible, fully integrated solutions - from initial consultation and production of the manuals required to meet ISO standards, through to seamless certification and surveillance by our sister company, QAS International Ltd.

In short, together we make obtaining and retaining ISO simple and straightforward. We've already helped more than 5,000 small to medium sized businesses achieve ISO certification and we are always pleased to hear from existing and prospective customers.

Email us at sales@imsm.com



Wising up to EMS



Envirowise is a Government-funded initiative dedicated to helping businesses become more competitive and profitable by reducing waste at source. We invited Leigh Mapledoram of Envirowise to comment on how plastic processors can benefit by adopting an Environmental Management Systems (EMS). This is what he told Quest:

The benefits of an Environmental Management System

A sound, well-conceived Environmental Management System provides an integrated approach to managing environmental performance and complying with environmental regulations. An EMS is a practical management tool that will help your company cut waste, gain a competitive

advantage, establish a system for continual environmental improvement, demonstrate compliance with its legal obligations, and improve its public image.

Many plastics companies are under pressure from their customers to develop an Environmental Management System. Others recognise the environmental impact of their business and want to minimise it. Implementing an EMS can help you assess and manage the environmental consequences of your operations. It enables you to identify opportunities to reduce waste and thus achieve savings through reduced operating costs. For instance, a recent survey found that the average first-pass rejection rate for polymer in the industry is over 10%. As well as the obvious

"...implementing an EMS has reduced the cost of disposing of its general waste by 38% and another has saved £10,500 per year..."

disposal, the true cost of scrap includes labour, regrinding costs, raw material value and energy consumption. One company that has implemented an EMS has reduced the cost of disposing of

its general waste by 38% and another has saved £10,500 per year by reducing scrap levels.

www.envirowise.gov.uk



"ISO Certification recognises our commitment to the quality of our procedures and products."

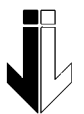
A free guide for the Plastics Industry

Of course, an EMS will enable your company to save money only if it is implemented in an effective and systematic manner. To help you do just that, Envirowise has published a Good Practice Guide (GG251) - 'Environmental Management Systems For The Plastics Industry'. It contains a short description of ISO 14001 requirements for each particular element of the EMS; guidance and tips on how to reap the benefits of implementing an EMS; checklists to help you measure your progress and plan further actions; and some case studies. This free guide can be obtained online from www.envirowise.gov.uk or from the Environment and Energy Helpline on 0800 585794.

JJ Plastics



Practising what they preach



JJ PLASTICS

Today, loose plastic waste accounts for around 40% of all refuse in landfill sites and yet it can be recycled efficiently and cost effectively. Environment Agency certified reprocessor, JJ Plastics, recently launched a hard-hitting campaign, 'Plastic - What a waste', aimed at encouraging businesses to recycle their plastic waste. Serving local authorities and other organisations from their

"...we believe it is important to demonstrate our commitment to achieving the highest standards in everything we do."

headquarters at Flint in North Wales, the company has another processing facility under construction in Yorkshire. Unlike other plastic recyclers, JJ Plastics are unique in that they will take all types of plastic. What's more, for every tonne of plastic waste supplied, the company donates £5 to Leukaemia Research. The recycled plastic pellets are then used to produce items such



Sorting, melting, extruding and reduction of plastics at JJ Plastics Flint based facilities.

as signage, picnic benches, fencing, flooring, playground

equipment and cones.

In 2003, JJ Plastics received formal recognition of their own environmental management responsibilities when they achieved ISO14001 certification through IMSM.

"At JJ Plastics we believe it is important to demonstrate our commitment to achieving the highest environmental standards in everything we do", said Managing Director, Paul Rendle-Barnes.

www.jj-plastics.co.uk

Call IMSM for more information on certification - today.

Green from the word go

ISLAND STEEL

Based in Newport, South Wales, Island Steel is a family-run business with more than 30 years experience of steel processing. The company imports raw material from around the world and supplies customers with mild steel products in various forms, whilst providing a quick, convenient, value-added cutting and slitting service.

Operating round the clock at their modern 42,000 sq ft processing facility within Alexandra Docks,

what makes Island Steel stand out as a shining example to other industrial companies is their environmentally conscious approach to running their business. As Assessor, Jerry Evans, told us:

"With such sensitivity to the environment, being ISO 14000 certified came naturally to Island Steel

"Owning their own site, Island Steel were able to erect purpose-built premises that incorporated environmental measures from the outset. For instance, their energy efficient buildings use a

thermostatically controlled heating system and instant hot



water supply. Working areas have been designed with good natural light to

reduce the need for artificial lighting. The company has also invested in sophisticated office equipment with power saving facilities.

But perhaps the most remarkable eco-friendly feature is that the premises are not connected to the main sewerage system. Island Steel operates a special bio-system for the safe disposal of effluent



View showing Island Steel's gantry cranes with lifting capabilities of up to 30 Tonne.

waste, which requires emptying infrequently and only needs to be serviced once a year. And of course, all other waste material generated within their offices and steel processing facility - whether it's paper or pallets - is recycled wherever possible. With such sensitivity to the environment, being ISO14000 certified came naturally to Island Steel."

www.islandsteel.co.uk

Slitting and cutting machinery at Island Steel's Newport based plant.



The right treatment

WCS Environmental Limited was formed in April 1987 by the current Managing Director, Mike Sullivan. Today this Bristol-based company offer a diverse range of products and services including water treatment, air monitoring and waste management – incorporating everything from bacteria tests on vending machine water to the installation of high quality water plant for manufacturers of computer components; and from toxic fume analysis to the provision of new ventilation system installations.

In 2002, WCS Environmental merged with Gower Chemicals Limited and they now manufacture specialist water treatment chemicals at a newly commissioned treatment facility in Swansea. A mainline commodity chemical dilution

packaging plant also enables the company to meet all its customers' chemical needs.



Specialist water treatment chemicals and dilution processes at WCS Swansea

With health and safety, microbiological, engineering and chemical skills at their disposal, WCS Environmental offers wide-ranging expertise. Their customers include major PLCs, health authorities, building operation and mechanical maintenance companies. Over

the past seven years the company has also made inroads into the Ministry of Defence outlets across middle and southern England.

It was therefore important for WCS Environmental not only to be ISO9000 registered but to also gain certification for ISO14001 Environmental Management. Systems Mike Sullivan explained,

"The help and support given by IMSM in helping WCS to successfully gain certification was excellent."

"By achieving certification to ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems, the Company ensures we are in total control of all aspects of our Environmental Management, and fully compliant with current

legislation requirements. Achievement to ISO14001 has enabled the Company to promote environmental awareness to all employees and to monitor and improve environmental performance.

As we had already achieved certification to ISO9002 the certification process was relatively easy allowing several of the ISO14001 requirements to be integrated with

existing procedures. The help and support given by IMSM in helping WCS to successfully gain certification was excellent."

wcsenvironmental.co.uk

Visit www.imsm.com to download more case studies...



Recycling reaps rewards for EBARA



EPME Livingstone's ISO Group - Alex Craig, Steven Cairns, Chris Bennett, Gary Hadden and Tony Flynn (left to right).

Founded in 1991 as a subsidiary of Japan's EBARA Corporation, EBARA Precision Machinery Europe provides state-of-the-art products and services for manufacturing components and dry vacuum pumps. With headquarters in Germany - a country leading the way in recycling waste material - EBARA Precision Machinery Europe merged with EBARA Scotland in 1999, adding polishing and plating systems for major customers in the international semiconductor industry into their range of products and services.

Today the division employs more than 80 people in nine locations throughout Europe and in the Middle East. Utilising leading edge technology, the company's commitment to quality, reliability and customer satisfaction is key to its success. Dealing with major microchip manufacturers, EBARA

recognises that maintaining a reputation for good environmental management practice is imperative; especially as their service centres handle equipment contaminated during manufacturing processes.

In November 2003, EBARA Precision Machinery Europe's service centre achieved ISO14000 certification. Operations Manager, Alex Craig, told us, "I believe ISO14001 plus ISO9001 has a positive influence in maintaining quality, efficiency and safety - all three of which are an inseparable part of profitability.

"We have a cradle to the grave responsibility to our customers to handle and treat their pump by-products in a professional and documented way. Bearing in mind that our customers are some of the largest companies in Europe it is absolutely essential we do not endanger or put at risk any human, animal or the environment by handling our customers' by-products with poor working practices. By achieving ISO14001 I believe this is a tangible independent certification to show our customers we are addressing their concerns in the best possible way. This also means our customers do not need to audit our facility."



Waste generated at EBARA's plant can be used to neutralise the by-products of other plants.

When their facility in Livingstone, Scotland, recently underwent a major expansion programme the company adopted an environmentally friendly selection process for all new equipment. Embracing ISO14001 even influenced their approach to sourcing suppliers, as Alex Craig explained: "We are much more conscious of the waste we generate in terms of workshop consumables and we now recycle as much as possible. In fact, following Geoff Read's guidance that our waste may be another company's raw material, we took positive

action and sourced a new waste treatment company. Our cleaning process generates a large alkaline by-product. The company we now use has a

Kevlar reprocessing plant, which generates a large acid by-product. They now use our waste to neutralise their acid. So, not only do we get a great price for treating our waste, but I am able to tell my customers

that we even recycle our liquid waste. As a result of separating all our waste, its classification has reduced from hazardous to special."

"Embracing ISO14001 even influenced our approach to sourcing suppliers..."

www.ebara-europe.com

IMSM joins American SPI



As an established member of the British Plastics Federation (BPF), IMSM has been offering customers in the UK practical solutions to implementing ISO14000 for several years. Now IMSM's unique standards experience within the highly competitive plastics industry is also being applied throughout the USA.

"We are delighted to have joined the American Society of

**"...this experience...
...has been welcomed around the world."**

the Plastics Industry," announced IMSM CEO Michael Bright. "We have focused on ISO9000 and ISO14000 for the plastics industry

for many years, providing a tailored approach to quality management and environmental standards."

He continued, "As our advice business has grown we have found that this experience -

equally applicable for producers and manufacturers - has been welcomed around the world. Joining the SPI demonstrates our commitment

to supporting companies in the important US plastics sector."

www.bpf.co.uk
www.socplas.org

Exhibition dates...

March 31 - April 2	Globe 2004	Vancouver
October 20 - 27	K2004	Dusseldorf
November 30 - December 3rd	Pollutec	Lyon, France