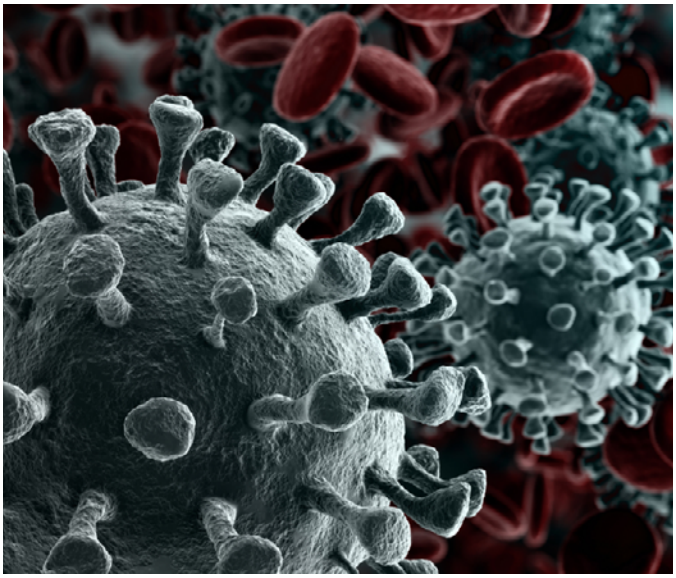
Autumn 2020

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Members share impact of coronavirus

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA), which has been supporting UK businesses who convert materials into gaskets and seals for over 25 years, report on the results of their second Member Survey of 2020.

The aim of the survey was to find out the impact of Coronavirus and lockdown, views on the economy and Brexit, and other issues effecting businesses.

Results from the survey, which closed ahead of the second lockdown in England, are summarised below.

Continued on Page 2

Contents

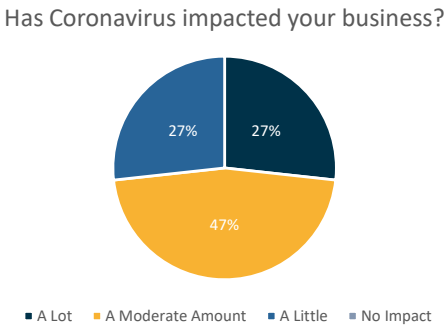
- Members Survey 1
- Message from the Chairman 4
- Welcome to RGH Rubber 5
- Award Won for Third Year 6
- Kewell Machines for Sale 7
- New Panel Saw Means Rapid Delivery 8
- Supporting the battle against COVID-19 9
- Rubber Compounding 10
- Claim your FREE Advert 11
- Superbikes Sponsorship Deal 12
- Jointine Joins Talks with Leaders Council 13
- Injection Moulding from Flemings 14
- Off Cuts Available 15
- New Moulding Presses 16
- Debut for Sponsored Driver 17
- Why Use Fabric Reinforced Rubber Sheeting? 18
- Save the Date 19
- Come on Clifton! 20
- What our Members have been up to 21
- Coronavirus Support 22
- Meet Your Committee 23
- What We Do 24
- UKGSA Members 25

THIS ISSUE:

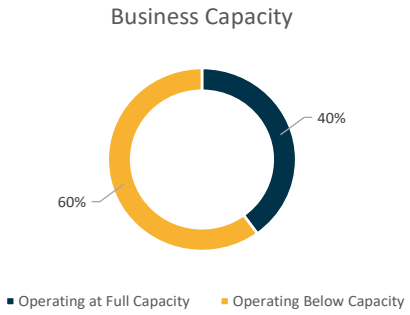
Member Survey • New Machinery & New Products • New Member Awards & Celebrations • What the Members Have Been Up To • What We Do

Members share impact of coronavirus

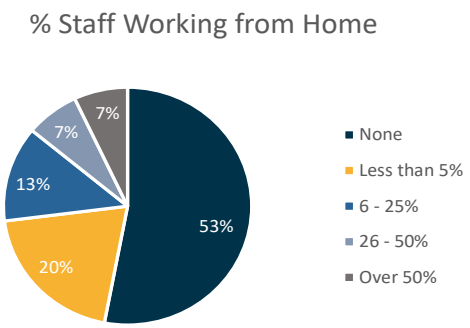
Q1: Has Coronavirus impacted your business?
It comes as no surprise that none of our members were immune from the impact of Coronavirus:



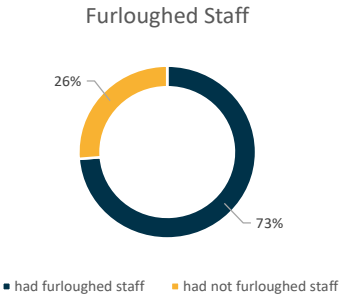
Q2: Business capacity
When asked about current capacity levels the majority of members were operating below capacity, although the 40% operating at full capacity must be viewed as extremely encouraging for the industry and may reflect investment highlighted elsewhere in the survey:



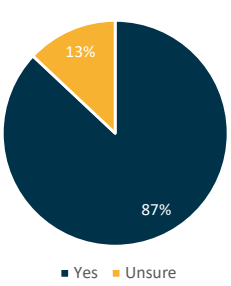
Q3: Percentage of staff still working at home (prior to second lockdown)
The survey did not establish the percentage of staff working from home during the height of the lockdown. The fact that almost 50% of all members still had personnel permanently working from home and 7% of members had over 50% of their staff working from home will, to some extent, reflect safety concerns for vulnerable members of staff:



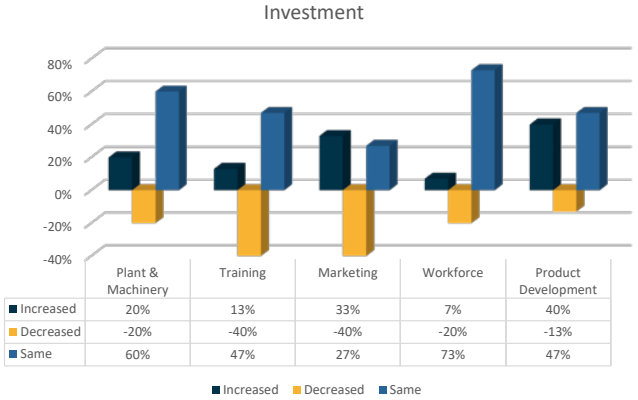
Q4: Furloughed Staff
Members were asked if they had used the Government's Furlough scheme:



Q5: Second Lockdown:
When asked if members felt their business could cope with another lockdown or increased social distancing measures (prior to the second lockdown in England), the overwhelming view of members is that they were confident they could cope, having invested in safety measures and PPE:



Q6: Investment
We asked members about investment in key areas of their business since March 2020 and whilst many members have reigned in spending on training and marketing, there has been a major focus on product development:

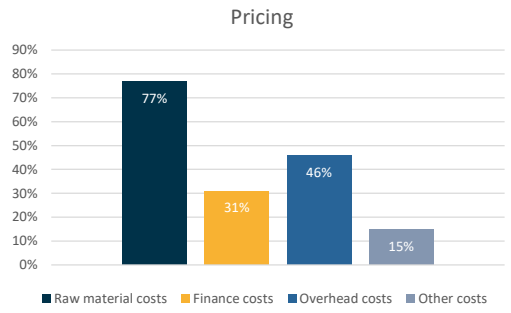


	Plant & Machinery	Training	Marketing	Workforce	Product Development
Increased	20%	13%	33%	7%	40%
Decreased	-20%	-40%	-40%	-20%	-13%
Same	60%	47%	27%	73%	47%

Members share impact of coronavirus

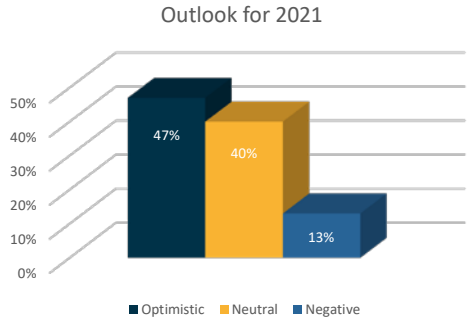
Q7: Pricing

We asked members to tell us what areas were impacting on decisions to potentially raise prices. Increases in raw material costs may well be a result of lack of clarity over Brexit coupled with reduced capacity due to COVID shutdowns. Overhead costs will be impacted by the next increase in the National minimum wage and ongoing costs of enhanced safety measures for staff:



Q8: Outlook for 2021

Despite coronavirus and Brexit, members were generally optimistic about the outlook for 2021:



Q9: Main Business Concerns

At the time of the Survey, the main challenges members were facing were:

- Another country-wide lockdown
- Another global lockdown
- Recovery, specifically for manufacturing, following lockdown/s
- No deal Brexit
- Brexit – little time for planning impact due to Coronavirus
- Business development / sales
- Continuity of demand
- Employee wellbeing and mental health

Compared to the previous quarter, the continuing impact of Coronavirus and further lockdowns plus Brexit are significant areas of concern, whereas previously Brexit, increased costs and competitor activities were more prevalent.

Simon Winfield, chairman of the UKGSA and director of MacLellan Rubber Limited, said:

"The survey has been a useful exercise to gauge the views of our Members at this difficult time. I was proud to see our Members' response during the first lockdown to diverting supplies and manufacturing to support our NHS.

"The continued lack of confidence in Government policy and communication regarding Brexit continues to affect UK businesses in all sectors, and organisations such as the UKGSA provide a forum for member to member support, the exchange of information and the sharing of ideas."

A Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the autumn edition of Cutting Edge...

As we move swiftly into Q4 of 2020 strange times continue for everyone. I am not sure if we are still in a 'new normal' or into a 'new, new normal', or if we are heading back to a previous version of 'normal' which I may have slept through. *As 'normal', answers on a post card, entries will be charged, terms and conditions apply, the winner may be appointed President of the USA.*

Despite the promise of vaccines to the masses in the very near future, news and media coverage continues to paint a bleak future. Experts warn of more pain to come, politicians can't agree on the right course of action, and the government continues to throw money at the situation with what often feels like indifference and consistently looks like imprudence. It's a good job that they are not running a business and the tax payer and bond markets are there to bail them out.

Just to be clear, I absolutely recognise the urgent need to stop the spread of this virus and how that conflicts with trying to keep the economy going. It was never going to be easy, but surely we could have done better?

There is also no doubt that there is still a lot of pain being felt by thousands of businesses and millions of individuals across the UK, and unquestionably financial support needs to come from central government, as they are instructing businesses to close and stopping people doing their jobs. But that support needs to be properly targeted and businesses need to be compensated for all fixed overheads whilst they are closed and arguably for profits they have lost whilst not being able to trade, otherwise how do they invest in the future? What could the government have done with the millions unfairly given to supermarkets in rates relief whilst continuing to trade, when competitors have been forced to close? What should they have done to ensure billions weren't fraudulently claimed under the furlough scheme?

Back to the here and now, our recent members survey, the results of which are published in this issue, highlighted that whilst many were operating below full capacity and that COVID has been a major factor, 47% were optimistic about the future and many have been taking the opportunity to invest in new products, staff training and capital equipment. Indeed I would argue that in recent weeks that optimism is growing, having spoken to many members whom have commented that productivity levels are almost back to normal and in some cases above pre-lockdown levels. Although concerns remained about a further lockdown, which has now come to pass, and the imminent threat of a more than chaotic exit from Europe, our members are working hard to develop new business partnerships across the world and strengthening existing ones.

Securing a strong future with high quality products, efficient manufacturing and outstanding service remains core for every one of our members, and we will continue to champion this at every opportunity.

Finally, Christmas is rapidly approaching and we can only hope that 2021 brings more positive news and strong economic recovery. Whilst I would like to send all of you Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year, for those of you who've managed to get a summer holiday in between the first and second lockdowns – bah humbug!

Simon Winfield
Chairman



Rubber Mouldings Manufacturer Joins UKGSA

Welcome to our new Member

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) welcomes RGH Rubber and Plastics Ltd (RGH) as a new Member. They joined in September 2020.

David Hildrow, managing director of RGH, said: "We are delighted to become a Member of the UKGSA and look forward to meeting up with other Members in the near future."

Established in 1986, RGH is one of the leading material converters in the UK. The family-run business manufacture high performance products at their manufacturing centre in Essex which also includes an in-house laboratory with capabilities for tensile and compression tests, peel, shear, tear and cyclic and at temperature tests, as well as measuring facilities for precision component parts.

RGH specialise in producing tailor-made solutions in sealing, bonding, cushioning and noise reduction with a product range that includes adhesive backed and non-adhesive foams, tapes, rubber, felt & fibres and filtration media. RGH also convert a wide range of 3M adhesives, from industrial grade adhesive tapes through to VHB tapes and acrylic foam tapes for the automotive industry. They supply a wide range of industry sectors with customers that include Bentley, Jaguar, Land Rover, NHS, ASDA and Travis Perkins.

Simon Winfield, chairman of the UKGSA and director of MacLellan Rubber, said: "As an Association, our Members possess a huge technical resource covering areas such as manufacturing issues, material selection and design & development, and are more than willing to offer advice and guidance to fellow Members. The UKGSA is a real collaborative network and I welcome RGH to our Association."

For more information about RGH visit their website.

rgh

CALL
01371 875941

EMAIL
sales@rghrubber.co.uk

rghrubber.co.uk

Let us convert your problem, into a solution

Providing solutions in:
- Sealing
- Bonding
- Noise reduction
- Damping and Barriers
- Cushioning
- Spacing
- Protection
- Packaging



Award Won for Third year



We're delighted to announce that UKGSA Member, Direct Gaskets, have been awarded Best Gasket Manufacturers & Suppliers 2020 by SME News UK Enterprise Awards.

This is the third year that Direct Gaskets, based in Hull, have won this particular award.

Speaking about their win, they said that it was solid proof of all the hard work accomplished by their staff. Given the tough year they have had during 2020, they are delighted to know they can still deliver award-winning service in the face of such adversity.

Direct Gaskets thank all their customers for remaining safe and following COVID-safe procedures on site which has helped them continue to service customers.

Well done to the Direct Gaskets team!

Best Gasket Manufacturers & Suppliers 2020

Machines for Sale

COX & WRIGHT TRAVELLING HEAD PRESS

Type 848 AE



Surplus to production requirements due to additional/new machines that have been bought over recent years, Kewell Converters are selling two machines.

Cox & Wright LC – 30 MK2 Travelling Head Press
Originally purchased by Calendonian Rubber in 1994 and purchased by Kewell Converters in 1997.
Max. cutting force - 30 tonnes
Cutting head - 400 x 500 mm
Bed size - 2300 x 510 mm
Stroke length (adjustable) - 10 - 120 mm
Belt width - 1800 mm
Operating height - 990 mm
Pump motor capacity - 1.1 kW 1.5HP
Approx. weight - 3560 Kg
Traverse and feed drives closed loop, D.C. servo motors
Feed System "Ping and grab" clamp feed - two fixed, one travelling clamp
Nylon belt cutting and feeding system
Intermediate cutting board and board shifter unit
Front material clamp
Cutting head - fixed or rotating.
Rotating head can be retro-fitted if required

MICA MKII BANDKNIFE

Type 848 AE



Oil cooler - fitted as standard
Electrical supply 3 phase + earth + neutral
20 amps per phase (LC30) and (LC45)
32 amps per phase (LC70)
Air supply - Compressed air at 5.6 kg/sq.cm (80 p.s.i.)

MICA MK22 Bandknife: Type 848 AE
Purchased in 1993
Serial number: 10630896
Blade Size: 9745.20.0.5.18TPI
Length of the cut - 3000 mm
Width of the cut - 1900 mm and 2950 mm
Fence - 750 mm
Auto cut set for cutting backward and forward
One sided blade
Double sided blade
Cut thickness 1mm - 850mm
Speed control for rotation of blade
Variable speed control for cutting the length

Interested parties should contact Kewell Converters on: 01732 864 310

New Panel Saw Means Rapid Delivery



As a leading plastics supplier, we are pleased to announce that our clear plastic sheet cutting service has been expanded with the recent arrival of our new Robland panel saw. This enables us to cut plastic sheets to specific sizes to exacting tolerances.

The Robland cutting table means we can cut plastic sheet up to 25mm thick and in sizes up to 1200mm x 2500mm.

We can cut our full range of plastic sheet including acrylic, Perspex, PET G, polycarbonate, nylon, and polyethylene.

In addition to our standard range of plastic sheeting, we are now stocking large quantities of 3, 4, 5 and 6mm clear polycarbonate sheeting, all in 8′ (2440mm) x 4′ (1220mm) which can be cut to your required custom size, enabling us to provide speedy delivery.

We provide plastic sheeting for a wide range of applications including:

- Clear Polycarbonate for machine guards
- Transparent Acrylic for screening
- Polyethylene for chute linings, wear strips and scrapers
- Replacement windows for greenhouses, narrow boats and caravans

For more information call the PTM/Munsch & Co team on:

01625 573971

PTM SEALING YOUR FUTURE

SBR Supporting the Battle Against COVID-19

Southbourne Rubber (SBR) is a lean, agile, customer focused, highly responsive manufacturer of rubber and silicone mouldings and extrusions. Having moved from the village of Southbourne to their current location in Waterlooville, near Portsmouth, Hampshire they are an established manufacturer of Aerospace & Industrial Rubber Mouldings, Grommets, O-Rings, Bondings, Washers, Seals, Gaskets & Sheeting with quality to AS9100D.

This year SBR diversified into the medical world and, in the Spring, their agility and responsiveness was more than tested and proven. In the early stages of the pandemic the UK Government made a plea for critical ventilator production.

SBR's Managing Director, Stephen Wilde, received a phone call at 8.30pm on Good Friday from BAE Systems asking if SBR would manufacture 4,000 gaskets for the AirCare Ventilators they were producing as part of the UK Ventilator Challenge.

Stephen called on some of his staff to assist and by the end of Easter Saturday they had produced 20 prototypes. In order to go into production Stephen spoke to the material suppliers who were more than happy to open their warehouses on Easter Sunday in the circumstances. As a result SBR were able to manufacture and deliver 1,000 gaskets that day and the balance of 3,000 was delivered by Wednesday of the same week.

SBR are very proud to have played a part in enabling BAE Systems to produce a huge number of ventilators in a matter of weeks at a crucial time. The AirCare Ventilators have been manufactured, tested and are ready for use at the Nightingale hospitals in case of need.

SBR
Southbourne Rubber



Rubber Compounding

MacLellan Rubber provides customized and standardized rubber compounds, producing elastomer sheeting's and polymer blends for a variety of applications.

There is a common misconception, promoted by some suppliers, that a rubber compound is one ingredient, namely the rubber polymer, and that this is the same for every polymer type. This is wholly inaccurate.

A rubber compound could be a combination of 3 to 30 different ingredients with thousands of different compositions from a multitude of chemical suppliers. Through formulation, long-chain molecules are chemically linked together forming networks and transforming the material from a viscous liquid to elastic solid; this is what happens during vulcanisation.

A typical rubber formation will have six core elements:
Polymer – Filler – Antioxidant – Antiozonants – Oil – Curative

Some of these will be individual chemicals, others will be a mixture of multiple chemicals depending upon the performance requirements of the finished product.

Polymers:
This is the most important ingredient in a rubber compound. Polymers give the basis for chemical, physical and processing properties. Typically polymers are distinguished by chemical performance and viscosity rating. Generally, the higher percentage of Polymer in a compound the better performance. For example, a Nitrile (NBR) compound will have varying amounts of Acrylonitrile (ACN) - the higher the ACN, the more oil resistance. For lower grade, cheaper compounds, some polymers are mixed typically with SBR or regrind.

Fillers:
Carbon Black is one of the most common fillers. This acts as a reinforcing agent giving the rubber compound physical strength and its black color. Reinforcing agents of the rubber compound act as stress arrestor and are required to have high specific area. This means that the particle must be smaller than 1µm in size. A primary particle size as small as 0.1µm can be obtained which can give a specific area of a few hundred square meters per gram of filler. Changing the particle size can increase physical properties while also increasing compression set.

White clays and Mineral fillers are used for colored compounds. This helps makes the compound white to add the desired color requested. These types of fillers are typically less reinforcing than carbon black. Blending of these fillers with carbon black helps reduce cost of the overall compound.

Antioxidant:
Antioxidants help protect the compound from high temperature while in use and while the compound is being mixed. These ingredients can absorb free radicals that can break the polymers bonds and reduce service life of the compound

Antiozonants:
The most common antiozonant is wax, used to bloom out on the surface after molding to protect the rubber from ozone attack. A common example can be seen when purchasing new tyres. The surface of a new tyre will have a wax feel or show a slight haze.

Oil (processing aids):
Various oils are used to help incorporate all the dry ingredients used in the rubber compounding. They also help to reduce the viscosity of the overall compound to help with processing especially when moulding. Adding more oil can also lower the hardness of the rubber. Thus, lower Shore A compounds will typically have more oil in the formulation.

Curatives:
Sulphur is the most common curative for rubber compounds. Rubber polymers are just entangled hydrocarbon chains than won't hold shape. In 1839, Goodyear discovered that rubber chains can be bonded together by heating the rubber with sulphur, called vulcanization. In this way bonds of carbon – sulphur – carbon are formed.

Another common vulcanizing agent, peroxide creates direct bonds to the carbon chains forming carbon – carbon bonds. These bonds take more energy to break, thus typically giving higher service temperatures and low compression sets. Some polymers can only be cross-linked with peroxides.

Developing the Compound you need
There are many other ingredients that can be used to give different properties. Because of all the combinations not all compounds are the same. Rubber compounding is a science to assure required properties by varying the ratios of ingredients and compensating for the interactions. This is why most compounders consider their rubber formulations proprietary. It can take hours of testing to perfect the mechanical properties while maintaining good processing.

For advice on the right material for your application, email us



FREE Advert for Members

Claim Your FREE Advert

The UKGSA are now offering existing Members one FREE colour advert to appear in one issue of Cutting Edge e-newsletter per membership year.

Many UKGSA Members already take advantage of the free news editorial in the e-newsletter to share their company updates, product developments, staff news etc, but the addition of the free advert provides Members with even more opportunity to promote their business across the Association and to our wider contacts.

Non-members can also place adverts in the e-newsletter for a nominal charge. And new Members will receive a free half page advert when they sign up!

FREE Off-Cuts Advertising (for members only)
UKGSA Members, remember you can advertise your Off-Cuts free of charge in the "Cutting Edge" this is strictly a first come first served basis.

The e-newsletter is issued three times per year, providing a round-up of member and industry news. It is available to download from our website.

To book your advert contact the Secretariat

Rates:

	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	£350.00	£440.00
Half Page	£200.00	£250.00
Quarter Page	£125.00	£155.00

KCL KEWELL CONVERTERS LTD



- Approved Distributor Zotefoams
- Almost 50 yrs. history and manufacturing experience
- Family Business and Ethics
- ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System Certified
- ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management System Certified
- Unrivalled service and quality
- Large stock and quick turnaround
- Sheet, Block & Roll made to size

Kewell Converters is a leading UK distributor of Zotefoams materials.
We supply foam blocks and sheets for all your needs and cut them to your specific measurements.

At our 'WE ARE FOAM' website we have the UK's widest range of density, hardness and colour of foam. All are ready to speedily ship to keep your business moving.

WWW.KEWELL-CONVERTERS.CO.UK

ZOTEFOAMS



Superbikes Sponsorship Deal



Munsch and Co./PTM are extremely pleased to announce that the PTM side of the business has just agreed a sponsorship deal with Bri erteens class, magnificently following that up in 2019 by becoming champion in the class.

In 2020 Joe competed in the BSB Superstock 600 championship, riding a Kawasaki JR Performance Racing 636 ZX-6R finishing a credible 7th in the series, which featured 28 different racers.

Additionally, Joe competed in the Pirelli 600 Super Series - No Limits, plus the 600 Elite in the Thundersport GB series, achieving great success as the 2020 Pirelli 600 Super Series Champion and the ACU Endurance 600 Champion.

Joe will once again be riding for the JR Performance Kawasaki Team in the BSB Superstock 600 class in 2021 aiming to improve on his excellent finish in 2020, and, I'm sure hoping to get more fans into the circuits, starting at his local track, Oulton Park on the 1st – 3rd May 2021.

Joe has very active, informative, social media feeds and can be followed at:

Instagram **@joetalbot19racing**
FaceBook **@joetalbot19racing**
LinkedIn **joetalbot2003@hotmail.com**
Twitter **Talbot19Joe**
Website https://www.joetalbot19racing.com/

With most of PTM's directors being fans of motorbike racing, and realising the costs incurred during a typical racing weekend for fuel and tyres alone, they decided to sponsor local rider, Joe Talbot 19 for the 2021 season.

Our belief being that, to be able to give something back to the local community, and try to help Joe achieve his dreams of competing at world championship level, would be a very humbling and rewarding experience.

To complement our sponsorship of Joe, we have designed a new punchy logo for his clothing, helmet, and bike for the 2021 season.

We will have regular updates on our website covering the BSB Superstock 600 series during the 2021 season.

Jointine Joins Talks with Leaders Council

THE LEADERS COUNCIL
OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

In October Jane Smith, Managing Director of Jointine Products (Lincoln) Ltd, was delighted to join a Private Leadership Talk with the Rt. Honourable the Lord Blunkett, hosted by the Leaders Council of Great Britain & Northern Ireland.

Jane tells us that the discussion focussed on how Covid-19 and the decisions resulting from it have affected businesses and other organisations across the country.

She says: *"It was a lively and interesting debate. The Government had just introduced tiers alongside the medium-high ratings. Alongside? Or instead of? Pubs were closing at 10pm, but you could buy alcohol at a shop or supermarket thereafter? Inevitably there was talk of Barnard Castle and eyesight tests –go figure– and the extent of dissent or distrust in the decision making was more than apparent.*

"One theme permeated the debate: people are concerned about the future of their business and the safety of their job, far more so than catching COVID."

The Leaders Council of Great Britain & Northern Ireland is chaired by Lord Blunkett and has been established as a voice for the people who run the country and the people who keep the country running. Lord Blunkett has promised to petition these views across Whitehall.

Jane adds:

"I spent twenty years in the Civil Service, and I am still amazed at the extent of 'bolt on' decision making (using old platforms to host new ideas). Inevitably the system becomes unwieldy and breaks down.

Whilst a second lockdown wasn't on anyone's shopping list, I want to petition for a clean slate on decision making – they should be properly reasoned and promptly acted upon; and cease these 'one last hurrah before shut down' opportunities which are damaging businesses who have taken more than reasonable precautions, and who could actually continue to trade safely with little impact to the 'R' rate.

"I am looking forward to participating in more events in the future."

FLEMINGS
SEALS & POLYMERS

ESTABLISHED 1904

+44 (0)1484 718391 office@flemingssp.co.uk
www.flemings-seals-polymers.com

INJECTION MOULDING



Injection moulding is a cost effective and technically advantageous process of manufacturing

Flemings Seals and Polymers (FSP) are experts at manufacturing both complex and simplistic plastic parts rapidly and consistently in a wide range of engineering plastics with care, attention and quality at every stage of our process.

Our key to success is understanding the application and our client's objectives underpinned by our expertise in material selection, processing knowledge and experience in tooling design.

Moulding is just one of the plastic engineering disciplines FSP offers. This provides our team with increased scope when designing and specifying a project, as we're not restricted to a narrow manufacturing channel.

The plastic injection moulding process is fast, and creates a light-weight product with high precision and repeatability, regardless of the complexity of the design. In many cases it is the only cost effective solution.
A wide range of materials are available to suit the clients' engineering parameters. Tooling design and configuration is also critical.

Our Boy, Toshiba and Dassett machines melt the plastic granules and accurately inject them into high precision custom moulds to produce high quality, consistent finished components.

After any required trimming or deburring, we package the finished parts to the client's requirements and despatch world wide.

CAPABILITIES

- FSP work with Europe's leading polymer producers
- Unique quick change tool system ensures fast set times making us competitive on micro runs
- 8 Injection Moulding Machines from 22-250 Tonnes
- Components from 3 grams to 500 grams
- Cost-effective production runs from 50—500,000
- Overmoulding specialists
- Onsite tool design and manufacture
- High Temperature materials
- Colour matching
- Halogen-Free Flame Retardant materials



OTHER CAPABILITIES

Flemthane Cast Polyurethane in a wide range of specification up to 3 mts in diameter

Machined engineered plastics

Flemplas Filled grades of PTFE for demanding applications

Specialists in sealing solutions

FLEMTHANE® FLEMPLAS®



HERITAGE | INNOVATION | EXPERTISE

Off-Cuts Available

Off-Cuts from J A Harrison The following off-cuts are available:

1MM THICK NON ASBESTOS – PALLET OF LARGE PIECES AND DISCS UP TO 800MM DIAMETER.

FAWN GYLON 3500 3MM THICK – LARGE PIECES UP TO 600MM DIAMETER

WHITE GYLON 3545 - LARGE PIECES UP TO 700MM DIAMETER

PLATE FINISH EPDM 2MM THICK – DISCS 1200MM DIAMETER PLUS SHORT STRIPS 500MM AND 600MM WIDE

6MM THICK EXPANDED PTFE – UP TO 600MM DIAMETER

SIGMA 500 3MM THICK - 8 LARGE DISCS 1800MM DIAMETER.

DUE TO A CANCELLED ORDER WE HAVE AT LEAST 10 ROLLS OF GREY SYNTHETIC NEEDLE FELT.

ROLLS ARE 17.5M LONG X 2M WIDE X 10MM THICK – DATA SHEET AVAILABLE -

WE ARE OPEN TO REASONABLE OFFERS

Please contact enquiries@jaharrison.co.uk for any interest in the above or send us your enquiry for cut parts.

J.A.Harrison
Complete Sealing Solutions

Off Cuts from William Johnston & Company

William Johnston & Company Limited have a pallet of the following going FOC.

Interested party to arrange collection or cover the carriage only – we will package it up.

600+ OFF - 423MM DIA. DISC - 6MM THICK S/A-C/C EPDM SPONGE (K1) KSEP001-75KG/M3

Please contact sales@williamjohnston.co.uk if you are interested or send us your enquiry for off-cuts.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

New Moulding Presses





PTM / W C Munsch is pleased to announce that we have acquired two new moulding presses to expand our moulding operation even further.

One press has a 600mm x 600mm platen and the other has a 1000mm square platen.

These new machines enable us to provide quicker delivery for larger mouldings and have also allowed us to expand our range of sheet and disc moulds which enable us to produce sheets and discs for further conversion, in “non-standard” polymers.

For a complete list of our range of polymers check out our website.

Currently, we can produce sheets up to 640mm square in thicknesses ranging from 1.5 to 15mm, plus we have various disc and sheet moulds for smaller requirements.

Examples of sheets we have produced recently include:

- 3mm Blue FDA Metal Detectable EPDM
- 15mm BS2752 C50 Neoprene
- 5mm 80 Sh A FDA White Silicone
- 6mm 30 Sh A FDA White EPDM
- 5mm 90 Sh A Neoprene
- 7mm 60 Sh A Conductive EPDM
- 3mm 70 Sh A Viton GF
- 3mm 45 Sh A Anti-Static EPDM
- 4mm 60 Sh A Anti-Static Black Silicone
- 3mm 75 Sh A Aqueous Black FDA EPDM
- 25 Sh A Red Metal Detectable Silicone
- 70 Sh A Green Viton
- 6mm thick 60 Sh A RAL6018 Green Silicone
- 80 Sh A DTD5612 Grade Viton
- 3mm 65 Sh A Blue FDA Metal Detectable Polyurethane
- 3mm 75 Sh A Viton B

The possibilities of colour matching and hardness range mean you can obtain the correct material or finished parts without having to meet roll manufacturers minimum orders, as in the majority of cases 10 kilos of compound is the minimum requirement; plus with our current range of around 200 compounds in stock we may have the solution to your requirements.

Contact the PTM/Munsch & Co team on: 01625 573971

Debut for Sponsored Driver



Due to Covid-19 restrictions affecting all sporting events, the William Johnston & Company Limited sponsored Citroen C1 race car had its first outing of 2020 at Knockhill Racing Circuit in Fife on Saturday, 31 October.

Driving in his debut race meeting, Nick Hawthorn from Edinburgh, qualified 14th out of 23 starters and went on to finish 8th in Race 1 and 6th in race 2.

This was a very impressive performance from a novice driver in challenging weather and against more experienced drivers in identical cars.

William Johnston & Company has a long history of supporting racing drivers, teams and motorsport events in the UK and are suppliers of sealing products to many companies involved in the sport.

Why Use Fabric Reinforced Rubber Sheeting?



MacLellan rubber



Fabric reinforcement, more commonly referred to as insertion, is usually comprised of one, two or more layers of fabric vulcanized into the rubber at specified points. The type of reinforcement can vary depending upon the polymer type and the application, but is commonly fabrics such as fiberglass, polyester, or rayon.

These reinforcement fabrics impart additional properties to the rubber over and above the normal mechanical properties such as dimensional stability in gaskets under load, increased mechanical strength and in some load bearing applications, lower deflection.

The right choice of fabric is not limited to improving mechanical properties.
Choosing the right fabric reinforcement for your rubber sheeting application can be critical, especially where there are specific characteristics you are trying to maintain. There is no point putting a cotton reinforcement in an application where you need to seal against liquids as the cotton has wicking properties that will draw through liquid by capillary action. Similarly, you would not want a fabric reinforcement that allows electrical conductivity in an electrical insulation application, or a flammable reinforcement in a flame-retardant requirement.

In applications involving UV exposure or liquid immersion conditions, a Fiberglass Fabric would be our best recommendation. Whereas Polyester fabric would be better in applications requiring good electrical insulation, or increased resistance to alkalis, acids, and solvents. Additionally, applications requiring Fire Resistance would be better served by a Rayon Fabric.

We can recommend the correct rubber gasket material and fabric reinforcement for your application.

High Loads vs Good Deformation
In many applications a rubber gasket material is selected for its ability to deform under load and produce an effective seal, either stopping liquids or gases getting out, or stopping contaminants getting in. But deformation is mainly required in the thickness of the gasket. Loss of volume due to compression set or creep can often cause the gasket to leak and installation guidelines recommend regular re-torqueing of bolts to maintain an effective load on the gasket material.

Depending on the grade of rubber material or the amount of load, one or more layers of an appropriate fabric reinforcement can improve the materials resistance to creep and therefore reduce the compression set of the gasket material, providing a longer life and better performance.

Conversely, in applications involving high loads with either limited amounts or no restraint of material to deform, such as load bearings, engineers will not want the material to significantly compress or require it to deform in a predictable way. To achieve this, multiple layers of fabric reinforcement can be built into the rubber as this will restrict the movement or deformation and consequently significantly increase the load bearing capabilities of the base material.

Using the Wrong Fabric Insertion!
Adding a high-quality fabric reinforcement to your material can improve the performance of your seal, gasket, diaphragm, load bearing, impact or insulation pad. Conversely, using the wrong fabric insertion could undermine the quality of the finished article.

Low cost commercial materials will often use a loose weave insertion that does little to improve the mechanical performance in the way it might be envisioned by a design engineer.

Equally, over specifying the fabric reinforcement can make the material inflexible or incompressible and therefore unsuitable for its application, especially gaskets where some degree of compression is required to achieve an effective seal.

MacLellan Rubber has a wealth of experience in identifying the rubber sheet material and right fabric insertion for your application. We offer extensive technical support, to companies in a diverse range of industries operating in a wide range of environments, backed up by our global manufacturing and research partners.

For more information on how we can work with you, contact us on: 01902 307711

Save the Date







UKGSA ANNUAL GOLF DAY

17/06/2021

Please save the date!

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association's Annual Golf Day is a key networking event not to be missed…so save the date!

This year, due to coronavirus, we had to postpone our Annual Golf Day and fundraising Dinner. However, this event has been rearranged for the same venue in 2021.

Members and visitors will be playing at the Telford Hotel Golf Resort in Shropshire which boasts a par 72, 18 hole championship golf course designed by John Harris and Brian Griffiths. The course includes strategic water hazards, tree-lined fairways and is a firm favourite with professionals.

The Golf Day provides an opportunity for our members and guests to network whilst playing golf. The golf is then followed by a Charity Dinner to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Depending on social distancing measures next summer, the dinner may be different, but it still promises to be a great event.

To ensure you don't miss this key UKGSA networking event, make sure you save the date and pop the date in your diary!

For more details about the event see our Annual Golf event web page.

Come On Clifton!

> ***"I'm delighted to be able to support grass-roots football in this way and look forward to being able to watch some games this coming season."***

West Yorkshire based, Flemings Seals & Polymers, have sponsored their local under 8s football team - Clifton Rangers FC - for a second year running.

Mark Kelly, managing director of Flemings, said: *"I'm delighted to be able to support grass-roots football in this way and look forward to being able to watch some games this coming season."*

Clifton Rangers FC is one of the longest established youth football clubs in West Yorkshire. They provide a safe, engaging and rewarding environment for boys and girls from under 6 to under 17 years, with over 240 children playing across all age groups.

The Under 8s consists of three 5 a-side teams playing in the Huddersfield Junior Football League.

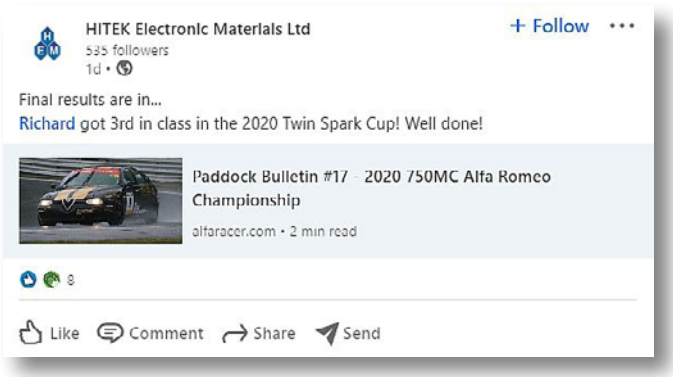




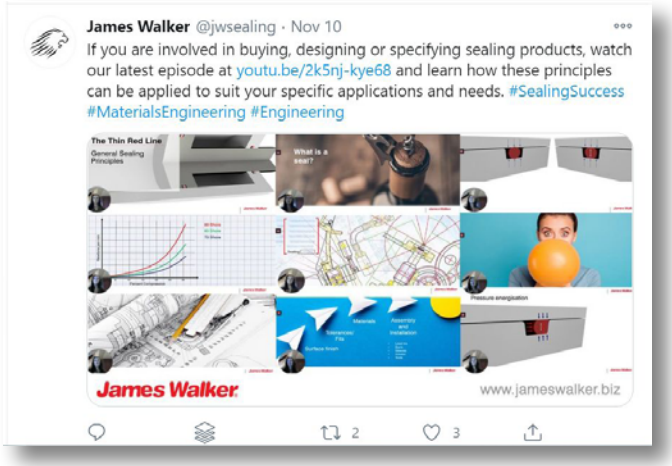
What Our Members Have Been Up To











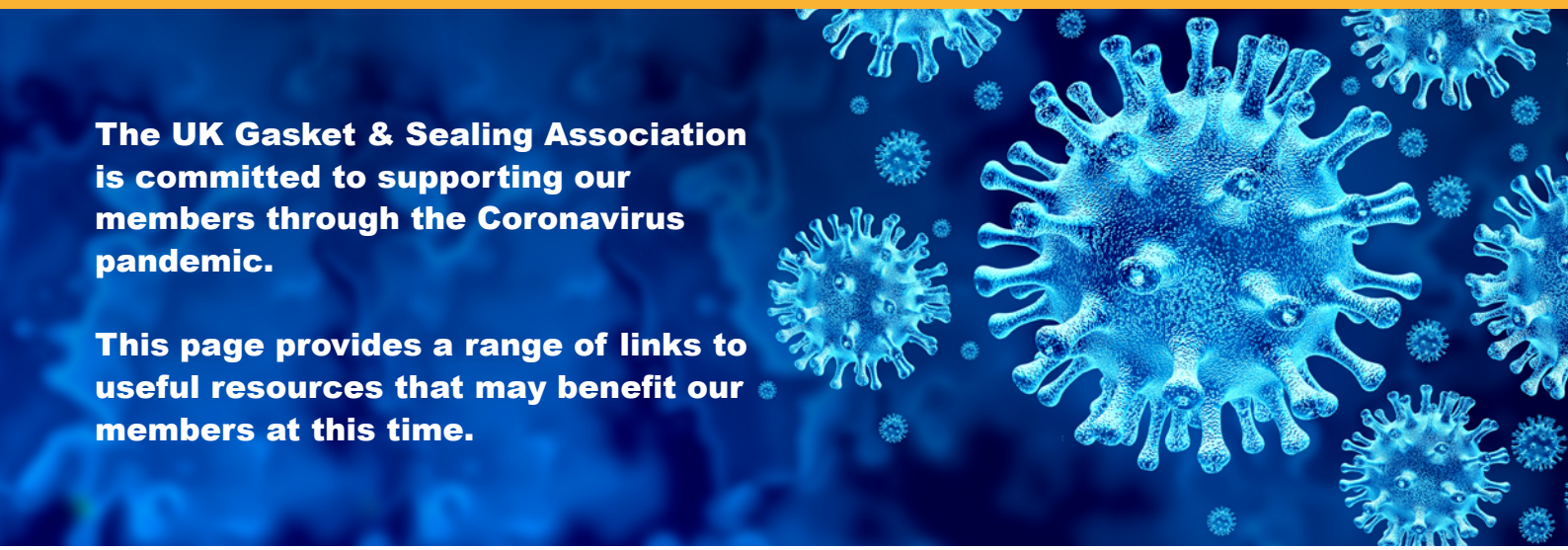


Follow the UKGSA on Social Media:

Twitter: @UKGSAssoc | LinkedIN: @uk-gasket-sealing-association/ |

LinkedIN Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4707335/

UKGSA : Coronavirus Support



The UK Gasket & Sealing Association is committed to supporting our members through the Coronavirus pandemic.

This page provides a range of links to useful resources that may benefit our members at this time.

UK Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) page:
https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS Coronavirus symptoms page:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms-and-what-to-do/

Public Health England:
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

UK Government COVID-19 Support for Businesses:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19

UK Department for International Trade:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally

Health & Safety Executive: COVID-19 Latest Information & Advice:
https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm

ACAS: Guidance for employees and employers:
https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus

British Chambers of Commerce:
Coronavirus Support Hub for Chambers and Members
https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/page/coronavirus

Federation of Small Businesses:
Advice and guidance for small businesses and the self-employed
https://www.fsb.org.uk/campaign/covid19.html

Meet Your Committee

The UKGSA is led by a Committee who help ensure that the UKGSA's activities serve the needs of our members.

Here is the Committee for the year 2020/21:



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING

SAM BRADLEY
TREASURER



Andrew Crowther
OFFICER



ROGER DENT
OFFICER



Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS



Simon Carless
GOLF DAY



UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN



Keith Payne
MEMBERSHIP

If you're interested in joining the Committee please get in touch.

UKGSA : What We Do

What You can Expect from Us and How We can Help You Reach Your Goals

Networking Events – serving our members with activities designed to promote success and growth, through collaboration and best practice. The Association aims to provide a platform for members to network with decision makers and influencers at the highest level and across all sectors of our industry.

Technical Events – industrial and manufacturing tours or presentations to member and non-member sites. These events aim to give insights to advanced manufacturing, best practice and material technical developments that will inspire our membership.

Technical Support – members have access to an unprecedented technical resource in their fellow members who are available to offer support on manufacturing issues, material selection and processing, and design & development.

Representing our Members

Behind the scenes we actively promote our members' activities and views through press releases to national and international trade magazines and general media.

We represent our industry to various technical bodies on international standards and actively look for opportunities to promote our values.

We aim to proactively promote our members' views to government and trade bodies and influence the decisions of those organisations to the benefit of our members.

Marketing Support

We actively use social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and encourage all of our members to follow and tag us. We also publish member profiles on our website in addition to sharing news stories.

We are extremely active, developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing & engineering publications.

We also send out regular email newsletters to our members and our wider industry contacts with a variety of information as well as member news features.

Procurement Support

Through our affiliation with the British Standards Institute members are able to acquire electronic copies of UK, European and International standards at discounted prices.

Members have access to the **Joined Up Thinking Buying Group** giving access to hundreds of suppliers, products and services which are being constantly benchmarking to make sure members receive the very best value for money. The service offered by Joined Up Thinking is **Free-of-Charge** to our members.

Charitable Giving

We aim to support our chosen charity – Macmillan Cancer Support – through fundraising activities undertaken at our events, such as our annual charity dinner, and directly by our members.



If you are interested in joining the UKGSA Click Here.

UKGSA : Members List

AS Rubber & Plastics Limited
Elwell Street, West Bromwich,
West Midlands B70 0DN
T: 0121 5205782 F: 0121 5203515
www.asrubber.com

British Felt Co.
Unit 5, Fingle Drive, Stonebridge,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT
T: 01908 320329 F: 01908 226599
www.britishfelt.com

Corseal Limited
Unit 5, Patches Yard, Cavendish Lane,
Glemsford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7PZ
T: 01787 282444
www.corseal.co.uk

Direct Gaskets Ltd
Units 26-36, Dansom Lane South,
Hull HU8 7LA
T: 01482 219655 F: 01482 321162
www.direct-gaskets.co.uk

East Anglian Sealing Co. Limited
Unit 3-9, Goldingham Hall,
Bulmer, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7ER
T: 01787 880433 F: 01787 880442
www.easeals.co.uk

Flemings Seals and Polymers Limited
Atlas Mills, Atlas Mill Road, Brighouse,
West Yorkshire HD6 1ES
T: 01484 718391
www.flemingssp.co.uk

Flexitallic UK Ltd.
Scandinavia Mill, Hunsworth Lane,
Cleckheaton,
West Yorkshire BD19 4LN
T: 01274 851273 F: 01274 851386
www.flexitallic.eu

HITEK Electronic Materials Limited
15, Wentworth Road, South Park
Industrial Estate, Scunthorpe,
North Lincolnshire DN17 2AX
T: 01724 851678 F: 01724 280586
www.hitek-ltd.co.uk

J A Harrison & Co. Limited
Britain Works, Greengate Ind. Estate,
Greenside Way, Middleton,
Manchester M24 1SW
T: 0161 832 2282 F: 0161 832 3263
www.jaharrison.co.uk

J P Polymer Sheetings Limited
26, Coneygre Industrial Estate,
Birmingham New Road, Tipton,
West Midlands DY4 8XP
T: 0121 520 5020 F: 0121 522 4610
www.jppolymer.co.uk

James Walker & Co. Ltd
Joint Cutting Services, Gote Road,
Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0NH
T: 01900 823555 F: 01900 827138
www.jameswalker.co.uk

Jointine Products (Lincoln) Limited
Lindum Business Park, Station Road,
North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9AU
T: 01522 690050 F: 01522 690060
www.jointine.co.uk

Keith Payne Products Limited
Unit 2, Manfield Park Industrial Estate,
Guildford Road, Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8PT
T: 01483 276000 F: 01483 278167
www.keithpayneproducts.com

Kewell Converters Ltd
KCL House, Station Road,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HL
T: 01732 864310 F: 01732 865206
www.kewell-converters.co.uk

Lonestar Leeds Limited
Units 2-4, Orbital Industry Park,
Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
T: 0113 2051900 F: 0113 2051909
www.lonestarleeds.com

MacLellan Rubber Ltd
Unit 16, Planetary Road Ind. Estate,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV13 3XA
T: 01902 307711 F: 01902 305201
www.maclellanrubber.com

RGH Rubber and Plastics Ltd
Acorn House, Oak Industrial Park, Great
Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XN
T: 01371 875941
www.rghrubber.co.uk

Silicone Engineering Ltd
Greenbank Business Park,
Blakewater Road, Blackburn,
Lancs BB1 3HU
T: 0845 674 4747 F: 01254 583519
www.silicone.co.uk

SJG International Limited
Wesco House, Tything Road, Arden
Forest Ind. Estate, Alcester B49 6ES
T: 01789 763721
www.sjginternational.com

Southbourne Rubber Co. Ltd
47, Aston Road, Waterlooville,
Hampshire PO7 7XJ
T: 02392 255180
www.sbr.aero

V-Seal Ltd
Unit 2, Park Road Mills, Park Road,
Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HX
T: 01422 300009 F: 01422 363025
www.vseal.co.uk

W C Munsch & Company Limited
Units AG2/3, Clarence Mill,
Clarence Road, Bollington,
Macclesfield SK10 5JZ
T: 01625 573971 F: 01625 573250
www.epdm.co.uk

William Johnston & Company Limited
9, Speirsbridge Terrace, Thornliebank
Industrial Estate, Glasgow G46 8JH
T: 0141 620 1666 F: 0141 620 1888
www.williamjohnston.co.uk

WR Gaskets Limited
Units 1-3, Haven Light Ind. Estate,
Gilbey Road, Grimsby,
N.E. Lincolnshire DN31 2SJ
T: 01472 355596 F: 01472 355920
www.wrgaskets.co.uk

© 2020 UK Gasket & Sealing Association | All rights reserved.