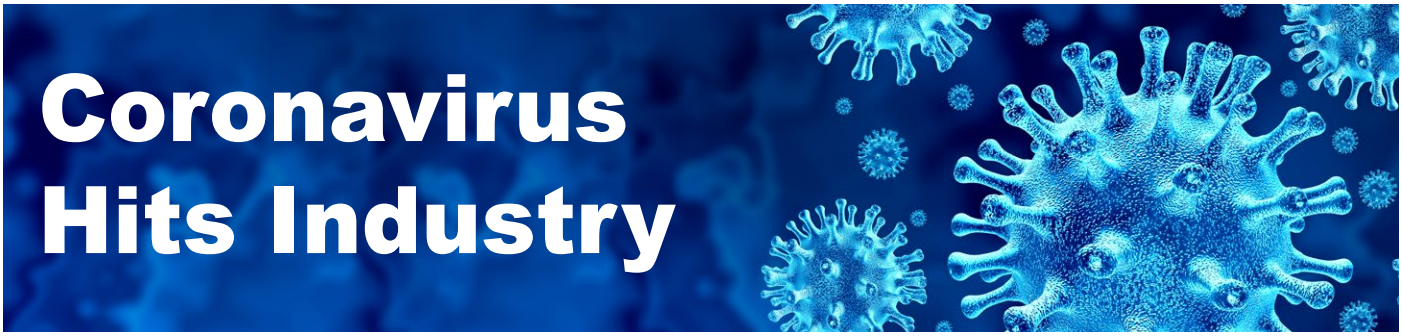
SPRING 2020

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Coronavirus Hits Industry

The world-wide Coronavirus pandemic has been the main focus for all news media and for most businesses for some weeks. We are currently facing unprecedented times and we will not see the real effects on industry for many months to come.

Attention is now turning to how industry can urgently help the healthcare sector with the production of much needed ventilators and equipment. Some of our Members, such as East Anglian Sealing Company (EAS), already supply parts that are used in the manufacture of ventilators.

The Department for Business, Energy & Strategy (BEIS), for example, was recently looking for organisations who can offer support in the supply of ventilators and ventilator components including manufacturing, rapid prototyping, machine shops etc.

Companies have been forced to review their business continuity procedures with increasing numbers of office based staff and sales teams working from home, establishing connectivity to company systems to facilitate 'business as usual'. At time of print, only one Member has closed (but providing emergency supplies) and we hope that they are able to continue to trade for as long as possible and until such time as the UK government initiate an emergency lockdown.

We hope our Members do not struggle during this time with VAT, tax & NI payments, business rates or wages, and we hope that the Government urgently provides the necessary support and advice for businesses.

For a list of useful Coronavirus support & guidance CLICK HERE.

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THIS ISSUE:

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What the Members Have Been Up To • Visit to MTC • What We Do

UKGSA : A Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to the spring edition of Cutting Edge

It's a new year and new decade, new government (sort of), and we can look back and laugh about the frustrations of getting Brexit done as we look forward with horror at the global economic meltdown that is Covid 19.

I had taken to actively avoiding the news with the endless speculation of what Brexit would or wouldn't mean for the jobs, shortages within the NHS, movement of people, the future of the UK economy etc etc. Now I find myself actively avoiding the news with the endless speculation about what Covid 19 means for jobs, movement of people, the economy and, who knows why, the supply of toilet rolls and pasta, baked beans etc. Could it be that nothing else is going on anywhere?

Despite the undoubted economic hit that the UK, Europe and the world as a whole is facing, clear opportunities have arisen, with many manufacturers seeing how vulnerable total reliance on non-domestic supply chains can be. Reports of UK businesses being invited to tender for requirements where previously doors have been firmly closed to them. Those businesses being able to demonstrate not only how competitive they can be, but also how their location translates into improved inventory control and ultimately cash flow. This buzz word is re-shoring, which is not new, but it is common sense.

Now, even the Government seems to be recognising the need for UK manufacturing, with the call for businesses to meet the critical needs of the NHS for respirators and other safety equipment that will be in short supply over the coming months as the current crisis runs its course; although their message as to whether to work or not is as confused as ever. Let's hope their enthusiasm, and we all, survives this pandemic.

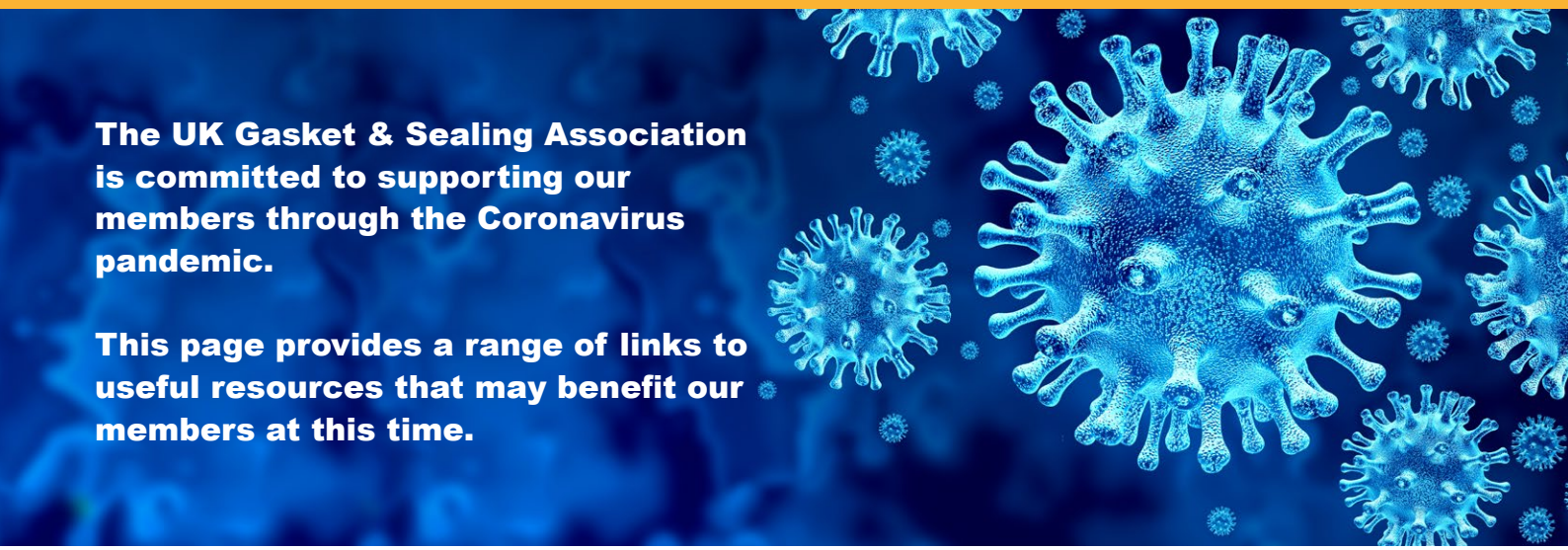
Belief in the UK as a competitive manufacturing base for high quality materials and products is not a figment of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy[1] Alok Sharma's[2] imagination, or the subject of one of Boris Johnsons jolly rambling speeches. There have been significant investment announcements lost to the Covid 19 headlines in recent weeks, by both domestic companies and non-UK companies who view the UK as an attractive base from which to supply Europe and the rest of the world. Members are continuing to see interest in high-performance materials and products from new customers in Eastern Europe, North America, and as far away as Australia, with demand for quality control and support documentation vital. This is reflected in the recent member survey where of the 95% of members whom export, 56% are seeing increased activity – see the full results on pages 13 and 14.

The UKGSA has always promoted the benefits of the high-quality products, technical ability and exceptional customer service – which our members overwhelmingly deliver. The going has been tough, and it looks like it will continue to be tough for a while longer, but there is more than a spark for those willing to engage with customers and promote the quality of their business, and commitment to long term partnerships.

1 Yes that really is the job title
2 I've never heard of him either – good news is that his entire career outside of Parliament was in banking, so as poorly qualified as most previous incumbents.



UKGSA : Coronavirus Support & Guidance



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/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses

HM Government Business Support: Coronavirus Financial Support:
https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/

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/news/coronavirus.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?k=30cdfbcf8e205792be8adadf43630166035c27d5

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

Standards Compliant Components





Battling Viruses

When equipment needs to be safe, hygienic, reliable and ultimately give peace of mind, J-Flex are well versed in providing standards compliant industrial rubber components and sheetings.

With the recent pandemic the whole world is facing, it probably comes as no surprise that they have seen a marked increase in urgent enquiries for pharmaceutical grade, food safe and chemically resistant materials - in particular to the Pharmaceutical/ Medical or Food & Drink sectors.

J-Flex have been providing safe and reliable, independently tested rubber products to these industries for over 35 years - products which comply with the requirements issued by the US FDA, BfR, UK WRAS as well as EC Food Safety regulations.

Sam Kirk, Managing Director said: *"We always want do our very best to help our customers, and therefore want to do all we can to support these industries in the battle against the coronavirus, and indeed all viruses."*

Sam continues: *"All our silicone sheeting is regularly tested every three months and exceeds the minimum standards laid down by the above regulatory bodies."*

BfR Risiken erkennen – Gesundheit schützen

Food Safety EC No 1935/2004

FDA

WRAS Water Regulations Advisory Service



Pandemic responsible for marked increase in urgent enquiries for pharmaceutical grade, food safe and chemically resistant materials.

Vital Manufacturing Services



Supporting Medical Products

As of 24th March 2020 and following recent Government announcement, Kewell Converters Ltd is still an operating manufacturing facility and currently delivering to our customer expectations on delivery schedule.

That said we are, (paraphrasing one of our customers); ***providing vital manufacturing services*** supporting medical products which are being used widely by the NHS as a critical part of their response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

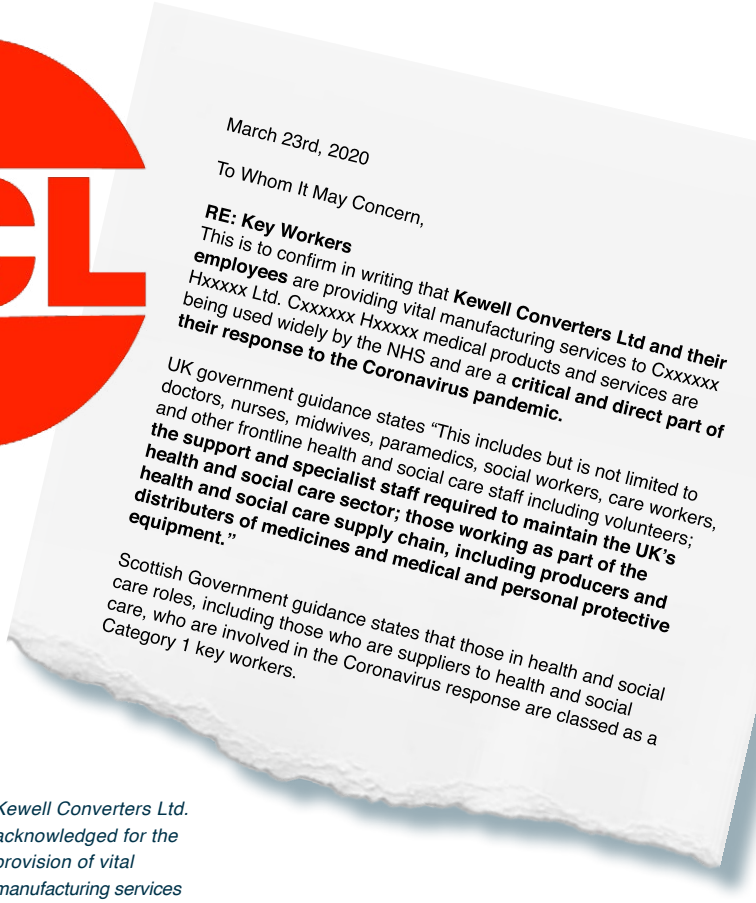
Clearly our responsibilities to the NHS at this time mean that we must prioritise this work and, whilst it has not yet, this may impact on our ability to deliver to demanding leadtimes for our other customers as the situation develops.

Rest assured we will communicate in a clearly and timely manner should our ability to deliver for any of our customers be affected.

Our staff, those who are able to work remotely (mostly office) are operating and are contactable through normal channels (email and telephone).

Production will continue to remain open on a split shift in-line with COVID-19 guidance **https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus** until such point we are directed to do otherwise, or our hands are forced due to other circumstances.

During this unprecedented event we endeavour to continue to provide a high level of service, and your patience & understanding are appreciated of any delays or extended lead times.



March 23rd, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Key Workers

This is to confirm in writing that **Kewell Converters Ltd and their employees** are providing vital manufacturing services to Cxxxxxx Hxxxxx Ltd. Cxxxxxx Hxxxxx medical products and services are being used widely by the NHS and are a **critical and direct part of their response to the Coronavirus pandemic.**

UK government guidance states "This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; **the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment."**

Scottish Government guidance states that those in health and social care roles, including those who are suppliers to health and social care, who are involved in the Coronavirus response are classed as a Category 1 key workers.

Kewell Converters Ltd. acknowledged for the provision of vital manufacturing services to the NHS.

New Product Development



MacLellan Launches MacMat Sheet & Matting Range

MacLellan Rubber continues to build on its reputation of offering world class and market leading products with the launch of he innovative MacMat range of Oil and Flame-Resistant Matting and Sheet Rubber products for the construction, transport, electronic, marine and engineering sectors.

MacMat-Fire, MacMat-Fire+ and MacMat-Fire+ Antistatic

With a comprehensive portfolio of Flame-Resistant Neoprene, EPDM, Nitrile, Silicone and Viton materials covering standards including EN45545, NF-F16101, NCB158, BS6853, and UL94 VO, we can now add BS EN 13501 Class BfL S1 and UNE 23727 M2.

MacMat-Fire is an Antistatic, high wear, good oil resistant sheeting product designed for use in construction, engineering and electrical environments. With an antistatic volume resistivity of 1.2x10^8 Ohm x m the material exhibits good conductivity for environments where the risk of static build up could be damaging or where there is a risk of explosion. The material is fully tested and certified to flame resistance and emissions standards UNE 23727 M2, UL94 V0, NF F16-101 and NF X 70-100 F5. Manufactured with a fabric surface finish for surface covering applications.

MacMat-Fire+ is an Insulative, Low Smoke, Non-Toxic emissions, medium oil resistant matting designed for construction, transport, marine, rail and engineering environments. The material provides excellent thermal and acoustic insulation, is manufactured with a circular stud pattern to provide comfort whilst standing and enable easy cleaning. The material is fully tested and certified to BS EN 13501-1, Class BfL S1.

MacMat-Fire+ Antistatic is a modified MacMat-Fire+, with all of the same high performance Fire, Low Smoke and Oil resistance characteristics, but designed to be Antistatic.

Innovative High Performance Sheeting & Matting Products

MacMat products further enhance MacLellan's existing range of high performance, fully certified, rubber matting and rubber sheeting materials, putting us at the forefront of polymer technology in safety critical applications.

Find out more...

For more information on all of our Matting products

CLICK HERE or contact our sales office on: **01902 307711**

MacLellan rubber

UKGSA : Manufacturing Technology Centre

Visit to Manufacturing Technology Centre

At present the UKGSA has not cancelled plans to organise a technical visit to the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in Coventry on Thursday 17 September 2020.

The MTC was established in 2010 and is an independent research & technology organisation that aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry. Their vision is to inspire Great British manufacturing by providing integrated manufacturing system solutions for customers in a range of industry sectors.

The Centre can help companies manufacture faster, at a higher quality and at a lower cost.

Their services include:

- *Technical manufacturing system solutions – help solving challenges*
- *National Centre Additive Manufacturing – developing the technology & systems to address key challenges within the Additive Manufacturing value chain*
- *Manufacturing Support Services – offering help with embracing latest technology to improve productivity*
- *Business Launch Centre – a hub of innovation for start ups*
- *SME Support – help SMEs increase productivity using latest manufacturing technology*
- *Training – up to date training on latest developments*

Interested to know more?
You'll find more information about this visit & future events on our website.



Sealing Solutions



J-Flex Inflatable Rubber Seals - the ideal solution for difficult sealing situations

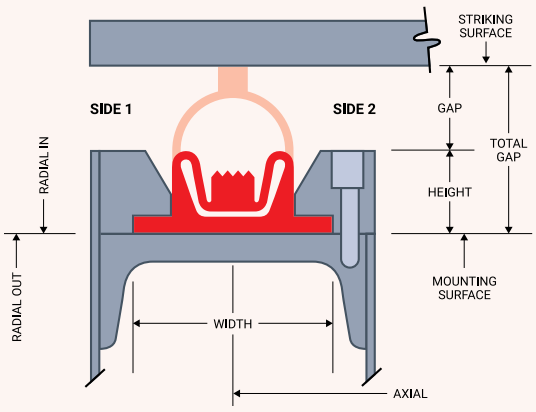
J-Flex have recently updated their range of inflatable rubber seals. When parts move in relation to one another and are connected and disconnected at will, the most effective technique is to use inflator seals.

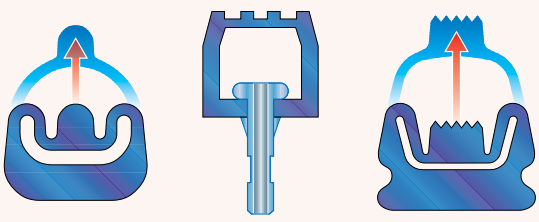
Typical applications are:

- Pollution Control and Laboratory Equipment
- Laundry, Textile and Paper Making Equipment
- Test Facilities In General Engineering
- Food and Pharmaceutical Process Areas
- Clean Room Door Seals
- Food Processing Equipment
- Watertight Door Seals
- Chemical Plants
- Oven Door Seals

Their new Inflatable Rubber Seals brochure tells you all you need to know and has a wide range of seal profiles, as well as a very handy questionnaire to help you identify the right type of seal for your application. It covers:

- Seal Configurations
- Castellated Profiles
- Unique Profiles
- Frog Leg Profiles
- Footed Snap Profiles
- Colours & Printing
- Stem Foot Location Profiles
- Channel-Fit Profiles
- Inflator Seals Applications
- Silicone Properties
- Straight Length Inflators
- Moulded Corners
- Mechanical Retainers
- Air Connectors
- Specifying the Seal you need





For more information and to download a brochure, visit:
https://www.j-flex.com/products/inflatable-seals/

Training Programmes Approved



IChemE has approved a suite of training programmes delivered by the Academy of Joint Integrity

IChemE Approval Granted

Academy of Joint Integrity secures IChemE approval for Mechanical Joint Integrity training courses for the Chemical & Process Industries.

The Academy of Joint Integrity has achieved approval from the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) for a suite of theory/ practical training programmes to support technicians and engineers in the chemical and process industries.

In addition to its established ECITB-accredited courses and CPD-accredited training courses covering the Management of the Integrity of Flanged Bolted Connections, the Academy now provides five training modules approved by the IChemE.

Designed specifically for the chemical and process sectors, the training programmes cover disciplines such as hand torque / hydraulically torque/ hydraulic tensioning of flange joints and bolted connections.

IChemE has also approved the Academy's '**Flange Assembly Best Practice'** module, which includes gasket identification and specifications, along with its '**Flange Management for the Engineer'** programme.

Training can be offered at the Academy's seven UK locations in Aberdeen, Teesside, Yorkshire, Ellesmere Port, Midlands, Humberside and South Wales, as well as delivery on-site at customer facilities, by utilising the unique Flange Assembly Demonstration Unit (FADU).

The Academy, which is part of global sealing industry specialists Flexitallic, supports industry with a comprehensive suite of joint integrity and sealing expertise. This includes a range of Engineering Services developed and delivered by Flexitallic's team of Application Engineers. The services include Technical Consultations, Engineering Drawings, Failure Mode Analysis and latest Flange Integrity Calculations to EN1591.

Flexitallic's Application Engineers are active in a number of industry standards committees and organisations and bring this expertise and in-depth knowledge to enable clients to achieve leak free start-up and operation during scheduled maintenance cycles.

Flexitallic's Application Engineers also advise on gasket selection & specification as well as providing gasket installation supervision.

Gary Milne, Academy Director, said: *"Safety always comes first in all of our course deliverables, and we are proud to have achieved IChemE approval of the training courses we have developed specifically for technicians and engineers operating in the chemical and process sectors. It will enable them to gain latest joint integrity knowledge and competencies to support effective plant operations.*

"These accreditations will further support our growing presence in the chemical and process industries where we work and listen closely to the plant operators to not only provide training, but also specialist sealing industry knowledge."

For more information about the Academy of Joint Integrity, visit:
http://www.academyofjointintegrity.com/

High Performance Matting



Innovative New Matting Material

MacMat-Oil is an innovative new matting material for environments where animal or vegetable oil and fats, and non-aromatic hydrocarbon spillages are a recognised hazard.

Normal anti-fatigue or non-slip matting products are easily attacked and degraded by hydrocarbon based fluids and can rapidly become a hazard unless dealt with quickly. MacLellan's continue to expand their MacMat range of high-performance mattings with the addition of MacMat-Oil.

MacMat-Oil is an Antistatic, Oil and Hydrocarbon resistant matting design for a wide range of industrial applications where oil contamination is a significant issue. With an antistatic volume resistivity value of 1x10^5 Ohm x m, this is an exceptional material for environments where the potential for explosions due to sparks needs to be avoided.

In standard tests using IRM 901 and IRM 903, Oil Resistance was measured at 1% and 22% respectively, significantly better than many similar compounds.

Manufactured with either a Penny Button or 5 Bar Checker surface finish for excellent non-slip characteristics, walking and standing comfort. The excellent thermal and acoustic properties of the material help reduce noise, vibration and cold propagation.

Expanding our High Performance Matting Products

MacMat products further enhance MacLellan's existing range of high performance, fully certified, rubber matting and rubber sheeting materials, putting us at the forefront of polymer technology in safety critical applications.

Find out more...

For more information on all of our Matting products **CLICK HERE** or contact our sales office on: **01902 307711**

MacLellan rubber

UKGSA : Free Advertising

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!

Rates:

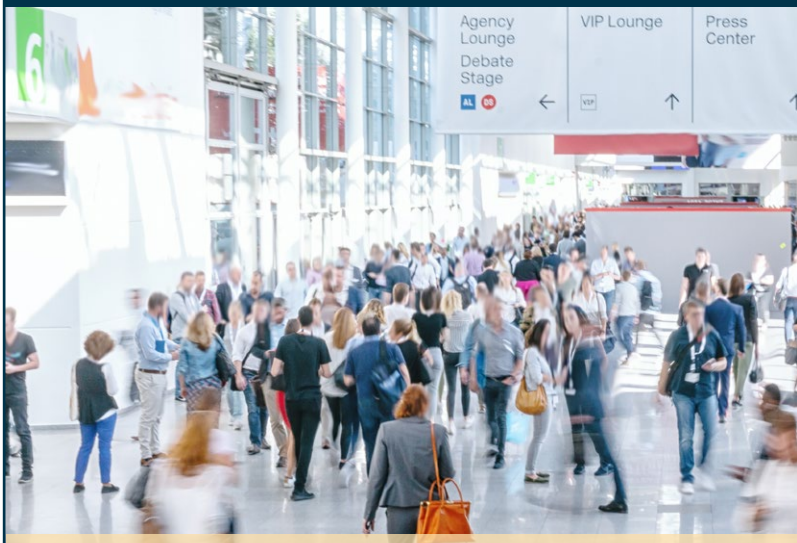
	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	£350.00	£440.00
Half Page	£200.00	£250.00
Quarter Page	£125.00	£155.00

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

Industry Exhibitions



Here is a list of exhibitions that our Members are planning to attend later in the year:

SEPTEMBER 2020
16 & 17 September -
CHEMUK 2020, Manchester: Flexitallic

OCTOBER 2020
26-30 October -
Posidonia 2020, Athens, Greece: Flexitallic

NOVEMBER 2020
10-12 November -
Foam Expo Europe, Germany: Kewell Converters (Stand 1027)

9 to 12 November -
Adipec, Abu Dhabi: Flexitallic

If you are attending a trade show, let us know so we can include you in the next issue.

New Improved Membranes

New Improved VAC-SIL® Membranes Range From J-Flex

J-Flex have recently updated their range of VAC-SIL® branded quality membranes, following further research and in response to customer feedback.



The membranes are used for the vacuum forming of composites and surface finishes within the Automotive, Furniture, Marine & Aerospace markets and are extensively used as the membranes of choice in the Solar PV panel production process.

The current range now includes 1mm Supreme, 1.5 & 3mm Pro, 3.8mm Lamin8 and 4mm Endurance Plus - all of which are high performers in their own right and offer significantly higher than average cycle life.

The VAC-SIL® range has continued to develop in accordance with industry needs and gained an enviable reputation, especially in the solar industry but have also been embraced within the automotive market, where it can be found in various uses on prestige cars, supercars and motorsport, including F1 and WRC.

For example, VAC-SIL® Supreme has become a firm favourite with a couple of high profile automotive industry manufacturers, where it has far exceeded their expectations, resulting in further confirmed contract orders.

VAC-SIL® SUPREME VAC-SIL® PRO VAC-SIL® LAMIN8 VAC-SIL® ENDURANCE+

You can see a video of VAC-SIL® Supreme in use at:
https://www.j-flex.com/product-market/prestige-automotive-motorsport/

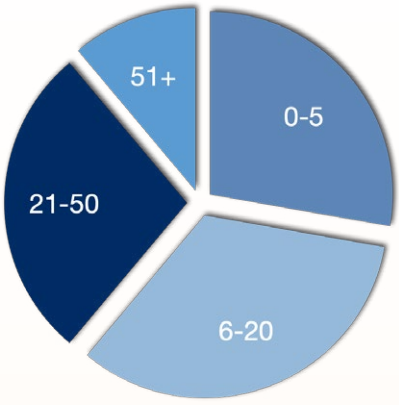
For further information & downloads, visit:
https://www.j-flex.com/product-type/vacuum-forming-consumables/

UKGSA : Survey Results

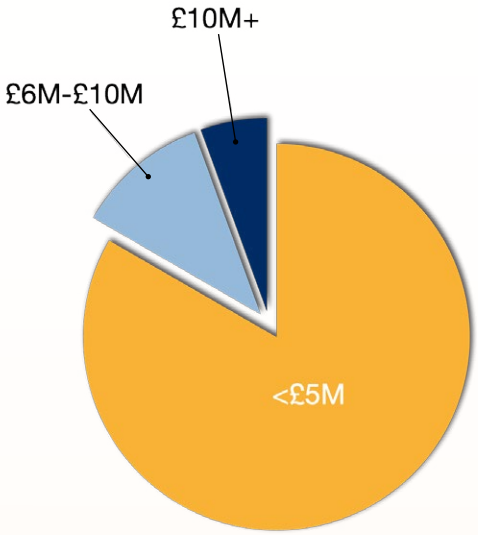
Members' Survey Results

The UKGSA launched our first Member Survey asking our members to share their views about the economy, Brexit and issues effecting their business. Here are the results which were obtained before or as the Coronavirus outbreak started.

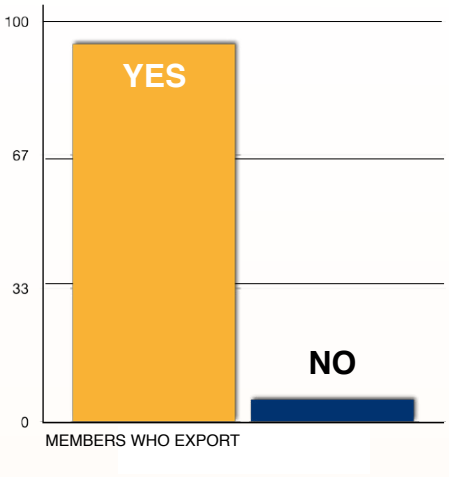
Members' Employee Numbers:



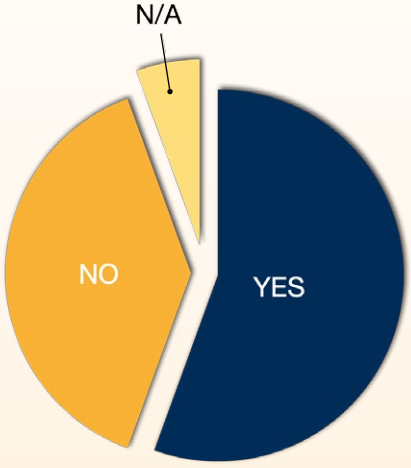
Members' Company Turnover:



Members Who Export:

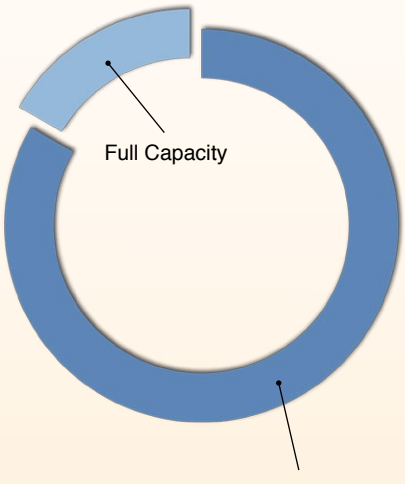


Export Market Increases:

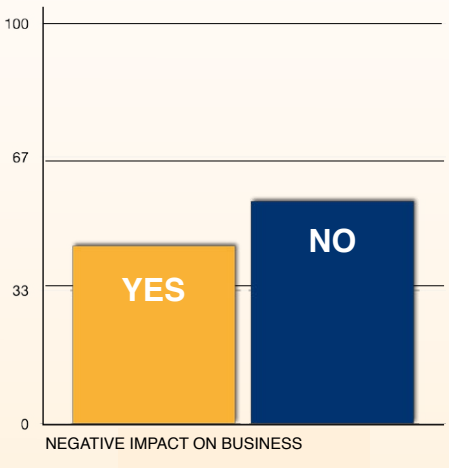


Q: *For those who Export, are you seeing increased levels of activity with export markets?*

Member Businesses Operating at Capacity:



Impact of Brexit on Members:



Q: *Has Brexit had a negative impact on your business so far?*

UKGSA : Survey Results Cont'd

Main Business Concerns Regarding Brexit:

Comments in general related to import and export concerns:

- Any increased duty or other charges on imported or exported goods
- General uncertainty in the market place, particularly in the automotive sector
- Uncertainty has led to stall in some business
- GBP exchange rate falling making importing of raw materials from inside and outside Europe more expensive
- Unknown tariffs
- Potential additional tariffs that our products may be subject to and the potential devaluation of the GBP against other currencies
- Import tariffs, shipping costs and delays
- Lack of confidence in government policy and communication on what the future looks like
- Increased material prices
- Regulations

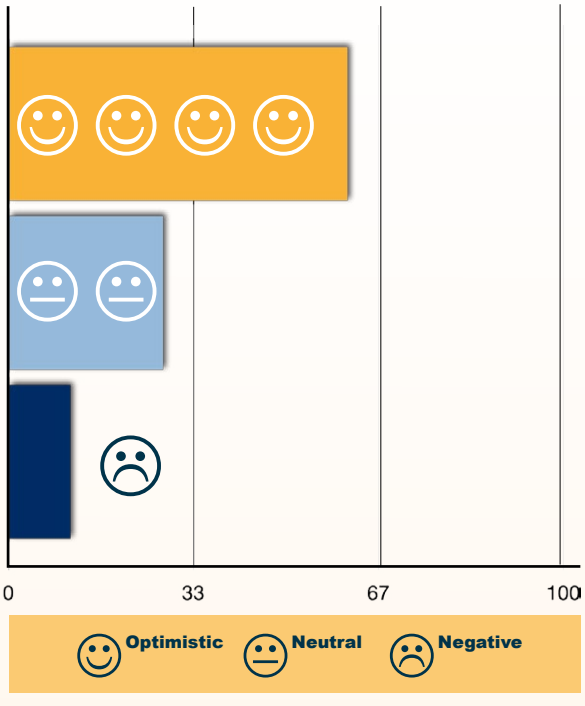
Main Challenges Member Businesses are Facing:

- Covid-19
- Reduced output during Coronavirus
- Customers may have gone after Coronavirus
- Uncertainty about Brexit coupled with Coronavirus
- Reaching clients in a crowded market
- Rising increases in labour and raw materials
- Lack of confidence in UK economy
- Demand fall, lower volumes
- Continuing uncertainty within the markets that we operate
- Slowdown in capex generally, oil & gas in particular
- Keeping customers aware of what we do and how we can help
- Low cost and quality import of materials from the Far East. Dip in standards for worldwide consumer as gasket product group is perceived as commodity rather than engineering components
- Other manufacturers dropping prices to chase growth in market share
- Consistency in the supply chain given Brexit issues.
- Poor payment performance of customers.
- Products moving abroad
- Economic
- Enough hours in the day

During the last 6 months has investment increased, decreased or remained the same:

	Increased	Decreased	Same
Plant & machinery	27.78%	0%	72.22%
Training	44.44%	0%	55.56%
Marketing	33.33%	0%	66.67%
Workforce	16.67%	11.11%	72.22%
Product development	44.44%	0%	55.56%

Opinion on outlook for 2020 (prior to Coronavirus):



Rubber Sheeting & Lining

Uncured & Cured Rubber Sheeting for Tank & Pipe Lining

What is Rubber Lining?

Rubber lining is a rubber sheet or membrane applied to the internal surface of a containment system and pipework to protection the metal from corrosion in aggressive chemical or temperature environments. A Rubber Lining is required to demonstrate resistance to either acid, chemicals and alkalis, provide abrasion resistance, or biological protection.

Typical uses of Rubber Linings

Rubber linings are used in a wide range of industrial applications where they both protect the metal containment vessels and pipe-work from corrosion and the media being stored or transported from being contaminated by impurities from any chemical reaction with the metal. Linings are produced in different thicknesses to be used in a variety of industrial situations where they are designed to extend the working life of the plant and equipment by resisting chemical attack or providing severe abrasion resistance.

Natural Soft Rubbers are widely used for pickling tanks and storage tanks or for slurry tank, pipe and pump lining. These materials typically have a low hardness, high flexibility and good resistance to abrasion.

Hard Synthetic Rubber linings are used for storage tanks, reactors, and pipelines with higher operating temperatures, and demonstrate good chemical and impact resistance whilst retaining flexibility.

Materials and their Applications

MacLellan offer a range of un-cured and cured lining materials, which can be vulcanised or bonded in-situ.

Our materials are all European manufactured to the highest quality standards with complete traceability and batch tested every 150kg for guaranteed consistency of performance.

Common Lining materials will include:

Natural Rubber - High quality Natural Rubber has excellent wear characteristics in lining applications and is widely used in the waste and slurry industry to protect pipes and vessels, and in the mining sector to line chutes, hoppers, separators and sand washers.

Neoprene Rubber - Chloroprene rubber demonstrates good weathering and ozone cracking resistance as well as oil, acid and abrasion resistance. Widely used for desalination plants, sea water piping, lining for water box, site joints of CWP, vessels etc.



Butyl Rubber - Isobutylene Isoprene has excellent chemical resistance at high temperatures and is also very durable due to the inherent low vapor permeability. Butyl rubber linings are the preferred choice for applications in vessels, pipes for acid plants, FGD, hypochloride storage and transport.

Hypalon Rubber - Chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubber offer outstanding chemical resistance to oxidizing acids at high concentrations. This is used in vessels and pipes with high acid concentration.

EPDM Rubber - Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer has high tensile strength along with excellent resistance to punctures, UV radiation, weathering and in certain formulations microbial attack. With a low co-efficient of thermal expansion and contraction, EPDM is used in a wide range of temperatures and environments but is commonly used in water and waste water treatment facilities.

Uncommon Lining materials will include:

Drinking Water Approved EPDM - We offer EPDM compounds to meet a wide range of European standards including WRAS, UBA, KTW, DWG, ACS and Belgaqua.

Viton - We supply genuine Chemours Viton for applications requiring high temperature and / or exception chemical resistance.

Food Quality Rubbers – All of our food quality materials are independently certified EC1935:EC2023 compliant, Nitrosamine Free, Animal Derived Ingredients Free, and Bisphenol Free. Available in Natural, Neoprene, Nitrile, EPDM, Silicone and Viton grades.

Metal Detectable Food Quality Rubber – We offer Metal Detectable Nitrile and Silicone to the same standards as our Food Quality Rubber compounds with the additional benefit of being metal detectable should any particles break off within the production process.

For more information or to obtain a quote on any of these compound and sheet materials contact: ian.littleton@maclellanrubber.com

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 2019/20:



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING

SAM BRADLEY
TREASURER



Andrew Crowther
OFFICER



ROGER DENT
OFFICER



Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS



Simon Carless
GOLD DAY



UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN



Keith Payne
MEMBERSHIP

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

New Appointments

Senior Leadership Changes at J-Flex

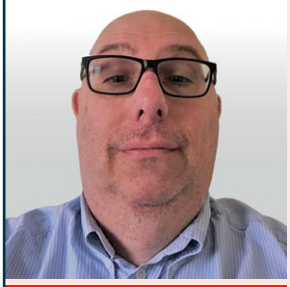
Retford-based J-Flex has announced changes to its Senior Leadership Team following an internal restructuring process.

Damon Simpson - joined the business as Head of Sales in January, taking over the reins from Lance Bradley who has become Business Development Manager.

Chris Barnes - has also joined the business in a part-time capacity as Head of Finance, following Finance Director Phillip Wright's retirement from the family-run company.

Commenting on the changes, Managing Director Sam Kirk said; *"I'm delighted to welcome Damon and Chris to J-Flex. Damon brings 30+ years of rubber industry knowledge to J-Flex, whilst Chris adds a wealth of financial management expertise to the solid foundations laid down by Phill over the last 25 years".*

Sam also added; *"On behalf of everybody at J-Flex, we wish Phill all the very best for the future, and thank him for his commitment, dedication and discretion since joining us in 1994. We also wish Damon, Chris and Lance every success in their new roles, all of whom will play vital parts in the next phase of the company's growth plans".*



Damon Simpson



Chris Barnes

I'm delighted to welcome Damon & Chris to J-Flex...

Sam Kirk -
Managing Director

Certified Cyber Safe

Cyber Essentials Certification

MacLellan Rubber are now Certified to Cyber Essentials. A link to our certificate is available on our website.

Cyber Essentials is a Government backed, industry scheme that provides confidence to customers that our IT Systems are robust and secure from a whole range of Cyber Attacks.

Cyber Essentials Certification requires that as a company we colmmit to the following:

1. Configure and use a Firewall to protect our devices, especially those that connect to public or other untrusted Wi-Fi networks.

2. Use only necessary software, accounts and Apps.

3. Control access to our data through user accounts, that administration privileges are only given to those that need them and that what an administrator can do with accounts is controlled.

4. Implement a Cyber Essentials preferred approach to defend against malware.

5. Keep all devices, software and Apps up to date.

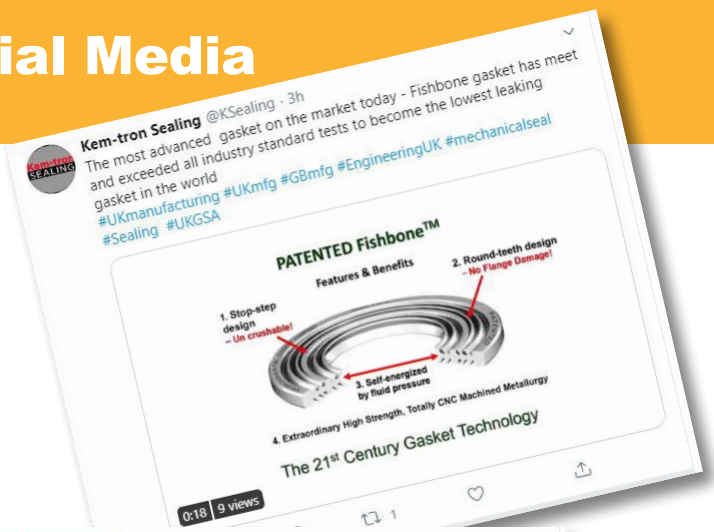
This scheme, which falls under the National Cyber Security Centre, means that both Public and Private Customers can now have the confidence that MacLellan Rubber has the necessary protections in place when awarding contracts and issuing orders for their own Rubber Sheeting and Polymer needs.



MacLellan rubber

UKGSA : Members on Social Media

What the 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 : 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

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