SUMMER 2022

CUTTING EDGE

UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE UK GASKET & SEALING ASSOCIATION



New Member Open Door Events

The UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA) has launched a series of open door events to Members.

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THIS ISSUE:

New Members • Golf Day Winners • Awards • Fundraising

New Member Open Door Events



Waterjet & Router Open Door

On Tuesday 20 September 2022, AAG are inviting UKGSA Members to their UK head office in Telford, Shropshire. AAG are a leading global manufacturer of CNC router machines and waterjet solutions and are keen to showcase their facilities and products to Members.

During the visit, Members will see live demonstrations on a full range of both WARDJet Waterjets and AXYZ Router systems, learn about the latest CNC innovations and see machinery demonstrations.

Each system will be running various materials and applications. Experienced AAG Applications and Product Experts will be on-site to train attendees in best practices and to answer any of your questions on material processing, machine configuration, or software.

Elastomeric Manufacturer Open Door

On 10 November 2022, DLR Elastomer Engineering is hosting a visit to their facility in Leyland near Preston

The company is a highly experienced and reliable rubber sheeting, fabrications and moulding company with a range of materials science and manufacturing expertise. The team specialise in rubber-to-metal bonding and making parts from thermosetting rubbers providing high quality solutions.

During the tour, UKGSA Members will find out about DLR's tailor-made sheeting, bespoke rubber mouldings, polyurethane casting & moulding services as well as their capabilities in design, development and manufacturing

Visit our Events webpage to download booking forms.

Message from the Chairman



Simon Winfield
Chair, UKGSA
Director, MacLellan Rubber

Welcome to our Summer Edition of Cutting Edge where we round up the latest news from our members and industry. With the Queens Jubilee Celebrations still fresh in our memories and the draw of sandy beaches and weekend barbeques increasing, you could be forgiven for thinking that life is getting back to normal.

For most of our Members it feels like we are working through increasingly testing times as businesses face sustained challenges – the war in Ukraine driving up energy and transport costs; a labour shortage and cost of living crisis adding to wage demands; global shortages of raw materials resulting in consistent raw material cost increases; and now we have the prospect of increased strike action across key sectors which will undoubtedly further hamper our recovery.

And yet there is so much positivity emanating from our Members that it is hard to believe that we are in an unprecedented state of instability. Growth and investment persist unabated with many of our Members reporting sustained increase in sales numbers, new business opportunities, expanding production facilities and more product development.

Being agile and able to react quickly to opportunities and develop winning strategies is the hallmark of our Members and long may that continue.

An area of concern that is increasingly prevalent over the last few months are the amounts of bogus materials that are finding their way to the UK market. As shortages of things like Fluoropolymers become more acute, we are increasingly seeing commercial FKM's being passed off as Chemours Viton A© or poor-quality silicone imports being sold as high-grade Silicone. Similarly commercial plastics materials being sold as premium grade. Couple this with an upturn in 'off the shelf' ISO9001 certification recently highlighted by TUV and BSI – essentially buy a QA manual and Certificate without any audit or implementation - and the risks for manufacturers and end users increase exponentially.

We urge everyone to properly audit their supply chain to ensure that 'fake is found out' and eliminated, the cost can easily run into thousands of pounds, and you can be sure the fakers won't be around to pay. We know that all members of the UKGSA have robust checks on their supply chains and their Quality Assurance systems are well managed and properly audited.

I guess a big plus for many of us this year is the fact that there are no restrictions on holiday travel, strike action and human resources dependent, so I hope all of you get to enjoy some much-deserved down-time with family and friends.

Finally, thank you to all of you who joined us at our Golf Day and Charity Dinner, we raised lots of money for Macmillan Cancer through the generosity of attendees, sponsors, and donators of prizes for our raffle and auction, you can read a full report inside.



AEM Gasket Manufacturer Joins the UKGSA

Graphfor LTD, a leading AEM gasket manufacturer, has joined the UK Gasket & Sealing Association.

Graphfor LTD are based in Runcorn and are a leading supplier and manufacturer of OEM quality gaskets and clamps for leading truck brands, such as Scania, Mercedes, Volvo, DAF and many more.

As one of the biggest gasket and clamp kit suppliers in the automotive industry, they offer a friendly customer service, professionalism and expertise. Furthermore, with their own engineering capabilities, Graphfor LTD can reverse engineer any clamp or gasket to a customer's requirement.

Declan Horn, Managing Director of Graphfor LTD, says: *"We are delighted to be joining the UK Gasket & Sealing Association. We've already booked tickets to attend the Annual Golf Day Dinner in July which will give us an opportunity to meet Members, and we are sponsoring two of the golf trophies."*

Simon Winfield, chairman of the UKGSA and director of MacLellan Rubber, says: *"We're delighted to welcome a gasket manufacturer to the Association and look forward to introducing Graphfor to Members at our next event. I'm pleased to see the association grow and continue to provide support to companies of all sizes who operate in the UK's gasket and sealing sector."*

For more information about Graphfor LTD visit:
https://graphforltd.com



Gasket and Sealing Manufacturer Joins the UKGSA

Monarch Gaskets and Seals Limited has joined the UK Gasket & Sealing Association.

Founded in 2017 and based in Wakefield, Monarch is an independent manufacturer of gaskets and seals supplying OEM and MROs across all industry sectors. The company can convert any material from gasket paper to exotic metals using their in-house waterjet cutting machines.

Gavin Lyles, Managing Director of Monarch, says: *"We are proud to be joining an Association that includes well-established companies that have made the UK's gasket and sealing sector the success it is today. We look forward to being an active member of the Association."*

Simon Winfield, chairman of the UKGSA and director of MacLellan Rubber, says: *"We're delighted to welcome a premium gasket and sealing manufacturer to the Association. Gavin has worked in our sector for a number of years and is well-known in the industry having previously worked for ERIKS Gasket Technology, Gee Graphite Ltd, Phoenix Sealing Ltd and at Ashton Seals before setting up Monarch in 2017. We look forward to introducing him to our Members over the coming months."*

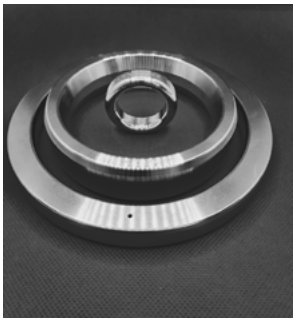
For more information about Monarch Gaskets and Seals visit:
http://www.monarch-gaskets.co.uk

MONARCH GASKETS & SEALS LTD

"Solving Fugitive Emissions – One Application at a time"

Ring Type Joint Gaskets (RTJ's)

- Regular inventory of standard range of RTJ's available on a same day, next day service.
- Materials Available in: Soft Iron, SS304, SS316, F5, 347 along with Exotic Materials: Inconel, Monel, Hastelloy, Titanium, Duplex are produced on demand in Oval, Octagonal, BX, RX, IX, HX, AX and Lens Ring Type Joints.
- RTJ's are used in offshore Applications and particular styles can be adapted for Subsea applications also.
- Price Lists available on request.



RTJ's produced under license to dimensions as per API-6A and AMSE B16.20

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William Johnston & Company Limited Announce Retirement of Sandy McEwen



Robert Dawson



Billy Hardoe



Craig Edwards



Sharon Patrick



Sandy McEwen

After 19 years as a director of William Johnston & Company Limited, our Managing Director, Sandy McEwen has now retired from that role but will continue with the company as a Consultant.

Sandy said *"I joined the company as a director in 2003 and over the last 19 years have overseen many changes and challenges in both Glasgow and Inverness. These could not have been accomplished and overcome without the support of my fellow directors and our managers and staff for which I am very grateful.*

After a number of years of steady growth, I am delighted that the company is solid and secure with an excellent and loyal customer base. The management of the future of the company is in safe hands with Robert Dawson, Craig Edwards, Sharon Patrick and Billy Hardie on the Board of Directors. I have been asked by the Board to remain associated with the company as a consultant which I am pleased to accept.

I wish the company and all its employees' prosperity and all the best for the future." Sandy has been on the committee of the UK Gasket & Sealing Association for 15 years and is currently Vice-Chair with responsibility for managing the association's fundraising for its nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Relief. He will continue in that post during his consultancy

Robert Dawson, on behalf of the Board of Directors said *"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sandy for his enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism over the past 19 years and wish him a long and heathy retirement. Sandy has some great knowledge of our company and of our industry. Employing Sandy as a consultant to William Johnston & Company Limited ensures that none of this knowledge is lost.*

The current Board of Directors look forward to further developing our relationships with our long-established customer base and developing new opportunities throughout the industry to ensure the continuing success of William Johnston & Company Limited".

151 Years in the Making

MacLellan Rubber was established back in 1871 and started at our purpose built manufacturing plant based in Shuna Street, Glasgow. From day one the MacLellan Team have been innovators of ground-breaking products and production techniques.

To list a few:

- The Modern Tennis Ball
- Li-Lo inflatable mattress
- The Waterproof Over Shoe
- The Rubber Golf Tee
- Inflatable Cushion
- The rubber Ear Plug
- The Rubber Apron
- Anti-Fatigue Matting
- Rubber flooring
- Hose / Ducting

More recent innovations include:

- M396 Metal detectable #NBR (nitrile) #EU1935
- Our own Brand of #SILICONE 60 Deg. shore A #FDA
- RAIL 45 #EN45545 Grades
- Fluoro-MAC (FKM)
- Mac-Mat FIRE - #FR Sheeting and matting
- Mac-Mat OIL - Oil resistant Sheeting and matting



For more information about our range of products, please contact your account manager or our sales team on **01903 307711** or email **sales@maclellanrubber.com**

Kewell Converters Ltd



I'm writing this article fresh (not how I felt the day after!) from the annual golf event.

Once again, a fantastic setting, some mixed golf (from me) and a very successful and enjoyable day overall. Great to see money being raised for charity and to catch-up with some amazing people – huge thanks to everyone involved in organising! Already looking forward to next year.

Summer is now in full swing and it's encouraging that most industries are continuing to see an upturn in activity and sales despite the ongoing supply chain and pricing issues. Our financial year ends in July and we're proud to report that Q3 & 4 have been our busiest for quite some time.

We are continuing to grow the team and are in the middle of recruiting four new Production staff to help cope with demand and growth plans. There are some very exciting projects in the pipeline which should transpire into new orders over the coming months. Additionally, at the start of July, we welcomed a new Head of Business Development to the Team – Ross Thurlow, formerly of Technical Foam Services has come onboard and brings a wealth of experience and energy (and some suspect shirts!) to the team.

We're continuing our sustainability drive, which isn't always easy with foam! We already send our waste material away to be recycled or agglomerated into new sheets, and from next month we're looking forward to pushing the latest Zotefoams release, a high performance Plastazote which incorporates some recycled material – please get in touch for further information.

Finally, we're looking forward to attending even more events this year and meeting new and existing clients. Planning will begin shortly for our main annual event, The Foam Expo in Stuttgart – fingers crossed it will be another successful trip.

Members voted in at AGM



Following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UK Gasket & Sealing Association on Thursday 7 July 2022, two existing committee members were reconfirmed for another three years and a new member has joined the team.

Sam Bradley of Flexitallic UK Ltd will be continuing his role as Treasurer of the association. Sam has fulfilled this role since 2016.

Roger Dent of HITEK Electronic Materials Ltd, who joined the committee in 2019, will also be continuing his role as member representative.

Simon Carless of W C Munsch/PTM, who has been a long-standing member of the UKGSA and the committee and has been instrumental in organising the golf competition of the annual golf day, announced his retirement from the committee. At the AGM, the Chairman of the UKGSA, Simon Winfield of MacLellan Rubber Ltd, acknowledged his commitment and hard work organising our popular golf days over the years.



Going forward, the role of Golf Competition organiser will be undertaken by James Salt (pictured) of The Seal Extrusion Company who was voted in at the AGM. James is a keen golfer and was part of the team who won Best Four Ball Team trophy and Runner Up Best Individual Round at 2021's golf day.

A look back at our Golf Day















Simon Carless, Golf Day Committee Member and Director of Munsch & Co / PTM, shares his report on our Annual Golf competition.

Once again, we returned to our “home” course for this year’s annual golf day. It was evident that the new owners of the hotel have invested significantly in the hotel and the golf course, as we found it in magnificent condition. A credit to head greenkeeper Ben and his team. Indeed, on the Monday of our golfing week, Shrigley hosted a county match between Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The format for our golf day was as normal, singles and team, Stableford with the team event being best two scores from 4 to count.

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A look back at our Golf Day

Despite a high turnout this year of 29 golfers, we did have several 3 ball teams who were each allocated a *"ghost"* player to assist their score. Chosen randomly by Greg the head chef at the golfing lodge, Peter Mannion was selected.

We also had Nearest the Pin in 2, *"Beat the Pro"* and Best Drive competitions. Big thanks to new Head Pro at Shrigley, Andy McDonald. I believe he was beaten a few times!

The weather was good for the golf day, and I believe everyone found the terrain interesting, albeit a bit tiring.

The 8 teams of golfers set off on the first tee at 10.00 a.m. and the final group arrived back in the clubhouse around 4 p.m. allowing adequate time for a few after golf aperitifs.

Following some tremendous scoring, I am recommending to the UKGSA Committee handicaps for players next year who are not Members of a club and who therefore don't have an official handicap. Also, a reminder to golfers who are members of the WHS system, that they should be reporting casual scores back to their club.

Finally this leaves me to say what a fabulous day we had; this is my last time arranging golf days as I am stepping down from my role on the Committee which I have been doing for 12 years.

Hopefully the committee will continue to use Shrigley Hall as our home course and play here every two years as we always get excellent attendance, even without Mark Birks who contracted Covid the day before, and Keith Shepherd's guest, Dennis Millward, who sadly couldn't make it.

All the best and hope to see you all next year at the UKGSA's 30th Anniversary Golf Day.

Simon Carless
PTM/WC Munsch

Golf Trophy Winners

1ST PLACE BEST INDIVIDUAL ROUND
(sponsored by V-Seal) – Stephen Wilde, Southbourne Rubber

RUNNER UP BEST INDIVIDUAL ROUND
(sponsored by Graphfor) – Ashley Wailes, FSP

1ST PLACE 4 BALL TEAM
(sponsored by HITEK Electronic Materials) – Sam Bradley (Flexitallic) / Darren Pearson (Gee Graphite) / Stephen Wilde (Southbourne Rubber) / Roger Dent (HITEK)

RUNNERS UP 4 BALL TEAM
(sponsored by SJG International) – Ashley Wailes (FSP) / Peter Mannon / Jack Naylor (NES) / Martyn Deaton-Rodgers (NES)

LONGEST DRIVE
(sponsored by JP Polymer Sheetings Ltd) – Sam Bradley (Flexitallic)

NEAREST THE PIN IN 2
(sponsored by JP Polymer Sheetings Ltd) – Sam Bradley (Flexitallic)

HIDDEN TEAM
(sponsored by MacLellan Rubber) – Jack Lane (Wardjet) / Kurt Allen (3S Gaskets) / Harrison Mace (TRP Sealing) / Mike Bulford (SJG International)

WOODEN SPOON
(sponsored by Graphfor) – Mark Kelly (FSP)

Mike Bulford from SJG International won a special award on the night for his 7th shot of the day which moved out from the bottom to the ravine!



Golf Day Charity Dinner



Our evening dinner raises money for our nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, and provides an opportunity for Members and guests to dust off their Black Tie attire.

Our evening dinner raises money for our nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, and provides an opportunity for Members and guests to dust off their Black Tie attire.

During pre-dinner drinks, attendees were entertained by Member Moontown and NES who both had table displays showcasing their wide range of products and services.

The dining room was kindly decorated by Alison Ansell of Corseal who continued the jubilee celebrations with a red, white and blue theme for table centrepieces and chair sashes. Many thanks to Alison for giving up her time to decorate the room on the day.

Our compere for the evening, Sandy McEwen of William Johnston & Company, commenced the night with a game of Heads & Tails. This acted as an ice breaker for the evening. Everyone puts £10 into a sealed envelope and chooses ‘heads’ or ‘tails’ by placing their hands on their head or ‘tail’. The compere tosses a coin and whoever didn’t select the winning side of the coin sits down. After a nail-biting finale, the winner of the two night stay at AnnaCapri guest house in Falmouth was Matt Jennings of Gee Graphite. (photo of H&T and winner)

Thank you to Lucy Simpson and Rachel Russell of SJG International who sold raffle tickets during dinner, giving attendees the chance to win a range of prizes donated by Members.

Flexitallic’s donated auction prize of a round of golf and accommodation at the Trump International course in Aberdeen was fought over and won by Mark Kelly of FSP. And a surprise prize of two VIP tickets for Manchester United Football Club, which was kindly donated by Keith Shepherd of J A Harrison, was auctioned and bought by Mark Kelly of FSP!

In total, the event raised an incredible £3,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

SAVE THE DATE

Our 2023 Golf Day and Dinner and 30th Anniversary will be at Belton Woods Hotel & Golf in Lincolnshire on Thursday 21st September 2023.

OEM vs Aftermarket Parts

Spare parts for cars and trucks are bound to be needed throughout a vehicle's lifetime; their components can break down over time due to wear and tear. Choosing replacement parts can be difficult, but people are often faced with the options of using OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts or Aftermarket parts. But what is the difference between the two?

All parts will show levels of wear but in terms of quality and robustness, which is equivalent to a brand new part. Our team at Graphfor Ltd have put together a guide that will help individuals and businesses choose the right replacement parts for their vehicles.

OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Parts

OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Parts are made by the original manufacturing company for the specific vehicle; they are sold by the original manufacturer instead of being branded by the car companies to then be resold. Vehicle manufacturers very often don't make many of the parts they use to assemble their vehicles, as they will buy the vehicle parts from a large network of manufacturers who make vehicle parts based on the specifications of major companies.

A lot of people assume that OEM parts are more expensive than aftermarket because they are considered to be of better quality. Although sometimes, there is a negligible difference between the parts. Using these parts means you may be able to worry less about voiding any warranty on your vehicle.

Aftermarket Parts

The confusion surrounding aftermarket parts is due to the variety in quality and price. In a lot of cases, they may outperform OEM parts due to the manufacturing companies analysing parts and identifying faults; they will then improve the design with higher quality materials and revised designs.

Since there are thousands of aftermarket suppliers, there will be different variations of the same part, more aftermarket sellers means there is a better variety of prices and models.

Checks are done to ensure the aftermarket parts have a standardisation stamp; this will guarantee the standard of quality that is needed from the particular parts.

Advice from Graphfor Ltd

At Graphfor Ltd, we source gaskets from our sister company Catalytic Support Systems, which are the OEM for leading truck brands. This means that although some of our gaskets are aftermarket, we are aware of the quality and high standards that OEM parts must meet. Our engineering team are able to reverse engineer gaskets to meet the exact specifications of the original. Our customers can rest assured that they are getting OEM quality gaskets at aftermarket prices.

If you would like more information about OEM and Aftermarket Vehicle parts, please contact Graphfor Ltd.

https://graphforltd.com

GRAPHFOR LTD

Gasketing/Converting Expo



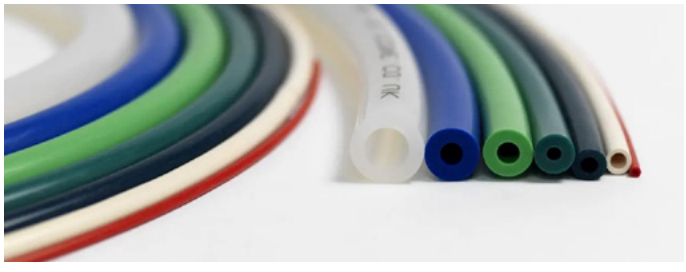
Silicone Engineering was excited to return to North America for the first post-Covid exhibition at the G/C Expo in Orlando, Florida.

We were delighted to be face to face with our customers and prospects once again, having the opportunity to showcase our products and network with the North American converters, as well as with our extended Silicone Engineering – Rogers Corporation team.

The two day event focussed on reconnecting the industry's senior representatives from gasket cutting experts and fabrication manufacturers.

The G/C Expo is a biennial event presented by the Gasket Fabricators Association. It provides a unique opportunity for fabricators and suppliers.







Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd – Solving Fugitive Emissions, One Application at a Time

Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd have had an impressive start to 2022 with the accreditation of ISO 9001 Certification and increasing our number of press machines to seven with the investment in a 25 Tonne Hydraulic Press for manufacturing DPF: Automotive Parts in specialised graphite materials and over knitted wire mesh.

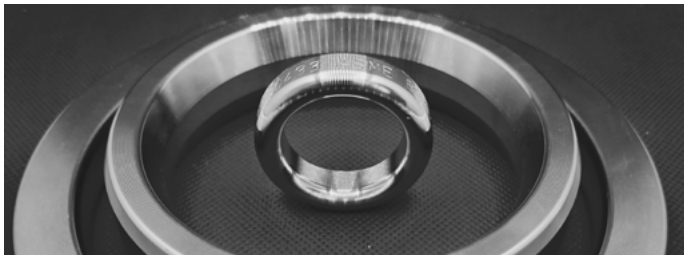




We have an extensive range of Metal DPF Gaskets, Pressed Graphite Parts with tooling available inhouse and with our two waterjet machines we can cut parts in any material from drawing or reverse engineer parts to the tightest tolerances.

We pride ourselves on our same day or next day service on these parts. Please feel free to contact us at sales@monarch-gaskets.co.uk for a quotation or samples to trial before purchase.

We have also invested heavily in a range of Metal Ring Type Joints (RTJ's) – we found that sourcing stock throughout the UK, mostly down to the pandemic, was challenging at times with lead-times too long for our customers' requirements. This, along with continually fluctuating prices, meant we invested in holding increased stock levels for 2022 so we can help service the industry and hopefully bring calm and stability back as we all rebuild from the nightmare that is COVID.



The RTJ's are available off the shelf to the industry with full certification and are supplied without Monarch branding or packaging. Distributor price lists are available via our new UK Sales Manager – Jodie Warhurst.

With many years in the industry (Ex DMR and Sealco) Jodie has, in such a small amount of time, become an integral member of the team and brings a wealth of knowledge and networking that has accelerated Monarch Gaskets & Seals Ltd into new markets and product ranges that complement our existing portfolio perfectly.

We have recently focussed on developing our seals range to include O Rings, Lip Seals, FEP Vulcanised Seals and Machined Seals – This has been a side of the business that slowly built in the background over the past 5 years.

We have a wealth of experience at Monarch to continually grow this side of the business into 2023 and for many a year to come. These are definitely exciting times for us.

Please feel free to email Jodie at sales@monarch-gaskets.co.uk for price lists on RTJ's or any other requirement you may have for Gaskets, Seals or Waterjet Profile Cutting.

Catch up with....Sandy McEwen



During the golf day, we caught up with Glasgow-born Sandy McEwen following the announcement that he retired in March as managing director of William Johnston & Company Limited which is based there. The company was one of the founding members of the UKGSA in 1993.

How long have you worked at William Johnston & Company Limited?
I joined as a director of the company in 2003. The directors at that time required some support with succession planning and, over the next five years, I led changes in the business which enabled them to retire from the company.

What changes did you make?
In year one I relocated the Glasgow headquarters of the business as the previous property had been the subject of a compulsory purchase for a new road, restructured the shareholdings in the company and the pension scheme, took on new staff and updated the company policies etc. to provide a sound platform on which to run the business. I also visited the Inverness branch a number of times to understand how that operated in the Highlands, a very different market to the ones supplied from Glasgow. By my second year I turned to the operational side of the business and met a lot of customers, both large and small throughout the UK to gain a better understanding of the many industries the company serves. Through the Gasket Cutters Association (as it was then) I made good friends with many leading figures in our own industry who I am still in contact with today.

In the years that followed, the main focus was on, alongside others in the company, working with key customers to build sales and introduce new products. In addition, we built a more robust supply chain with partners in Asia, Europe and the UK to service all customers and secured a number Scottish and UK distributorships for sealing products. We also acquired a couple of small customers which helped us reach new markets. However during my time the business has mainly grown organically and steadily so that between 2003 and 2021 turnover has doubled and profits increased more than proportionately which has made the company an attractive place to work and remain. That has enabled us to recruit a strong and experienced management team who are now directors, managers and shareholders who will, I am sure, take the business onto greater things. In recent years we have fostered a stronger relationship between the Glasgow and Inverness branches and Billy Hardie, who managed the Inverness branch, is a main board director of the company.

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Catch up with....Sandy McEwen

Is William Johnston & Company Limited primarily a Scottish supplier?
No, in fact 70% of products which leave from the Glasgow HQ are delivered outside Scotland to the rest of the UK, Ireland, Europe and further afield including to the west coast of the USA and a long established distributor in Hong Kong. The Inverness branch is the largest supplier of gaskets in the North of Scotland out with the offshore centre of Aberdeen, and is the main supplier of sealing products to the many whisky distilleries in the Highlands and the various businesses which support that thriving sector amongst others.

No two gasket manufacturers are the same but what probably differentiates William Johnston & Company Limited is that, as well as being a main supplier to the pipeline based water and gas utilities by way of kits comprising of gaskets with the required number of fasteners to make a flange seal and a whole range of sealing solutions to many other industries, the company also manufactures and supplies mud flaps and snow plough blades for commercial vehicles, insulation and flooring kits for new taxis and disabled people carriers and a number of other "non-gasket" products. This diversity has been one of the main strengths of the company in recent years.

Why are you retiring now?
At the end of 2015 the company was in a good financial position so, along with senior managers based in the Glasgow HQ, we devised a structure which enabled them to become shareholders and directors and for the value of my shares to be released over a period of time. In 2018 a further restructuring brought in the Inverness team of Billy Hardie to the board and him and the Inverness manager Aaron Findlayson as shareholders. We have a sound management team in Robert Dawson, Craig Edwards, Sharon Patrick and Billy Hardie so I've been gradually delegating responsibilities to them since 2015. I remained managing director throughout the period of this plan being implemented until it was fulfilled early this year at which point I had agreed to retire.

When did you get involved in the UKGSA?
I joined the committee in 2008 and have worked alongside Max Rowland, Keith Shepherd and Simon Winfield and have been vice-chair for a number of years. I'll continue to represent William Johnston & Company Limited in my role as a consultant to the company and lead the association's fundraising activities.

What's next?
I'm remaining as a consultant with the company and will continue to support the directors. However, I'll now have more time to spend enjoying my passions which are cycling, skiing, golf, walking and travel!



WILLIAM JOHNSTON
& COMPANY LIMITED

Mayor hails Flexitallic UK's new North East Service Centre as 'vote of confidence' in Middlesbrough



Middlesbrough Mayor Andy Preston has officially opened Flexitallic UK's new North East Service Centre – saying the investment highlights a growing economic confidence in the area.

The 650 sqm. facility at Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP), Middlesbrough, enables Flexitallic to expand its capabilities to design and manufacture gaskets and static sealing solutions, and improve its stockholding and workshop facilities to meet increasing demand from customers in the region.

Andy Preston said: *"This move by Flexitallic UK is part of a process that builds confidence in Middlesbrough, inspiring other businesses to follow suit to create the life changing career opportunities this area needs.*

"There are many exciting projects underway that will transform both the town and its economy, including the UK's largest hydrogen project. The presence of Flexitallic UK supports this transition."

The centre, which includes a dedicated ECITB accredited training facility, has the region's largest stock of sealing solutions. In addition to its gasket cutting service, it provides a local fast turn delivery service for North East clients operating across multiple sectors, including renewables, chemical, oil and gas and power generation.

Flexitallic's experienced team of joint integrity professionals is supported by an applications team that collaborates with clients on a range of specialist projects, including design reviews, gasket redesigns and industry compliance.

Capable of manufacturing both pipeline gaskets and vessel gaskets from a range of soft materials, including fibre, graphite, PTFE, and rubber, it also produces semi metallic gaskets including spiral wound gaskets. The service centre provides bolted connection engineering review and design review services, and the team can be reached 24/7 for support with both commercial and technical requirements.

The new centre will host workshops including IChemE approved courses and industry discussions on flange management and bolted joint integrity, together with calculation software demonstrations.

Sam Bradley, UK Sales Director at Flexitallic, said: *"We have opened this much larger facility in Middlesbrough as a direct response to a growing demand from clients.*

"The North East of England will play a significant role in the deployment of green energy technology on a global scale, and it is important that Flexitallic plays its part in supporting industry to reduce its carbon footprint.

"Our service centre on Teesside provides customers with a complete package, including operator training, engineering design services, manufacture, and stock of best in class sealing products with same day service, all under one roof."

Flexitallic

SBR Wins Award - Best Apprenticeship Employer 2022



At SBR we recognise the importance of future-proofing the business and investing in apprentices.

Due to additional growth in the Aerospace, Defence and Medical markets, we have been spurred on to expand our apprentice programme. Over the past few years, we have taken on several additional personnel which included eight apprentices, and this number will soon be increased to 11.

Apprenticeships bring mutual benefits to both the business and apprentices alike and have produced highly skilled employees as a result. Current apprenticeships being undertaken include:

- L5 - Operations Departmental Management
- L4 - Junior Management Consultant
- L3 – Business Administration
- L2 – Engineering Operative

We are proud to announce that, due to our success, SBR has recently been presented with an award by PETA Training & Consultancy Services for the Best Apprenticeship Employer 2022 (SME – Under 250 employees).

"SBR has grown from seven people in 2016 to over 18 in 2022, taking on eight apprentices and is set to take on another three in September. This is a fast-growing business that is giving these young people a great start in life, a future skill, and a career. We do not want our apprentices to leave, we want to keep them, they are the future of the business. SBR is a small SME, which has proven that with good management and vision you can make a difference" **Stephen Wilde - SBR's MD**

SBR Southbourne Rubber

SJG International

Since writing the last article for Cutting Edge, things have remained very busy for SJG with lots going on!

Apprenticeship Programme
We are pleased to announce the success of our current work with Heart of Worcestershire College (HWGTA) and Next Gen Makers. One of the students, Elle Hawthorn, has accepted an apprenticeship role as Product Design & Development Technician and will be working at SJG whilst also continuing her studies through college.

We are on the start of the apprenticeship journey, and have had amazing support from Adam Tipper of Next Gen Makers and Donna Harper-Edwards of HWGTA.

For anyone considering apprenticeships, we would definitely advise speaking with Next Gen Makers.

JOSCAR Certification
SJG have successfully renewed their JOSCAR accreditation. This enables us to work with a vast amount of customers and demonstrates we meet the strict and professional criteria.

JOSCAR is a collaborative tool used by the aerospace, defence and security industry to act as a single repository for pre-qualification and compliance information. Using JOSCAR can determine if a supplier is “fit for business”.

Change in Working Patterns
Following consultation with employees, we have trialled a number of working patterns across the business in order to obtain a better work/life balance for employees, whilst also still meeting commercial objectives and customer requirements.

As a result of the trials, a number of departments have adopted a 4 day working week but still have the ability to work additional overtime and run projects and trials more efficiently.

The change in working pattern has been really well received.

We have been busy across all departments and are currently looking to recruit an additional Office Administrator in our Sales Office, so hopefully by the next issue we will be introducing another member of staff!

Behind the scenes we have made further investment in the production floor with continuing work painting the floors and general maintenance to ensure we maintain our fantastic factory environment that we are exceptionally proud of. Customers and suppliers visit our site and always comment on the cleanliness and investment we have made in the factory.

We recently attended the Golf day, which was exceptionally well organised and raised a fantastic amount of money for Macmillan, well done all involved.

We are looking forward to further events, especially into next year with the 30 year celebration of the UK Gasket & Sealing Association (UKGSA).

Vans without borders



A fundraiser local to Corseal and The Seal Extrusion Company in Suffolk, has been making regular trips to the Ukraine taking much needs supplies to hospitals, families and children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Steve Hyde, is one of a group of people who are driving their vans to the Ukraine to deliver aid to those who are suffering due to the war. They deliver aid to towns and villages that have been bombed by the Russian troops that cannot be reached by other agencies. They also take aid to nursing homes, children's homes, and homes for children with mental and physical disabilities. They have also been supplying mobility aids such as walking sticks, Zimmer frames and wheelchairs. In addition to aid for civilians, Steve and his crew have been supplying vital medical supplies to support the Ukranian army, as well as body armour and helmets to soldiers.

When the team are in Ukraine, they are based in Kyiv, taking aid to surrounding towns and villages. They also make trips from Lviv on the Polish borders taking donations from the UK and around the world. They work closely with other aid agencies in Ukraine to help them deliver their supplies as they have a lack of funding and reliable vehicles.

Steve explains that each driver is self-funded. They directly pay for fuel, fuel tickets, insurance/maintenance, accommodation and food as well as contribute to buying aid.

If any of our Members would like to donate, his JustGiving page is:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/steve-hyde

Foreseen Restrictions on PFAS (Statement by: AK Dichtungen June 2022)

As a result of the ongoing discussions and further increasing questions on the subject of PFAS (per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) and their proposed restrictions or bans, we, the PTFE-processing and distributing members of “AK Dichtungen”, an open work group of renowned gasket experts, would like to inform you, the user of PTFE gaskets and equipment, about the current state of affairs.

Background and Objective

The PFAS restriction process is a joint initiative of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, with the participation of the following agencies: Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark (Environmental Protection Agency), Norwegian Environment Agency, KEMI (Swedish Chemicals Agency), National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (The Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) and “baua:” (German “Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin”).

The aim of the initiative is to restrict the use of PFAS = all substances containing at least one fully fluorinated -CF2 or -CF3 group (without any H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it).

According to the definition, not only volatile or soluble fluorochemicals (“substances of high concern”) are directly affected by these restrictions, but also all chemically stable fluoropolymers such as PTFE, PFA or FEP - and in consequence also all fluoropolymers used in the chemical, pharmaceutical or food industry, e.g. as high-grade gasketing materials or materials for corrosion protection.

Time Line

Starting in 2020, the participating government agencies carried out preparatory work for the restriction procedure and recorded some uses of fluorochemicals and fluoropolymers. The substitutability of the substances covered should also be taken into account.

However, this was done without taking into account the industrial applications of fluoropolymers to protect equipment, humans and the environment in the above-mentioned industries.

In the following consultations (PFAS regulation: 1st Call for Evidence and 2nd Call for Evidence) as well as in further discussions, this deficiency was pointed out, but the scope of a restriction on fluoropolymers was apparently assessed differently by the implementing governmental agencies, as ultimately the inclusion of these important uses in our industries in the agencies list of uses was rejected.
Currently, the five implementing agencies are preparing the restriction dossier. The submission of this dossier to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is scheduled for 15.07.2022.

After checking the conformity, two further public consultations and the corresponding statements by ECHA in the planned time period from September 2022 to September 2023, the PFAS restriction is then planned for 2024 - 2025, according to the German “baua”.

Possible Objections for YOU as Affected User

As an interested party and affected industrial user of indispensable PTFE gasketing materials and other fluoropolymers, you have the possibility to disagree to the planned restriction of these high quality polymers.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and submit as much information as possible on the indispensability of fluoropolymers to the above-mentioned government agencies, e.g. by presenting the following aspects:

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Foreseen Restrictions on PFAS (Statement by: AK Dichtungen June 2022)

- quantities required
- substitutability or indispensability of PTFE-containing gaskets (currently estimated at 3000 t/a)
- effects of a restriction on production
- effects of a restriction on environmental protection
- effects of a restriction on operational safety
- impact of a restriction on the feasibility of the energy transition
- economic impacts due to the closure of product lines
- social impacts due to the loss of jobs

Please send your objections to the restrictions of fluoropolymers to the following address of the German agency or one of the agencies indicated:
Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (baua)
Fachgruppe 5.2 „Chemikalienbewertung und Risikomanagement“
Herrn Dr. Carl Dannenberg
Friedrich-Henkel-Weg 1-25
D-44149 Dortmund
Germany
e-mail: chemg@baua.bund.de

For further information please contact the members of the “AK Dichtungen”

References:

Development of restriction proposal for PFAS - Questionnaires and interviews; 23 October 2020; KEMI – Swedish Chemicals Agency
Call for evidence supporting an analysis of restriction options for PFAS; Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
2nd Stakeholder Consultation on a Restriction for PFAS; The competent authorities for REACH of the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway
Präsentation BAuA; 12. Jan. 2022; Dr. Carl A. Dannenberg; Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

Read the UKGSA’s statement on PFAS:

https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/news/ukgsa-object-to-proposed-total-ban-of-pfas/

Claim Your FREE Advert

The UKGSA offer existing Members one FREE colour half page 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! To book your advert contact the Secretariat (info@ukgsassociation.co.uk).

Rates

	Members	Non Members
Full Page	£350	£440
Half Page	£200	£250

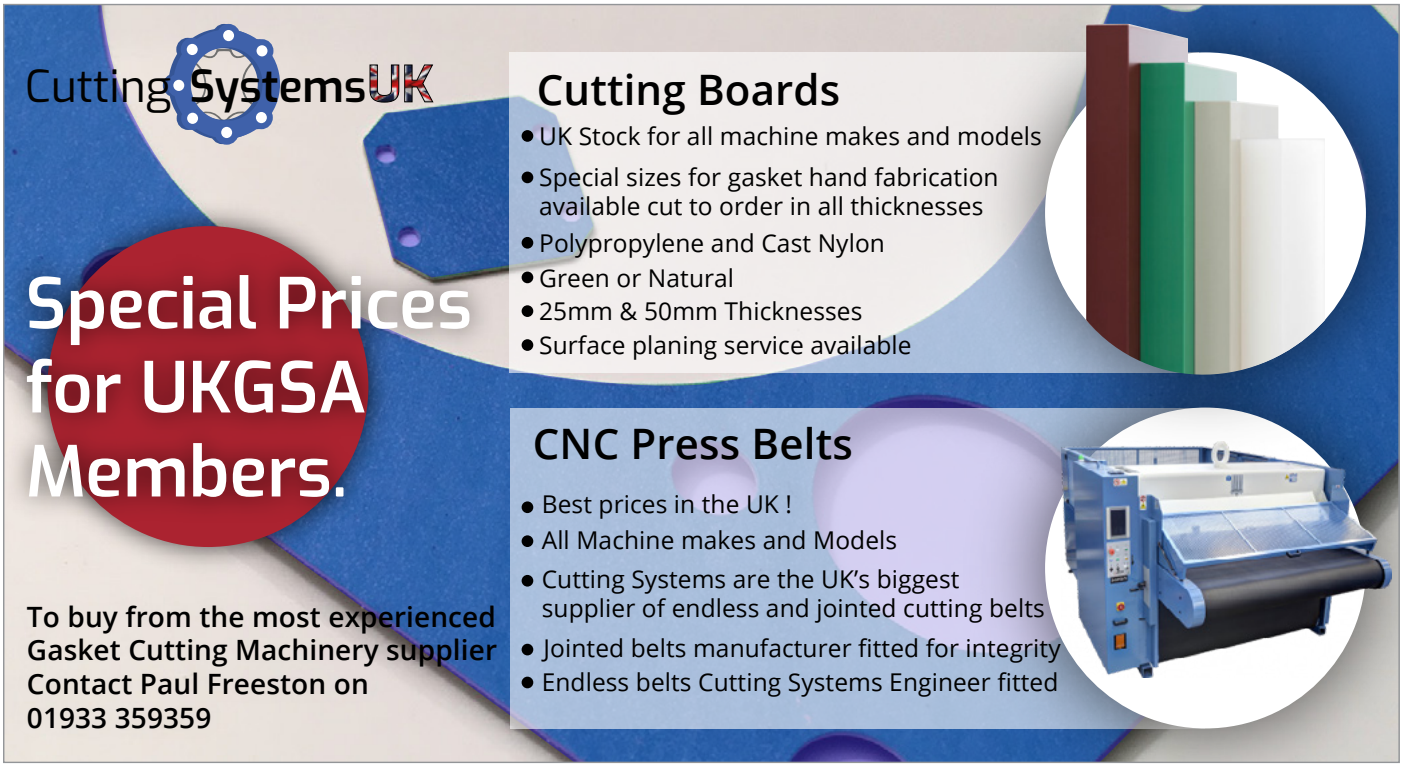
Member Offcuts & Offers



Members of the UKGSA can now advertise their promotional offers and material offcuts free of charge on a new web page on our website.

To share your offcuts or offers on our website or in our newsletter, email the secretariat

OFFERS



Resources On Our Website



Have you visited our new Resources area on our website? This area contains four areas:

Common Technical Names

A list of common technical names which are widely used across the gaskest and sealing sectors, along with their more commonly used names.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/common-technical-names/

Material Storage Guidelines

Our Members recommend storage guidelines, subject to material type, and guidance published in BS standards for Cellulose Paper, Felt, Jointings, Rubber.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/material-storage-guidelines/

Member Product Trade Names

Product trade names used by UKGSA Members for products manufactured or supplied by them.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/member-trade-names/

Industry Standards

A list of industry standards used by UKGSA Members including ASME, ASTM, British Standards, ISO, JIS and more.

Visit the web page at:
https://ukgsassociation.co.uk/industry-standards/

If you would like to add information to these Resources, please contact the Secretariat.

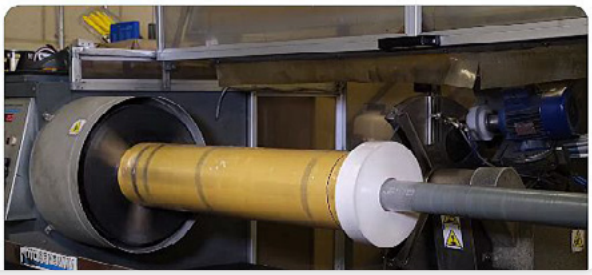
info@ukgsassociation.co.uk

What our Members have been up to on social media

British Felt @britishfelt · Jul 8

Coil and tape conversion, slitting adhesive tapes, foams and sponges as well as non-woven and felt coils, maintaining the highest quality. Supplying fully bespoke solutions.

#britishfelt #foam #technicaltextiles #tapes #coils #adhesivetape #ukmfg #madeinuk #slitting #converting



Cutting Systems UK @UkCutting · Jul 5

Due to continued expansion of our UK engineering workshop we have a new vacancy available! Go to cutting-systems.co.uk or click on the below document for more information. #engineeringjobs



Cutting Systems UK

Wellingborough Road
Rushden
Northamptonshire, NN10 6AX

Electrical/ Mechanical Engineer

Location: Rushden, Northamptonshire

Salary: Information on application, but very competitive
Qualification/ Experience Dependant

About Us:
We are one of the largest and most established organisations in the UK specialising in the service, repair and maintenance of cutting machinery & systems, and due to continued expansion there is a superb opportunity for an experienced time served multi-skilled engineer to enhance an already successful, experienced dedicated team.

Duties & Responsibilities:
- Assist with the build of the range of cutting machinery that we manufacture.
- Carry out fault finding and repair to the machinery that we recondition.
- The ability to read and interpret mechanical and electrical drawings is a requirement.
- Bench fitting, machining and fabrication experience would all be skills beneficial to the position.
- An electrical bias is preferred but conversant with hydraulic and mechanical equipment would

SBR (Southbourne Rubber)
272 followers
2d •

1 Week to go until #FIA22

Meet the SBR (Southbourne Rubber) team in Hall 1 on Stand 1120M ...see more



Gee Graphite Ltd
831 followers
1w •

Well done to our team of runners running the Leeds 10k raising money for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice. #forgetmenot #charity #graphite #waterjetcutting

Just a little proud of myself to finish in under an hour.



WARDJet @WARDJet · Jul 4

Wishing our American friends and family a happy Independence Day, from all of us at WARDJet



Follow the UKGSA on Social Media:

Twitter: @UKGSAssoc

LinkedIN: @uk-gasket-sealing-association

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

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 2021/22:



Sandy McEwen
VICE CHAIR & FUNDRAISING

Sam Bradley
TREASURER



James Salt
GOLF COMPETITION ORGANISER



Roger Dent
OFFICER



Alison Ansell
MARKETING & EVENTS





Simon Winfield
CHAIRMAN



Keith Payne
MEMBERSHIP

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

What We Do



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 in developing strong media relationships with all of the mainstream manufacturing and 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.

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 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
Acton, Suffolk CO10 0BD
T: 01787 282444
www.corseal.co.uk

Cutting Systems UK Ltd
Units 25 & 29, Francis Court, Norris Way,
Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AY
T: 01933 359359
F: 01933 359399
www.cutting-systems.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

DLR Elastomer Engineering Ltd
Unit 1A & B, Leyland Business Park, Centurion Way, Leyland, Lancashire PR25 3GR
T: 01772 450930
https://elastomer.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,
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T: 01274 851273 F: 01274 851386
www.flexitallic.eu

Gee Graphite Ltd
Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe Industrial Estate,
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire
WF13 3LU
T: 01924 481463
https://geegraphite.com

Graphfor LTD
Maspro House, Chadwick Road, Astmoor
Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1PW
T: 01928 566344
https://graphforltd.com

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

Monarch Gasket & Sealing Ltd
Unit 2, Balne Mills, Silcoates Street, Wakefield,
West Yorkshire WF2 0FL
T: 01924 335945
www.monarch-gaskets.co.uk

Moontown Ltd
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Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7LE
T: 01623 751515
www.moontown.co.uk

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Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XN
T: 01371 875941
www.rghrubber.co.uk

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T: 01789 763721
www.sjginternational.com

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Hampshire PO0 7XJ
T: 02392 255180
www.sbr.aero

The Seal Extrusion Company Limited
Unit 5A, Bull Lane Industrial Estate,
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T: 01787 827070
www.sealextrusions.com

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

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TF3 3AL
T: 01952 291600
https://www.wardjet.com

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

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T: 0141 620 1666 F: 0141 620 1888
www.williamjohnston.co.uk

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www.wrgaskets.co.uk