

IFS *spotlight*

Customer newsletter of the IFS Group

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Envirofoam boosts Government's attack on global warming

DEMAND FOR IFS'S NEW ENVIROFOAM 16.335 POLYURETHANE MATERIAL IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE DRAMATICALLY FOLLOWING A NEW UK GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE TO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY 2006.



Housing & Planning Minister
Yvette Cooper

The Building Research Establishment [BRE] has been highlighting the importance of low global warming blowing agents in insulation products for some time. It uses the BRE Environmental Assessment Method [BREEAM] to measure best practice in environmental design and management, and IFS's latest product meets the requirement for an insulating material that avoids the use of ozone-depleting substances, and has a global working potential of 'less than 5'.

The UK government is giving the building industry a mere 12-month transitional period to implement the new Climate Change Regulations rather than the customary three years.

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Envirofoam insulation for freezer doors.

Announcing this compliance requirement, Housing and Planning Minister, Yvette Cooper, said: "Tackling climate change is one of the biggest long-term challenges we face. This is why, on this occasion, we need the building industry to comply with the new regulations much more rapidly."

IFS Chemicals has played its part in the war against global warming for many years. It was the first company in the world to provide the market with a zero ozone depletion potential [ODP]

polyurethane foam insulation product as long ago as 1988. The company has now set a new standard by introducing an insulation material which meets the most stringent requirements in terms of low global warming potential.

IFS Group Managing Director, Barrie Colvin and his colleagues welcome discussions with manufacturers working in the building and construction industry whose material specifications will have to be changed to comply with this new directive.

Setting the scene

One of IFS Chemicals' innovative foam formulations is helping a young York based company win new business both at home and overseas.

SceneCraft was established in 2003 by two young designers who had both graduated in Entertainment Design Crafts. The company now employs seven people engaged in scenic construction and the manufacture of a wide range of stage and film props where weight and stability have a direct bearing on the success [or failure!] of a particular act, scene take or stunt.

In particular, SceneCraft uses the foam material supplied by IFS Chemicals to mould a range of highly individual, and often quite large, table decorations. As word has spread about the company's work, event organisers, theatre groups, museums, film production companies and retail outlets - to name but a few - are increasingly commissioning SceneCraft to design and manufacture single, or a small quantity, of table decorations and display products which are part of marketing themes and advertising campaigns.

As one of the founders of the company, Matthew East recognises the importance of the role played by IFS Chemicals, saying:

"The properties of the foam material developed for our use make it possible for us to satisfy many unusual requests when it comes to designing and manufacturing table decorations which have to be representative of a particular theme or event."

Over the past two years Scenecraft has won several business awards in recognition of the company's creative flair and entrepreneurial spirit.



A boar's head table centrepiece

New product to meet the needs of the off-shore industry

The sea is one of the world's most hostile and destructive environments, and contractors of sub-sea insulated pipelines have long been asking chemists to develop a polyurethane specifically for use in salt water.

In answer to this request, IFS Chemicals has developed an hydrolysis-resistant polyurethane to tackle the industry's precise requirements. The company has a reputation for working alongside its clients, and IFS chemists have listened to, addressed and successfully answered the industry's request for polyurethanes with improved high temperature performance, especially in wet environments.

Up till now, the conventional approach has been to incorporate various additives into the polyurethane to retard the aging characteristics in hostile environments, but typically, IFS has thought 'outside of the box' and taken a different approach. Instead, the company has made a fundamental change to the basic structure of the polymer. Long term aging has shown that this new system displays an improved performance when compared with all similar products on the market.

Dr Barrie Colvin, Managing Director of the IFS Group, is proud of his company's record in the field of innovation, saying:

"As a company, we pride ourselves on working together with our customers to address their specific problems. By developing an hydrolysis-resistant polyurethane, which can be used for CRC-coating, moulded items and pipe-jointing applications, we are helping to make the sea bed a safer and more secure environment."



New hydrolysis-resistant polyurethane suitable for many products

Coastal communities **beat** corrosion



Cromer Pier

Constant exposure to salt renders cast iron street furniture in coastal communities vulnerable to corrosion, and architects are increasingly turning to Bollards International to solve the problem. Although the company's extensive range of bollards has the appearance of cast iron, they are all manufactured from polyurethane specially formulated by IFS Chemicals, which will neither rust nor chip.

To date, the company has supplied regeneration projects in Cromer, Norfolk, where it replaced posts and railing at the entrance to the pier, and Deganwy Quay in Wales, which needed 180 Trinity posts and 650 metres of railing at a prestigious new marina development. This means the bollards and railings at both sites will be weatherproof and require very little maintenance.

Sales Director, Tony Taylor commented: "In view of the highly corrosive effect of salt atmosphere on cast iron, I believe that a growing number of architects and specifiers are turning to street furniture manufactured from polyurethane."



Deganwy Quay

Signing the way in Dulwich

As a part of general upgrading, and a drive to de-clutter the pavements of Dulwich, the Street Metal Works Department of the London Borough of Southwark has awarded Bollards International a £25,000 contract to supply free standing street sign holders, of which over 50 are already in use, with more in the pipeline.

The street sign holders have been manufactured using the company's Enviro-Cast™ material, an eco-friendly product created by IFS Chemicals using regenerated car tyres.



Southwark is currently leading the way by using street furniture produced in this innovative material wherever possible.

The Council already boasts a range of bollards, cycle stands, and poleards, a

new bollard product having an aperture in the top for the insertion of an extended pole carrying 'Home Zone' signs, and others which need to be at a prominent height, manufactured from Enviro-Cast™. Bollards International also has other innovative products in the pipeline.



New look Prince of Wales Pond

The local Heritage Society in Blackheath is very pleased with the finished result of a massive

programme to transform the Prince of Wales Pond from the eyesore that it had become, into the place of beauty it once was. Bollards International has played a crucial role in providing the finishing touches.

Once the pond had been drained and the weeds, old prams and shopping trolleys had been removed, a new liner with concrete surrounds was laid. The area was then replanted with grass. The site, an area of scenic beauty, subsequently needed protection from the busy roads which surround it on two sides.

To this end, Bollards International has fulfilled a £20,000 contract to supply Hexham bollards which have been converted to take a single rail. The result is happy inhabitants of Blackheath, and delighted ducks and swans, which now have a 5-star pond in which to swim!

Spotlight on ... Dr Ken Kendall

With a BSc in Chemistry and a PhD in Polymer Science, Dr Ken Kendall has the impressive credentials needed to fulfil his role within IFS. He joined the company as Technical Manager in 2001 and was promoted to Technical Director in 2003, taking on the responsibility for New Product Development, technical literature and Quality Assurance procedures.



Dr Ken Kendall

For example, one customer recently needed a product urgently but couldn't arrange transport on a Friday afternoon. We delivered the product to a depot 20 miles away. It was picked up by a courier and shipped to the States. Three days later it was successfully trialled in Rhode Island with our relieved and delighted customer present."

Ken is a family man. His leisure time is spent at the gym, collecting films on DVD and messing about with computers. His claim to computing fame is the linking of his home freezer database with a grocery delivery service (naming no names) to take care of the family shopping!

"One of the things that makes IFS different is our pride in going that bit extra for our customers," Ken remarks. "We develop where our competitors won't, and deliver in exceptionally short timeframes wherever possible.

Ken is a down-to-earth, positive and optimistic person – a great attribute when working in NPD as nothing's ever certain. "I still get a kick out of seeing a development come good," he says. "Its what gets me out of bed in the morning."

Successful cold room manufacturing in West Africa

An introduction from a firm of UK consultants specialising in working with African businesses has resulted in IFS Chemicals supplying an environmentally friendly foam system for the manufacture of building and cold room panels.

The low density foam system (36 kilos per cubic metre), which offers zero ozone depletion and low global warming potential, is a key element in the production of 100mm thick panels and plays an important role in the achievement of a production rate of just 18 to 20 minutes per panel.

The overhead benefits of the West African economy allow this highly entrepreneurial manufacturer to export its products to many established and emerging marketplaces around the world, and IFS Group Managing Director Dr Barrie Colvin believes this customer is a good example of the benefits to be obtained through IFS Chemicals product development capabilities.

He commented:

"The customer's application resulted in a complex material specification. After an intensive testing programme we were confident that the foam system we developed was ideally tailored to this demanding application."

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