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The Business Newsletter of



Summer 2016



SIT Ltd's White Water Raft in action on the River Tryweryn

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BUILDING SUCCESS



SIT Ltd ResQsled Extreme, distributed by Safequip Ltd, in action during Storm Desmond

Leyland Firm 'Buoyant' After Striking Lucrative MOD Deal

Specialised Inflatable Technology (SIT) Ltd, which manufactures bespoke crafts and products designed specifically for rescue, industrial, leisure and military services, has just delivered two specialist crafts to help with the migration crisis.

The 60-man Mass Casualty Rafts will be used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to rescue refugees and migrants arriving at Gibraltar by sea. And, talks are already underway with other coastguards across Europe, including Italy, to supply the rafts for their own migrant and refugee operations.

Based on Moss Side Industrial Estate, the company, launched in 2008, already has a number of high-profile contracts with airports located close to large bodies of water, including Glasgow, Liverpool, the City of London and Geneva as well as the Port of London, which patrols the banks of the River Thames. One of its boats has also starred in a major Hollywood blockbuster.

SIT has developed into a leading force in the design and manufacture of low pressure inflatables and employs 30 members of staff, including two apprentices, and boasts a £2.2m turnover.

The company was recently awarded a £50,000 grant from East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce to aid the purchase of a new building. This has enabled SIT to create new offices and store facilities, and recruit six additional staff members.

The new vessels, used by the Royal Navy, are unlike other self-inflating boats used during rescue operations as they can be towed and manoeuvred – making them much safer in dangerous conditions.

Celebrating the new contract, SIT Managing Director, Chris Chadwick, said: "Our newly-developed 60-man Mass Casualty Raft impressed visitors at Seawork International – Europe's largest commercial marine and workboat exhibition. So much so, that it led to a lucrative order with the MOD.

"We're the only company to invest in improving low pressure inflatable technology to specialise in all recovery industries and our boats will be a reassuring sign of safety.

"They are different as other rafts would have to be wait to be rescued, which then requires everyone on-board to step into another boat which is a hazardous process."

The Strait of Gibraltar has become a notorious crossing, with small boats and inflatable dinghies regularly attempting the treacherous nine-mile journey.

For more information, visit: sitltd.co.uk.



CGI of the new scheme

Green Light for Bamber Bridge Scheme

Bamber Bridge town centre is set to be transformed as part of a £3.5m redevelopment programme.

The scheme uses the town's Old English name 'beam' and 'brycg', which translates to 'tree trunk', as inspiration, and will see the addition of striking public gardens.

Funded by the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, the project also includes major upgrades to Station Road with wider footpaths, enhanced crossings and improved parking facilities and is supporting local retail centres including our Leyland Town Team.



Runshaw College's new SEIC

College Completes £6.2m Science & Engineering Centre

Runshaw College's new multi-million pound Science and Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC) at Euxton Lane has opened its doors following a 10-month build programme by Balfour Beatty.

The facility offers state-of-the-art workshops and laboratories and will facilitate stronger links between the college and local businesses.

Tim Cahill, Head of Schools Liaison at Runshaw College, says the new centre will boost the local economy and transform the employability of those studying Science and Engineering programmes at Runshaw.

"Lancashire has the largest concentration of aerospace production and high technology manufacturing in the UK and these sectors are anticipated to grow over the next few years. Similarly, the need for qualified science professionals is predicted to increase, with demand in particular in pharmacology, physiology, biotechnology, drug metabolism, toxicology and pathology.

"Our new SEIC has been designed to support growth in these sectors and to enhance our current partnerships with local businesses. We aim to deliver real business benefits through the provision of innovative education and training programmes, working collaboratively with employers to ensure the creation of a highly skilled workforce for the future."

It also houses the college's new HND (Higher National Diploma) and HNC (Higher National Certificate) in Mechanical Engineering. These courses are suited to anyone looking to pursue a career within this area and those already working within the field.

For more information, contact Runshaw College on **01772 643008**.

Contractors Build on Success with Flurry of Contracts

Two of the borough's leading building firms have recorded phenomenal successes in the first half of the year.

Bamber Bridge-based Eric Wright Construction, part of the Eric Wright Group, is currently underway with a £2m world-leading IsoLab facility at Lancaster University. The scheme comprises three underground laboratory spaces where vibration, noise and electromagnetic disturbance will be drastically reduced to provide an ultra-clean experimental environment.

The firm is also constructing a new two-form entry high school and sixth form in Burnley, a £4.1m free school, Khalsa Science Academy, in Leeds and has been appointed to deliver a £9.6m, 54,500 sqft office building for Stockport Homes in the heart of Greater Manchester.

Conlon Construction has completed a refurbishment and extension of Leyland Trucks' headquarters. The 15-month programme of works created an additional floor of office space above the existing two-storey building, enabling product design group staff to move into the new third floor from their previous location within the production area.

The firm also recently completed its biggest and most ambitious school project to date. The new 73,000 sq ft King's Leadership Academy in Warrington will accommodate up to 840 students aged 11-18, with five-form entry.

Finally, Conlon Construction has built a new £30m private hospital in Ashford, Kent. The 14-month project comprises 10 consulting rooms, four theatres, four treatment rooms, an endoscopy suite, 20 en-suite rooms, 10 ambulatory care beds and an MRI & imaging suite.

Eric Wright and Conlon Construction is now part of the Central Lancashire Construction Hub. Recently formed to maximise the opportunities for local construction businesses to benefit from a multi-billion pound Project Pipeline in Lancashire, the Group will also prioritise skills/Apprenticeships and business development. For more information and to get involved, contact the Enterprise Team at South Ribble.

CGI of Burnley High School



GROWING POTENTIAL

ModuMan® remote handling hydraulic manipulator



James Fisher Wins Multi-Million Pound Decommissioning Contract

James Nuclear Fisher, in Bamber Bride, has secured a four-year contract with Magnox to decommission the largest reactor core at the former Winfrith nuclear power plant in Dorset.

The company will design and deliver a facility to segment and package the reactor core of the redundant steam generating heavy water reactor.

It is one of the largest value projects of its kind to be awarded in the UK in recent years.

Leyland Trucks Breaks Vehicle Milestone

Leyland Trucks has celebrated production of its 400,000th commercial vehicle.

The achievement comes as the local firm celebrates 20 years as the UK market leader for commercial vehicle registrations above six tonnes.

The DAF XF 460 FTP tractor unit was handed over to its customer, Carr's Flour of Silloth, in a presentation as the vehicle rolled off the production line.

Bryan Sitko, Managing Director at Leyland Trucks, said: "We're very proud to have reached such a significant landmark. We have a long history of design and manufacturing locally and we are a true community of expertise.

"Leyland is a testament of our credentials as a nation, competing with the world's best in the automotive sector. We have positive proof that a skilled British workforce can design and produce the highest quality commercial vehicles."



Leyland Trucks production team

South Ribble Firm Inspires Britain

Sliders UK, a leading manufacturer of secure bi-folding, patio and composite doors, has made a prestigious list of 1,000 companies that inspire Britain.

Compiled by the London Stock Exchange Group, the report celebrates some of the fastest growing and most dynamic SMEs.

Xavier Rolet, Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange Group, said: "High growth SMEs are the driving force behind the UK economy, developing the skills, jobs and growth we need. But ambition alone is not enough; their success must be highlighted and growth properly supported with appropriate finance."



The Dry Fusion range from Wrennalls Group

Leyland Firm Lands BBC Contract

Wrennalls Group, the specialist in carpet, fabric and floor care services, has secured a contract with the BBC.

The Leyland-headquartered firm is supplying Dry Fusion products, the market-leading carpet cleaning system and training national facility management staff to effectively deliver carpet cleaning services.

The ongoing contract covers four properties within the BBC estate spanning more than 500,000 sq ft and includes Broadcasting House and Television Centre in London.

Wrennalls Group supplies commercial, industrial and domestic carpet, flooring and upholstery services and has contracts across public and private sectors. The company, which has been operating for more than 30 years, also supplies overseas as far as Australia.

Support Contract Safeguards Jobs

CSA Group, a global provider of testing and certification services and leading standards development organisation, has opened an updated laboratory for testing and certification of equipment used in transportation.

At more than 57,400 sq ft, the state-of-the-art laboratory in Leyland is one of the most comprehensive facilities of its kind in Europe. It features a new drive-in chamber with temperature testing ranging from -60°C to 120°C, an Accelerometer Calibration lab, engine test cell upgrades and electric motor testing.

Magali Depras, CSA Group Chief Operating Officer, said: "As a part of our global business strategy to invest in the European market and the transportation sector, we are delighted to offer our European clients expanded services in Leyland. The laboratory has been successfully supporting transportation companies in the United Kingdom and globally for more than 30 years, and we can now offer more tests and certifications than ever before."



The Typhoon Major Units 4 Shed in Samlesbury

BAE Systems Secures Major Typhoon Jet Order

Kuwait has placed an order to buy 28 Eurofighter Typhoon combat aircraft, in a deal which will boost BAE Systems.

In April, the Middle East nation placed the order with the four-nation consortium which builds the aircraft, with the front fuselage for the aircraft built at BAE Systems site in Samlesbury.

Kuwait becomes the eighth country to fly the aircraft which is already operated by the RAF and air forces in Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Saudi Arabia and Oman.



Hawk operations at RAF Valley

Leyland Filling Station Opens

A state-of-the-art filling station from CNG Fuels has opened just off the M6 (junction 28) and signed Waitrose as its first major customer.

The UK's first high-pressure grid connected CNG filling station can refuel 500 HGVs a day and is accessible around the clock, 365 days a year.



The filling station from CNG Fuels

Cycle Firm Moved up a Gear

Ribble Cycles, founded in 1897, has set its sights down under and will soon bringing its bespoke carbon road bikes to the Asia Pacific market.

The plans coincide with the appointment of Jon Owen as Chief Executive Office and Matthew Lawson as Chief Digital Officer.

The Ribble R872 Carbon Road Bike



NEWS IN BRIEF

A Flipping Good Thing

Samlesbury Hall has opened a new 'waffery' in its courtyard, selling delicious waffles, crêpes, ice cream and milkshakes.

Bringing New Life to Offices

Lancashire Business Park now houses a publicly-accessible defibrillator thanks to Healthwatch Lancashire.

Amazon Deal Delivers for South Ribble

Global retail giant, Amazon, has agreed a 10-year deal to take a 168,000 sq ft unit at Leyland's Lancashire Business Park.

The new logistics centre, off Centurion Way, directly employs 25 staff and works with more than 250 drivers from ten South Ribble firms.

Launched in 2012, Amazon Logistics is an in-house courier service that uses local firms to distribute packages seven days a week from delivery hubs and sorting centres throughout the UK.

South Ribble Council Leader, said: "The borough already boasts some world market leaders and I'm delighted to be able to welcome another in Amazon. Businesses are eager to invest in the area thanks to our superb location with excellent accessibility and space to grow.

"We are enhancing South Ribble as a place to live, the skilled workforce in the area is expanding and our growing customer base will bring new opportunities. That's why we enjoy the best job creation rates in the North West and I believe the arrival of Amazon is a further vote of confidence in the area."

With a further 28 acres available at Farington, interest in sheds from potential occupiers remains high.

The new Amazon warehouse



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South Ribble Set for BIBAs Glory

Five firms in South Ribble are in the running for eight prizes at the Be Inspired Business Awards (BIBAs).

Bamber Bridge-based Conlon Construction has been shortlisted for Construction Business of the Year, Business of the Year and Excellence in CSR.

Perfect Recruitment, located on Matrix Park, is also in line for Business Person of the Year and Micro Business of the Year.

Other finalists include Ainscough Training, St Catherine's Hospice and Lancashire Sport Partnership.

The awards take place on 16 September 2016 at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.



Trucks Team Scoops Supply Chain Win

Leyland Trucks was crowned Supply Chain Champion of the Year at the Best Factory Awards 2015 for outstanding performance.

The Leyland-based manufacturer produces more than 15,000 individually-specified DAF trucks each year that are shipped to markets across Europe, Central America, Taiwan and Australia.

The judges credited the firm's supply chain strength and its ability to build an extensive range of vehicles to exacting specification within very fast lead times.

Bryan Sitko, Managing Director at Leyland Trucks, said: "We're thrilled to receive this accolade. It's a genuine reflection of the hard work and commitment of every one of our employees.

"Our supply chain is critical to our success, so we must pay tribute to each link in this chain, both in the UK and further afield, who each contribute to the quality of our vehicles and the international reputation of our brand. It is this team work which is testament to British manufacturing at its best."



The Leyland Trucks team collecting their award

Evans Vanodine Hailed Export Champion

UK Trade & Industry (UKTI) has appointed Evans Vanodine as its latest export champion.

The Walton Summit headquartered firm joins a prestigious list of North West exporting stars who help spread the word and encourage overseas trading from within the region.

The experienced exporter of cleaning and hygiene chemicals for industrial, animal health, food process and janitorial use ships its products to more than 70 countries across the globe.

Peter Thompson, International Sales Manager, will speak at various UKTI seminars and workshops throughout the year to share the company's success story and help others realise the wealth of opportunities overseas.



Lab testing at Evans Vanodine

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baxi in National Honours List

Baxi's Genuine Parts team has been named the UK's 10th best company for customer service, alongside major brands such as Screwfix and Barclaycard.

Council Clinches Double Award

South Ribble Borough Council has received the Customer Service Excellence Award for its 10th year and the Gold accolade for Investors in People (IIP). Only seven per cent of organisations scoop gold, which recognises a company's commitment to staff development.

Mayor Visits Fast Growth Firm

Former mayor of South Ribble, councillor Mary Green, recently met with office and warehouse staff at Leyland-based Cleanall Services during her tour of growing businesses in the borough.

Rosebud to Assist Firms in 30th Year

Rosebud Finance has pledged to deliver more growth funding to local businesses than ever before, after investing £7m over the last five years. A new fund aimed at smaller firms, dubbed Rosebud Micro, also offers grants between £10,000 and £49,000.

Retail Relief Saves Thousands

South Ribble Borough Council has helped more than 50 local businesses claim £2,500 in Retail Relief during the last two financial years. The scheme assists with costs associated with occupied retail properties that have a rateable value of £50,000 or less.

Boost Extends to 2018

Boost Business Lancashire has pledged a further £7.8m for growth-hungry companies, which will support 3,360 businesses in Lancashire and create 2,000 new jobs. Boost has already assisted 74 businesses in South Ribble.



Award-winning agency, The Write Angle

Triple Success for South Ribble Firms

The Write Angle and Conlon Construction found winning success at the Lancashire Business Awards 2016.

The communications consultancy, located on Matrix Park, scooped the title of 'Best PR & Marketing Agency', whilst Junior Account Director, Katie Beckham, won 'Female Networker of the Year'.

Chairman of construction firm, Michael Conlon, was awarded Business Personality of the Year.

Hosted by Downtown in Business, the awards recognise excellence within the Lancashire business community.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING IN SOUTH RIBBLE

Jack Walker with his award



Council's Shining Star Apprentice

A council apprentice is celebrating scooping a top award.

Jack Walker, 18, was named Runshaw College's Young Apprentice of the Year at a special event held in the grounds of St Catherine's Hospice.

The Level 4 Business Administration student is one of ten new apprentices to be hired by the council as part of a brand new scheme.

Jack, from Leyland, was nominated after demonstrating star quality. In the nomination, he was described as taking to his role 'like a duck to water'.

Council Leader said: "Jack is a very diligent and extremely keen young man. All of the council's values of excellence, integrity, positive attitude and team work are found in abundance in him.

"We are extremely proud of Jack and it is even more special that he has won this award in the first year of our new scheme."

To find out more about Apprenticeships with South Ribble Borough Council, visit: www.southribble.gov.uk/jobs



L-R Warehouse Partners, Milan Sumegi, Darren Fry, Roy Hale and Brian Smith with Elaine Robb (centre) of Runshaw Business Centre

Waitrose Dishes up NVQs

Staff at Waitrose's Regional Distribution Centre in Leyland have completed Level 2 NVQs in Warehousing & Storage Skills and Catering, with help from Runshaw Business Centre.



Councillor Phil Smith and Sarah Pickard

Pickard Design Secures First Business Grant

An interior design firm specialising in commercial spaces has become the first business to receive a grant through the Coastal Communities Fund.

Business mentors, Orvia Group, identified Longton-based Pickard Design as a potential candidate for the scheme after helping owner, Sarah, develop a marketing strategy.

Sarah received £500 in match-funding to pay for a HND (Higher National Diploma) in Interior Design. The qualification will enable Sarah to achieve Registered Interior Designer status with the British Institute of Interior Design, giving her a USP and competitive advantage over other designers on procured contracts.

For further information on the business support project, contact **01772 625567** or email info@businessinsouthribble.com.

Supporting South Ribble Businesses

Jennifer Clough (Economic Development) would like to work with your business to make sure that we and our partners provide the services and conditions that you need to thrive. In order to help businesses, South Ribble Borough Council offers a range of help free of charge.



LOCATION
A great place to do business



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Fantastic value for money for investors



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A great choice of highly accessible business premises



SKILLS
Access to a range of specialist skills to meet your business needs

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