

# Kingspan News

The newsletter of Kingspan Access Floors

## Major investment for Kingspan Access Floors

£1.25m to be spent on production equipment



Managing Director Terry Newman (right) with Manufacturing Manager Ian Matthewman. Photo: Hull Daily Mail.

Kingspan Access Floors is to invest £1.25m on new, state-of-the-art production equipment at our Hull manufacturing site to meet increasing demand for our raised flooring products.

Most of the demand is coming from overseas markets where Kingspan's international sales have increased by more than a third compared to last year, from £7m to £10m.

Major orders have come from across Eastern Europe, the Middle East and also Continental Europe where, despite the euro crisis, Kingspan's joint venture company in Spain, Kingspan Suelo Técnico, is maintaining its market-leading position. Kingspan Managing Director

Terry Newman said: "In line with the growth of our international business, we have now further developed our international team by recently appointing our first overseas-based sales manager, who is working from the Ukraine, and a further UK based manager."

"Although the UK market is currently relatively flat, the forecasts are for growth in the commercial office sector from next year, so that will be a further boost for Kingspan," he added.

"This major investment in new equipment highlights the Kingspan Group's commitment to our Hull manufacturing site. It will increase our production capacity by 30% and cut energy consumption by up to 40%.

"It will enable Kingspan to offer a fast response to our customers, which is so important when we are operating in the global market where speed of delivery is essential."

Press Techniques of Huddersfield have custom built the production equipment and will begin installation in the Autumn. Managing Director Alan Penn said: "The equipment is highly efficient, user friendly and will provide a major payback on power usage."



Dylan Thorley.

### Technical appointment

DYLAN THORLEY HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS TECHNICAL HELP DESK ADMINISTRATOR – PROVIDING ONE CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR CUSTOMERS.

Dylan has joined Kingspan after seven years working in customer services with Ideal Heating.

In his new role with Kingspan he is providing technical support to installers, architects, engineers and customers.

"We receive a wide range of queries, although most of them relate to floor loadings, acoustic and fire ratings," he said.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### New Business

Kingspan gains second order at prestigious Dubai complex.

#### Health & Safety

Kingspan achieves a hat-trick of Health & Safety accreditations.



Brent Civic Centre under construction. Photo: Mick Baker.

## Kingspan gains access flooring contract at Brent Civic Centre

### Centre is set to be the greenest in the UK

A new civic centre for Brent Council that is on course to be the greenest public building in the UK will feature more than 19000m2 of Kingspan access flooring.

Being built opposite Wembley Stadium at the heart of the Wembley regeneration area, the civic centre is aiming to gain an outstanding standard

in the BREEAM environmental assessment scheme.

Kingspan is playing its part in helping the building to gain this top level accreditation – our panels have FSC Chain of Custody certification and we are recycling all panel off-cuts so that they can be put back into the manufacturing process. We are also sourcing materials for the project locally where possible – another important factor in the BREEAM accreditation.

The main contractors are Skanska, who are working in partnership with mechanical and electrical services sister company Skanska Rashleigh Weatherfoil.

Kingspan began installation on site in February and will be working on the project until late 2012. The panels are being installed in offices, a library, foyer, communications room and community café. Panels bonded with Domus composite stone tiles will be a feature of the café.

To accommodate the ductwork, gas and electrical pipework and data cabling that will run under the floor (see images on the left), the panels will have a Finished Floor Height ranging from 250mm to 600mm.



## Kingspan installs 1,000 photovoltaic solar panels

KINGSPAN IS CURRENTLY INSTALLING 1,000 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PANELS AT OUR HULL SITE AS PART OF THE KINGSPAN GROUP'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO ENERGY BY 2020.

The installation is due to be completed shortly and will produce 250kW of electricity a year.

Managing Director Terry Newman said: "Kingspan as a Group is sensitive to its position as an industry leader and, recognising the serious challenges facing our eco-system, is therefore

committed to reducing the impact of its business operations, products and services on the environment."

In further environmental moves, Kingspan recently signed a green energy contract for its electricity.



## Safety hat trick for Kingspan

KINGSPAN HAS GAINED THREE RECENT HEALTH & SAFETY ACCREDITATIONS UNDER THE SAFETY SCHEME IN PROCUREMENT (SSIP) SCHEME.

The scheme is acknowledged by the UKCG (United Kingdom Construction Group) and recognises our commitment in achieving high standards of Health & Safety across our business.

The accreditations are CHAS (Contractors Health & Safety Assessment Scheme), the Worksafe Certificate and the Safe Contractor Certificate.

These accreditations mean that our clients can engage our services without the need for continual re-appraisal via Health & Safety questionnaires.



Two of our three recent accreditations: CHAS and the Safe Contractor Certificate.



## Major second order for Kingspan for Blue Bay Tower in Dubai

After securing one of its biggest United Arab Emirates orders of recent years, at the Blue Bay Tower in Dubai, Kingspan has now gained a further order for the same building – this time to supply more than triple the initial amount of panels.



The Blue Bay Tower, pictured under construction, is making a dramatic impression both close up and on the Business Bay's waterfront.

Al Nabooda Interiors initially placed an order with Kingspan for 6,600m<sup>2</sup> of panels for the prestigious commercial building before following that up recently with an order for 20,622m<sup>2</sup> of panels.

Kingspan's second shipment has now arrived in Dubai and Al Nabooda were scheduled to begin installation of this phase of the work at the end of August, with completion due by November 2012. Located in the heart of Dubai's Business

Bay, the \$100 million Blue Bay Tower has four basement parking levels and 19 floors of Grade A office space above a three storey podium.

The ground floor features a retail boulevard and the building also has a health centre with a state-of-the-art gymnasium and outdoor pool.

Al Nabooda is installing Kingspan flooring from the second to the 19th floors, including the health centre.

## Supporting our International Sales Managers

SUPPORTING THE WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL SALES MANAGERS ARE DENISE GRINDLEY AND ALISON BACHE, OUR CUSTOMER SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS BASED AT OUR HEAD OFFICE IN HULL.

They look after all aspects of sales administration, including progressing orders through the factory, organising transport and all documentation required, making sure that any special payment terms are in place, and providing support for technical literature requests and queries.

Our international operations extend to almost anywhere in the world, apart from North America where we have a sister company.

This year our main business has come from Belgium (50,000m<sup>2</sup>



Alison Bache, Customer Services Administrator, with Peter Kay, International Sales Manager.

of panels) Russia (50,000m<sup>2</sup>) and UAE (30,000m<sup>2</sup>).

Kingspan Commercial Director Rachel Mumford said: "We are seeing great potential for further growth in the Central and Eastern European markets of Poland, the Ukraine, the

Czech Republic and Russia, and the Middle Eastern markets of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"At Kingspan we pride ourselves on our speed of manufacture and will always go the extra mile to achieve what

our customers require. This is particularly important for the Russian market where we often only have a week's notice to manufacture and despatch."

Rachel added that Kingspan are always happy to hear from companies interested in joining our dealer network, particularly those based in the Middle East.

### Saudi Contracts

Kingspan recently gained our first contracts in Saudi Arabia for many years – these were two orders for installations in office buildings in Riyadh totalling 12,500m<sup>2</sup> of RG2 and RG5 panels. Shipment is due shortly.

These contracts came to fruition after we completed work to state the country of origin on all Kingspan components to meet Saudi requirements.



# Demystifying raised floor loadings

By Terry Newman, Kingspan MD

Many contractors pull heavy loads across a raised access floor; it is quite common to traverse a floor with trolleys carrying curtain walling panels; full height partitions; cable drums etc.

This practice has been in existence for many years and seldom has there been an accident or a problem with the floor. But what load is safe to take across a raised floor? This is a question that Kingspan is regularly asked.

Using the Specification considered to be the industry norm, PSA Medium Grade, the raised floor must be shown by independent testing to meet the following performance requirement:

Point load at the centre edge of a panel: 3.0kN (over a 25mm square). With a safety factor of 3 this becomes 9kN (over a 25mm square).

Those figures represent the most onerous condition; the

point load at the centre edge of a panel is meant to replicate a small wheel/castor/foot of a cabinet etc.

So what is 3/9 kN over a 25mm square? 3kN is 305kg or 672lb. If we then take, as an example, that a fully loaded trolley (perhaps carrying 1.1 tonne of materials) is standing on the floor and the trolley is supported on four wheels – a load of 275kg is being applied to the raised floor through each wheel.

On that basis this would be considered to be a safe working condition, with a degree of safety factor taking into account that lateral loads (applied as the trolley is pulled across the raised floor) will increase the effect.

When moving heavy loads across a raised floor “good practice” would normally suggest that temporarily placing 20mm plywood on top would assist in protecting the surface.

Obviously, with PSA, there is a safety factor of THREE times the static load but it should be remembered that this safety load is applied for 5 minutes without any sign of collapse – please bear in mind that our fully loaded trolley might sit on the floor all day/all night or even longer.

The above example is based upon a raised floor designed and manufactured to the PSA Medium Grade Specification but certain companies will be

offering systems produced to a different and possibly lower performance standard.

Do you know that your raised floor is PSA Medium Grade or have you been sold a Medium Duty raised floor? If it is Medium Duty this really means nothing specific as there is no defined system performance as “Medium Duty” – you need to go back to your supplier and ask for independent performance testing to determine what loadings are suitable for this hybrid system.

Alternatively there are raised flooring systems designed to BSEN 12825, often considered to be the European norm. With BSEN 12825 there are 72 different elements that must be taken into account to determine the performance of the raised floor in question. For example:

- Ultimate load: the load at which the raised floor will collapse.
- Safety factor: the safety factor chosen by the specifier (e.g. 2 or 3).
- Working load: the load given by dividing the ultimate load by the safety factor.
- Deflection: the deflection chosen by the specifier (e.g. 2.5mm, 3.0mm or 4mm).

Assuming you have a raised floor produced to meet BSEN 12825 with an ultimate load of  $\geq 8.0\text{kN}$  then the following has to be considered:

Ultimate load  $\geq 8.0\text{kN}$  with a safety factor of 3 and a deflection of 2.5mm would be considered to have a working load of  $8.0/3$  or 2.66kN. 2.66kN is approximately 270kg or 595lb.

Using the same fully loaded trolley previously mentioned (with a load of 275kg being exerted through each wheel) the raised floor is in fact being overloaded before considering the effect of any lateral load.

How can you ensure that you are working in safe conditions – you can contact the raised flooring system manufacturer and ask for a written statement on whether it is suitable to accept your fully loaded trolley, particularly for heavy loads such as a safe or a storage racking system.

All of the above assumes that the raised flooring panels and pedestals are all supplied by the same manufacturer and they are the same products as those shown in the test certification.

Obviously if the panels and pedestals have come from different suppliers or they are not the products tested it is impossible to say whether or not the overall system is safe or what its performance might be!

Better safe than sorry!

## Questions, comments or feedback

For more information about the articles in this newsletter or about Kingspan’s access flooring ranges and services, you can:

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