

Name Change Reflects Diverse Product Range

It was announced at the recent Annual General Meeting that, with immediate effect, the Concrete Pipe Association (CPA) would be changing its name to the Concrete Pipeline Systems Association (CPSA).



Concrete pipes now account for less than half of total sales of the Association's members, it is therefore logical to change the identity to more accurately reflect the fact that they design and manufacture comprehensive pipeline systems incorporating pipes, fittings, manholes and gullies.

Also the decision by the Building Materials Producers (BMP) to change its

name to the Construction Products Association (CPA) has led to some confusion and was a contributory factor in the Concrete Pipe Association's decision to review its own position.

The membership remains the same, as does the major objective — "to research and promote the many technical, commercial and environmental benefits of precast concrete pipeline systems

and maximise their use in the construction industry".

The Concrete Pipeline Systems Association's membership represents more than 95% of precast concrete drainage products manufactured in the UK.

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New interjack stations proving popular with contractors

Johnston Construction successfully jacked over 300m of Stanton Bonna's DN 1200 machine-made jacking pipe on The Manor Surface Water Sewer at Sheffield.

The drive included three pairs of Stanton Bonna's innovative interjack stations, a unique and robust composition of steel and concrete that has proved popular with contractors.



TAKING UP THE REINS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

David Leng, the new managing director of Hepworth Concrete, is under no illusions about the challenges facing his company and the industry at large in a tough market, showing no signs of easing. He moves into the top slot at a time when the concrete pipe sector has dipped well below activity levels of a year ago and competition is fierce. A long track record in the drainage industry, however, means he is no stranger to such challenges and he clearly relishes the task ahead.

He joined Hepworth Building Products as a graduate of Strathclyde University in 1985. Since then he has gained wide experience in sales and commercial roles, progressing from being a representative, to regional and national sales positions. He became sales director of Hepworth Building Products in 1996 and later commercial director of Hepworth Drainage before moving over to head the concrete business.

His sales experience with Hepworth Building Products spanned the company's concrete, clay and plastics drainage systems, so he is by no means a newcomer to the concrete pipe market and is looking forward to re-acquainting himself with some old friends as well as meeting new ones. As for



the tough market conditions, he explains: "We have an excellent product range, systems with integral joints which are increasingly popular, a strong manufacturing base, and the capacity to match the demands of the largest of jobs.

"No one in the industry needs me to tell them that average returns on sales across the sector are really very small for such a heavy, and relatively capital-intensive, industry. The challenge, therefore, is to maintain and build profitability. Growing returns is all the harder in a difficult market and we certainly still have some distance to

cover before we are performing as well as the best of our competitors and are as profitable as I believe we can be."

Hepworth Concrete has recently committed investment of circa £1 million in rationalisation, plant enhancements and production flexibility as part of its continuing drive to raise returns while delivering competitive products to the marketplace. The company has an enviable customer service record over recent years - but further improvements still, coupled with a drive to reduce transaction costs, are also high on David Leng's agenda.

Working together works

Johnston Pipes Ltd, of Telford has recently delivered 350m of DN1200 and 180m of DN1350 concrete pipes to a combined sewer overflow system at Bescot Crescent/Walstead Road, Walsall.

The contract was carried out by McPhillips (Wellington) Ltd from Telford on behalf of Severn Trent Water Company.

Pete Dicken, area sales manager for Johnston Pipes Concrete division, said: "The contract has been very successful, due to the co-ordination between McPhillips and our own personnel and reflects the relationship the companies have enjoyed since 1971."



New European Standards for concrete pipelines

In previous issues of *Pipelines* we have reported on the progress being made in the preparation of new European product standards to cover the specification of certain types of precast concrete pipes and ancillary products, including manholes and inspection chamber components. After considerable debate within the CEN Working Group (TC165 WG9), the 20 countries concerned have in June 2002 reached a 94% positive formal vote on these standards. The UK delegation to the Working Group has played a leading role in bringing about this positive outcome. Consequently, two new European Standards will be published in the UK as:

BS EN 1916 "Concrete pipes and fittings, unreinforced, steel fibre and reinforced".

BS EN 1917 "Concrete manholes and inspection chambers, unreinforced, steel fibre and reinforced".

Each CEN member country is required to produce new national standards to accompany these European Standards in

order to cover items not included, principally sizes and strengths. Work has taken place at BSI to produce these British complementary standards in time for the publication of the two BS ENs. It is intended that the new UK standards will replace several of the present parts of the family of BS 5911 Precast concrete pipes, fittings and ancillary products, including:

Part 100: Unreinforced and reinforced pipes and fittings with flexible joints.

Part 120: Reinforced jacking pipes with flexible joints.

Part 200: Unreinforced and reinforced manholes and soakaways of circular cross section.

Part 2: Inspection chambers.

It is now expected that the new European Standards together with their British complementary standards will be simultaneously published later in 2002. The complementary standards are:

Part 1: Unreinforced and reinforced concrete pipes (including jacking pipes) and fittings with flexible joints (complementary to BS EN 1916).

Part 3: Unreinforced and reinforced concrete manholes (complementary to BS EN 1917).

Part 4: Unreinforced and reinforced concrete inspection chambers (complementary to BS EN 1917).

After the above standards are published, it is currently planned that there will be a transition period of two years when both old and new standards co-exist. During this time, it will be possible for products to be manufactured and Kitemarked to both the old and new standards.

When the actual publication dates and final content of the new UK standards are known, the CPSA will ensure that detailed information is disseminated to interested parties via the technical press and also through the "Pipelines" Newsletter.

Anglian Water 4m caisson contract

In the previous issue of *Pipelines*, it was reported that Milton Pipes had extended its MILSHAFT range of precast concrete caissons to include a 4m diameter version made up from two semicircular segments for easy handling. These are bonded together with resin mortar on site. Each half of the leading caisson is factory-fitted with a mild steel cutting shoe, finally welded into a complete ring on site.

In a recent contract, Barhale Plc, on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd, have commissioned Milton to provide 8.5m of the large-diameter caissons for installation at the Hockering Sewage Treatment Works, near Norwich.

Each caisson ring, 0.5m or 1m deep, has a special tongue-and-groove joint sealed with Miljoint strip, so that the complete ring can be simply lowered onto the section below and the jointing plates bolted together. There is no need for conventional vertical bolts nor the laborious fitting of seals.

The larger diameter units have been designed to allow contractors to construct 4m vertical shafts for jacking and reception pits or to be adapted as manholes in open cut construction.



FOOTBALL MAD

HUGHES CONCRETE has recently gone football mad by supplying concrete drainage products to several major new football stadiums and training facilities.

Good co-operation between the company and Johnston Pipes Ltd resulted in plastics being given the red card and concrete being used for drainage on the prestigious new National Football Centre at Barton under Needwood in Staffordshire.

Birse, working on the new Manchester United training facilities and centre of footballing excellence at Carrington, Salford, insisted on quality drainage and Hughes scored another victory with a substantial order.

Not to be outdone, rivals Manchester City, now back in the Premier Division, also decided that both new training facilities and a new ground were required. Hughes continued their winning run by gaining a double and supplying to both the state-of-the-art training facility and to the new City of Manchester Stadium which will become their new home for the 2003-2004 season.

The once lowly Darlington, is ambitiously investing in a magnificent all-seater stadium adjacent to the A19 interchange, as they plan to become a footballing force in the North East. Wisely, they also decided that Hughes drainage would enhance the project. These orders follow similar business supplied to Preston North End and Northampton Town A.F.C.



Major road works north of the Border

Grange Rexim assisted by Keyline Civils and Drainage Division in Glasgow has secured two large orders for concrete chamber rings and cover slabs from Balfour Beatty Construction Limited, Civil Engineering Division.

The new road works/improvement schemes are the A1 Haddington to Dunbar in East Lothian and the A90 Inchtute interchange improvements in the Tayside region.

The £multi-million improvement scheme on the A1 has begun and will continue until the spring of 2004. Large quantities of 1050mm diameter chamber ring and cover slabs, plus other sizes, are required on the contract.

The A90 Inchtute interchange improvement also has large quantities of various sizes of chamber ring and cover slabs. Deliveries will be throughout the two-year period of the contract.



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CPSA member companies represent almost 100% of the concrete drainage industry.

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