

KEEPING THE WORLD FLOWING



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ROTORK'S
COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST HIGHLIGHTS
THE GLOBAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
BATH BASED BUSINESS

Since the time of the Romans, flow control has played an important role in the culture of Bath and been a major contributor to the prosperity of the city. It was the Romans who first used valves to control the flow of the hot springs to create what we now know as Aquae Sulis.

Today, when you turn on a tap or switch on a light, turn on a gas hob or put fuel in your car, a flow control product is being used somewhere in the process of delivering that service. There is a good chance that it is a flow control product manufactured by Rotork and therefore still part of Bath's heritage.

Sixty years ago in 1957, engineering entrepreneur Jeremy Fry began the business of designing and manufacturing the first Rotork valve actuators in a workshop at his Widcombe Manor home. From this beginning the company has grown into a FTSE 250 listed market-leading international flow control business. Headquartered at Brassmill Lane, the Rotork Group now encompasses 27 manufacturing plants in 11 countries and employs over 3,750 people worldwide.

Rotork is firmly rooted in Bath and recognises the importance of its loyal local workforce to the company's success. Several hundred are employed at Brassmill Lane, which has always been a manufacturing plant for one of the company's flagship product ranges as well as the worldwide administration centre. The company will soon embark on a complete redevelopment of its Brassmill Lane site to replace the existing buildings with a purpose built modern factory incorporating extensive research and development laboratories.

The Rotork apprentice scheme is further evidence of the value that Rotork places on local employment and the importance of investing in its own talent in order to succeed. The award-winning scheme has been running almost since the company began and during this time many of these apprentices have become well-known figures in Rotork, some rising to senior management positions. The range of apprentice programmes is designed to develop each individual in order for them to progress and, as a truly international company, Rotork offers its apprentices the opportunity to work around the world.

Rotork is also actively involved with local schools, colleges and universities, and was a

RIVERSIDE
 HQ: an artist's
 impression of
 the new
 purpose-built
 Rotork
 factory
 planned for
 Brassmill
 Lane, subject
 to planning
 permission



founding member of the Bath Education Trust that was set up with the aim of developing employability of local students.

Rotork chief executive Peter France, himself born and educated in Bath, comments: "We are very proud of our apprentice scheme with the programme designed to develop each individual in order for them to progress to their full potential. Each year we take on new apprentices and we currently have 15 at the Bath site."

Rotork products and services support the global oil and gas, conventional and renewable power generation, water and waste treatment and environmental protection industries, helping to ensure that the benefits of modern technologies such as clean energy, safe drinking water and improved environments are available to an increasing proportion of the world's population.

You don't have to look very far to see Rotork products in action. For example at Wessex Water sites Rotork actuators control the processes that filter the water we drink and clean up the effluent that we put into the sewers, keeping the holiday beaches clean. The fuel in our cars is delivered to the filling station in a road tanker that has probably driven from the tank farm in Avonmouth. This tank farm is the last link in the production chain involving onshore or offshore production in the North Sea, Middle East or further afield, transportation by ship and pipeline, storage and refining in Europe or the UK.

At every stage, Rotork flow control equipment and instrumentation has a role to play; as well as improving the efficiency and safety of the production and transportation processes, Rotork intelligent technologies monitor the plant to optimise performance

and recognise and isolate potential problems that could interrupt routine operations.

In our power stations Rotork actuators control the dampers that ensure that boilers operate efficiently and the valves in the circuits that deliver superheated steam to the turbines which generate the electricity. Rotork equipment is also a vital part of the desulphurisation, LoNox and other specialised emission reduction processes now installed on conventional power stations to minimise their environmental impact. Other industries served by Rotork include surface and underground mining applications, ship building, HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning), pulp and paper, food and beverages, medical equipment and general manufacturing.

The list of projects that Rotork is currently involved with includes the world's largest Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant, under construction in Morocco. This site will cover 6,000 acres and will be capable of generating up to 580 MW of electricity from the power of the sun.

In India, hundreds of specialised emergency shutdown Rotork actuators are being installed at sites throughout the country as part of a worldwide programme to improve the environmental and safety standards at oil storage installations. In the Middle East, where Rotork equipment has been an integral part of the oil and gas industries for over half a century, Rotork products are now also installed at large new desalination plants that convert seawater into fresh water for the benefit of the local population and environment alike.

The above is just a tiny snapshot of all the activity that emanates from Brassmill Lane.

Visit: rotork.com to find out more. ■