



ADVERTISING FEATURE

BLACKWELL HYDRAULICS

Award winners have the power

BLACKWELL Hydraulics Limited is a local company with something to shout about. Director, Nigel Roberts, and his management team have been working hard for six months to secure accreditation for an award which places the business right at the top of its tree.

After massive investment in the latest equipment, and years of research and development, the company is proud to announce it has secured the Approved Hose Assembly Award from the British Fluid Power Distributors Association (BFPDA), the governing body formed in 1989 to improve the performance of distribution within the UK fluid power industry.

As a member of the BFPDA, Blackwell Hydraulics recognises the need to promote the highest professional standards in the industry when dealing with customers, suppliers and the environment.

The BFPDA's strict Code of Conduct means Blackwell Hydraulics has committed itself to the leading quality, customer care, safety and environmental standards.

Winning this award has made the company the only one of its kind in North Wales and the North West to offer accreditation at a level meeting European standards.

Established 30 years ago by Mr John Blackwell as a small business in Conwy, demand for his hydraulic hoses, systems and industrial components, coupled with a fast response time, soon yielded results.

The systems are used extensively in manufacturing plants, power stations, agricultural, light industry, vehicle and transport systems.

In 1982, the business moved into a purpose built factory unit at its present site at Llandudno Junction Industrial Estate. As the business evolved, additional trade counter depots followed in Bangor, Deeside, Gaerwen, Runcorn, Wrexham,



John Blackwell, managing director of Blackwell Hydraulics

and Denbigh. The company's key resource of highly trained and experienced staff is at the heart of this highly successful hydraulics and pneumatics business.

Company director Nigel Roberts explained: "We are the premier manufacturer and supplier of hydraulic hose assemblies and hydraulic and pneumatic components in North Wales. Essentially, we are committed long-term to quality at the highest level in everything we do. Ongoing training is pivotal to this, and we are now working towards achieving Investors in People status.

"Our customers' needs are constantly changing, so we are working in partnership with them to offer innovative products and services to meet their future needs.

"We will continue to grow by adding value to customers' businesses in this way."

● Safety first

The award by the BFPDA of the coveted Approved Hose Assemblies Mark is an outstanding indication of quality assurance and best practice.

Holding this Mark has meant Blackwell Hydraulics has had to follow the exhaustive

guidelines set by the BFPDA which form the basis for a system of registered companies for hose assembly.

The Code of Conduct followed by Blackwell Hydraulics means the practice of using a different manufacturer of hose/fitting/ferrule combination that has not been verified by successful testing – that is, the practice of 'mixing and matching' – is unacceptable.

Instead, all the components for a Blackwell Hydraulics' assembly are compatible by design, size and type. In addition, they have been compatibility proved by successful testing to industry standards, such as hydrostatic, impulse and leakage testing, in accordance with the relevant hose/end termination specification.

What's more, Blackwell's flexible hose assemblies are not constructed from hoses previously used as part of a hose assembly.

Roberts explained: "The practice of re-ending hoses is dangerous. As soon as a hose assembly is put into service it is subjected to heat, flexing and pulsation, sunlight and ozone.

"Ozone soon degenerates the rubber, causing it to harden.



Mike Hadfield, Bob Davies, Nigel Roberts and Colin Blackwell

Consequently, when the hose is re-swaged, the wire may lose its bonding to the rubber. The hardened rubber will not flow so well over the insert, and a correct swage is impossible."

Blackwell Hydraulics also rejects the highly dangerous practice of cutting the insert out from an old swaged assembly and reusing it. Roberts said: "If the original swage was made correctly, the insert would have been collapsed and stretched to its design limits, and would have work-hardened in the process. Attempts to re-swage the insert could result in further collapse or failure."

Mike Bullan, UK managing director at Alfagomma Hydraulics, said: "The BFPDA certification guarantees Blackwell's customers are receiving a genuine, properly manufactured part they can rely on to perform well and not to risk employees' safety or compromise the environment."

● Caring for the environment

Customers buying from Blackwell Hydraulics are also assured the company takes its responsibility to the environment as seriously as its quality and safety obligations.

And in 2004, the firm opened a dedicated spill centre



Nigel Roberts, company director of Blackwell Hydraulics, at the emergency spill centre

at Llandudno Junction with over 50,000 products in stock, including absorbents, spill kits and secondary containers. Visit www.spilladvice.com or call 01492 583344 for a brochure. The company is also currently working towards ISO14001.

● Offering fast, effective solutions

To save customers' valuable time, Blackwell now publishes an impressive catalogue which gives engineers the opportunity to find the systems and parts

they want quickly and easily.

Free on-site technical assistance has also proven invaluable to customers. Roberts said: "One of the biggest issues our customers face is to find the right parts for a particular job or machine, which can be time consuming."

● Calls can be made to discuss requirements, and parts ordered both by telephone (01492 583821) and online at www.blackwellhydraulics.co.uk Delivery, either on the same or following day, is free.



General manager Colin Blackwell with sales manager Hywel Roberts in the showroom



Hywel Roberts with the swaging machine