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Don't cut corners

Reducing time spent on health & safety while maintaining compliance

PFM Awards 2017

Deadline for entries and the latest updates for the best FM awards

Safety – the highest priority

For PTSG, safety goes hand in hand with success

TOP NEWS

Mergers and Acquisitions



French construction inspection service provider Socotec Group has announced the purchase of UK-based ESG for an undisclosed sum.

Employing around 1,400 people, ESG was previously majority owned by 3i Group.

It is a specialist provider of testing, inspection and compliance (TIC) services and operates 28 sites in the UK and Ireland.

Included within this are 28 UKAS-accredited testing and measurement laboratories.

ESG operates mainly within the construction and infrastructure sectors and is led by chief executive officer (CEO) Ian Sparks.

The acquisition was described as part of Socotec's international expansion drive, furthering its aim to become the leading European provider of TIC services within the construction and infrastructure sectors.

Socotec CEO Hervé Montjotin described the deal as enhancing his company's "scope of expertise", providing a base second only to its French owner's in size.

"This acquisition, which will double our revenue outside France, is a perfect fit for our international expansion plans," he said.

Mr Sparks described the two companies' shared ambitions for growth as "extremely important".

The size of Socotec and its wide range of services, provided to similar sectors to ESG, was described as "really good news for both ESG and our clients".



Premier Technical Services Group (PTSG) has been named as the Fast Growth Business of the Year at the 2017 Yorkshire Business Masters Awards at a black-tie ceremony at the end of last month.

PTSG has also celebrated its 10th anniversary, following its formation in 2007 by John Foley, Paul Teasdale and Bob Morton with the objective of becoming the UK's leading provider of specialist services.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bt OBE has been confirmed as the guest speaker at the next **BSRIA Briefing**, to be held at London's The Brewery on 17 November 2017.

Particularly relevant to the FM sector, this year's event will focus on the issue of performance and wellbeing beyond compliance in the workplace.

Opening of the Smart Building Client Experience Center in Milwaukee, USA, has been announced by **CBRE**.

It has been designed, built and now managed as a showcase headquarters and is one of

six buildings around the world to have earned a Triple LEED Platinum rating, with an Energy Star performance of 99.

Marking its 30th anniversary, **Chequers Contract Services** founders Gary and Paul Jeal have given names to two of the company's vans to recognise support from family members.

One is named Sidney, after Gary Jeal's wife's grandfather – described as "hugely supportive" of the company from the outset – with the other named Albert, after the Jeals' grandfather, who "'lent' us our first pair of ladders".





As Premier Technical Services Group (PTSG) celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2017, we look at how the company's leading approach to health, safety and the environment is at the heart of its success over the last ten years.

PTSG is the only company working in its specific industry sectors to have a dedicated and full-time Health, Safety and Environment team.

As the UK's leading supplier of façade access and fall arrest equipment, electrical services, high-level cleaning and training solutions, a significant amount of the Group's work is undertaken at height. As Terry Wilcock – Health, Safety and Environment Director – said: "It is not enough for us simply to comply with the 'Work at Height Regulations'. At PTSG, we want to set the standard for the rest of the industry. Our culture and framework for continual improvement is based on the plan-do-check-act model and includes site inspection, performance measurement and the monitoring of the group's safe performance targets."

100% safety record

PTSG's aim is to eliminate all workplace accidents, and each year it is getting close to achieving its goal. The company's specialists routinely use ropes to gain access to all sorts of locations at height. Their techniques can replace the requirement for scaffolding, which is unsightly and expensive. As a result, projects can be completed more quickly and at a fraction of the cost. However, technicians must take an uncompromising approach to safety at all times, working under the mantra: "If it can't be done safely, we don't do it".

This approach requires:

- planning – to assess the risks involved throughout
- competence – only using personnel with the required level of skills and training
- equipment – suitable and specifically designed for the job
- precautions – never overreaching or overloading; providing protection from falling objects; and having emergency or rescue procedures in place.

736 feet (224 metres)

That's the height of Leadenhall Tower, the iconic building in London's Square Mile, and one of the tallest buildings on which PTSG has worked. Specialists from the Group's Access and Safety division provided two telescopic building maintenance units, with several bespoke cradles ranging from 3m to 9m and the capacity to lift glass up to 2,000kg. The use of building information modelling (BIM) allowed

the client, Laing O'Rourke, to visualise PTSG's solution in intricate detail. Installation was completed within six days.

Another towering building in PTSG's portfolio is Drax Power Station, whose tallest tower stands at 259m. In 2016, five specialists in steeple-jacking and rope access techniques repaired part of the landmark chimney which had come loose. The work involved replacing a range of defective bolts to secure the structure and ensure it remains safe and fully operational.

BS8610

A director of one of PTSG's Access & Safety divisions has been involved in the writing of a new Fall Protection British Standard for the British Standards Institution. Nick Hayes sits on the BSI committee and has collaborated with other industry experts to create BS8610 Standard, which is applicable to the design of fall protection anchor systems.

The main points of BS8610 will be applicable to manufacturers designing, making and marketing fall protection anchor systems. It clarifies for the first time that an anchor system starts from the fixings to the base material, all the way through to the anchor point for

attachment of personal protective equipment (PPE). An anchor system is often formed of multiple elements; however, previous anchor design guidance has only considered the final element, where PPE is attached.

Mr. Hayes said: "It has taken almost two years to develop and write BS8610. It is in the final editing process and is likely to be published in late May or early June 2017. I am pleased to be collaborating on the process of this important industry standard which, once published, will provide more in-depth information on fall protection anchor systems for manufacturers and installers."

5 RoSPA gold awards

PTSG's record of success in health and safety has been underlined by a multitude of awards during the last few years. This includes becoming a five times RoSPA Gold Achievement award winner (2012-2016 inclusive) and a six times British Safety Council International safety award winner (2012-2017 – the Group received the safety award with merit in March this year). The RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Award is a competitive sector which recognises those organisations

that have demonstrated the best health and safety management performance.

100+

As a result of Terry Wilcock's work as full-time Health, Safety and Environment Director, PTSG has gained over 100 individual accreditations including network rail infrastructures and nine of them are from SSIP forum members.

PTSG was founded in 2007 to meet the need within the industry for a single provider of niche specialist services. Ten years on, through an ambitious combination of strategic business acquisitions and organic growth, the Group occupies a strong position at the forefront of the sectors in which it operates. This wouldn't have been possible without taking a singular approach to the wellbeing of everyone involved in all work – within this highly safety-critical industry.

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