



dp update



the unseen advantage

AUTUMN-WINTER 2018

Thundercat proves lightning quick



As sponsors of the Multispark Thundercat, we're delighted to say that James Tapp and Scott Brown have captured the P750 national championship at the end of a sensational season.

Winners of six of the nine rounds (and runners-up in two of the others), the dynamic duo swept to victory by an exceptional 32 points – and headed off to the world championships in Frejus, France.

Having only joined forces at the start of the 2018 season, James and Scott quickly formed an unstoppable combination, winning the first three races, including the surf round at the world-famous Fistral beach on the north Cornwall coast.

"We got quicker as the season progressed," said James, "but we had to be at our very best as old rivals kept coming out of the woodwork to keep us on our toes."

To add a touch of stardust to the season, James also appeared on James Cordon's celebrity game show, A League of their Own, teaching ex-England cricketer, Freddie Flintoff, and ex-England footballer, Jamie Redknapp how to handle the Thundercat throttle and then seeing how they'd fare in a racing situation off the Isle of Wight. [Click here to see video.](#)

MULTISPARK

Racing



Welcome to the latest edition of Update, and just a warning that it does contain a bit about Brexit. (Don't worry, we've put it on the last page, so if you can't face it, just bale out after page three).

Anyway, we've tried to concentrate on less contentious issues, with a decent helping of good news, helpful advice and more besides. As ever, we hope you find it both enjoyable and informative – and we look forward to bringing you more in the new year.

And as we're approaching that time of year and the first adverts have already hit the tv screens, here are our Christmas closing times:

Closing noon December 20th until Wednesday 2nd January.

Andrew Piper
Managing Director



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Understandably, the surrounding work area is a little messy but the new finish on the Aerospace unit is looking fantastic

Excuse us while we get changed

The redevelopment of our Poole headquarters has continued over the summer and this on-going project is gradually changing both the style and substance of our home for the past 40 years.

Where our aerospace unit is concerned, the stylish new cladding and new doors are the most visible signs of change from the outside, while inside we've completely replaced the floor, with our aerospace activities occupying half of the available space.

Three of our older units are due to be demolished in the not too distant future and we've already moved all of the production equipment from there and jury rigged it in the newly expanded building.

Once the new build has been completed, we'll move the equipment out of the updated building and then we'll have a much more spacious storage area as well as ergonomic racking for all our mould tools. (You'd be amazed at just how many of these we've accumulated over the years). We'll also have enhanced mould cleaning facilities in this unit, with moulding preparation carried out alongside.

Our dedicated subsea production unit stays largely as it is, but by this time next year, we hope to have an equivalent unit for aerospace and all of our complementary facilities set up to simplify and streamline the work flow of everything we do.



"It's a job well worth doing," said MD, Andrew Piper, "and we're taking the time to make sure there's a place for everything and everything's in its perfect place."

Our top tips for Quality

Quality is obviously a key criteria in custom seals, gaskets and mouldings and with 40 years' experience in the field – not to mention a massive amount of invaluable feedback from design engineers – we believe we're in an unrivalled position to help you achieve your goals with this particular part of the process.

Priorities

Prioritising your requirements is the essential first step to assured and appropriate quality, whether that means less flash, split line, integrity, surface finish, appearance or even rubber mix. So decide which is most important before you talk to us about material selection and design considerations.

Practicality

As well as being sure of the basics like fit and function, it's also important to review elements such as hardness, material choice, tolerances, surface finish and feed point positions. That way, you'll know exactly where quality is justified, and just as importantly, where it doesn't really come into the equation.

Partnership

Custom moulding can sometimes push the boundaries with the need for tiny holes, radius or lip features and complex shapes, these details could well be critical to how the finished component functions. With that in mind, it's vital to carefully consider what your production partner can offer in terms of toolmaking, design, moulding, prototyping, manufacturing, quality and accreditation standards. Which explains why we've developed our own patented transfer moulding systems and a world-class approach to quality that makes achieving the most demanding requirements as straightforward as possible.

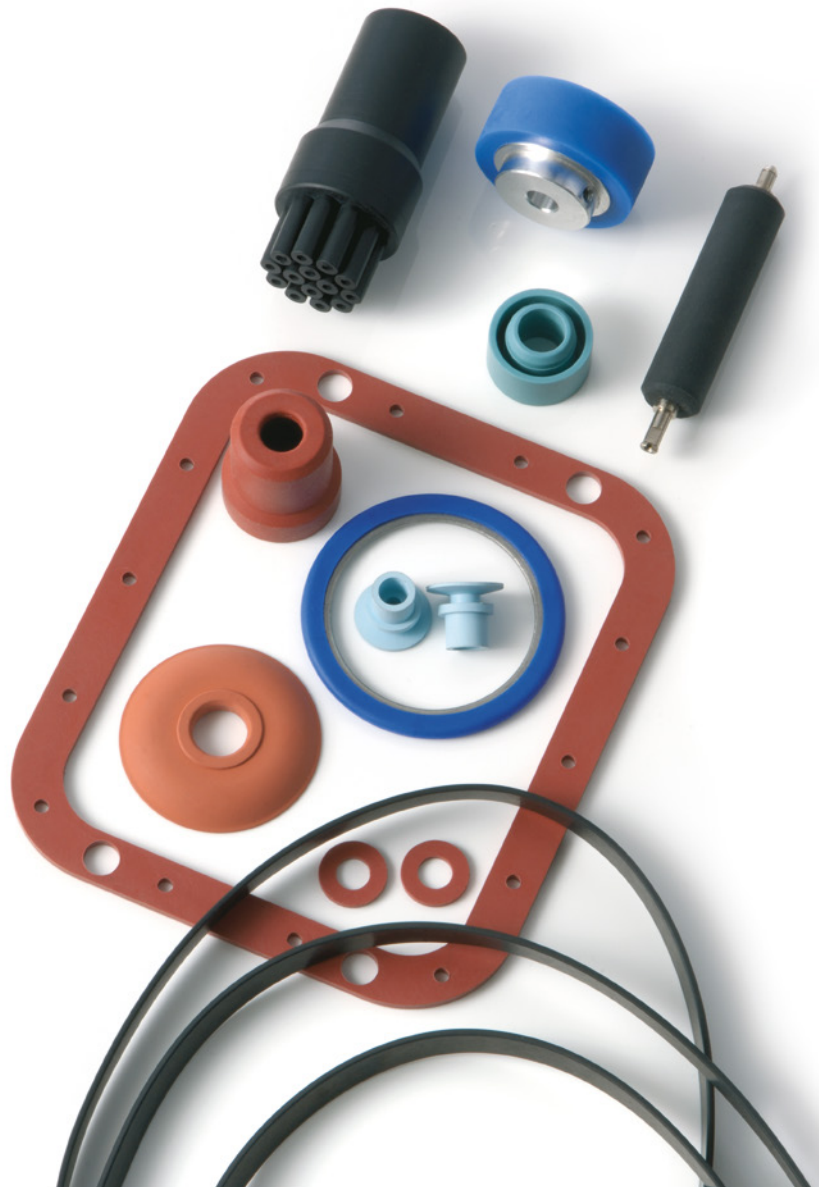
Preparation

The earlier we become involved in the design process the better the outcome will be, with our expert knowledge of material selection, design experience and prototyping all adding value to the initial stages of design.

It goes without saying that quality shouldn't be seen in isolation and whatever the issues you have to address, you can be certain of our expert help in resolving it in the way that best meets the design of your own unique component.



"Don't ask for quality that exceeds the functionality of the component. Set the criteria and tolerance your parts need in order to function in their operational environment – working from there we can provide the material and production options that best suit the part and budget."





Brexit. A brighter view?

Life in the post-Brexit world, with or without a deal, has become an inevitable part of our planning for the future. In fact, we've already had to deal with customers wanting to know what our tier 1 and 2 suppliers are doing to prepare for the event and how we'll ensure seamless supply in 2019 and beyond. We've also had to think about back-up supplies of some materials and have had to consider bulk buying mould steel to ensure stock continues to be available.

Some see such consequences leading to the terminal decline of British manufacturing companies. But there are well regarded economists who view it in a much more positive light, with the opportunity for new

sources to emerge and meet the needs of industry across the UK.

At present, the majority of manufactured goods utilise components which routinely cross borders two or three times. If, post-Brexit, tariffs are imposed every time this happens, manufacturers only realistic option will be to rebuild local supply chains to satisfy their on-going requirements – expecting that such a course of action would offset any tax increases through savings on administration, paperwork, delays and many other tangible and non-tangible benefits.

Instead of a looming crisis, it's said that we could see a resurgence of the manufacturing sector, sharing technology and best practices, actively helping to build sustainable support systems and investing in nationwide training for engineers, shop-floor workers and everyone in between.

The problem is, of course, that neither side of the argument has a fully functioning

crystal ball. The contrary views simply create confusion. And in that context, planning becomes virtually impossible.

Still, it'll all be resolved one day. Probably. Or possibly not.

Another Vid from Vlad



Vladimir Miheev's latest video is now available to view on our website – and like the previous ones, it takes a distinctive look at a key area of our production process. This time, Vlad's putting measurement under the spotlight, with a cast of scantily clad O-rings and some very high-tech measuring equipment taking centre stage. Take a look for yourself – and if you've any comments, just let us know.



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We are still building our online community, so if you are yet to link up with us on social media please do. We regularly release information and notifications and it's always good to keep in touch.



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