



news from

**BROTHERTON**  
**ESSECO**

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# New identity reflects company's proud heritage

**A**fter a proud and distinguished history stretching back 131 years, Brotherton Speciality Products changed its name to Brotherton Esseco on 1 July.

It's a move that reflects the new ownership of the company, which was taken over by the Italian-based Esseco Group in March 2008 and the subsequent integration of Esseco UK activities into Brotherton in January this year.

"The change brings the company's name in line with other Esseco Group companies throughout the world," explained Managing Director, Roger Perry, "whilst at the same time recognising Brotherton's heritage and reputation.

## Confidence

"Our new owners realised the importance of preserving the link," he continued, "and the value of keeping Brotherton's name prominent."

Esseco have already demonstrated their confidence and willingness to invest in the future by backing a £4m plant expansion plan (*see inside for more details*).

"It's a very bold decision in the current tough times," Roger went on, "and demonstrates the encouraging long-term view that is being taken when most major companies are seeking ways to reduce expenditure.

"Esseco take a strategic long-term view however. Our products generally have a lengthy lifespan, enabling demand in the coming years to be predicted with some certainty.

"Many of our raw materials are naturally-occurring and inherently safe to use, making their conversion into performance products highly economical. Esseco recognise this and the current expansion programme will doubtless be followed by others in the near future."



Brotherton Esseco has undertaken a £4m expansion programme since the takeover.

## Inside: £4m expansion plan set to commence

## REACHing out to protect the public

**R**EACH (the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals), is one of the most complex issues Brotherton Esseco has ever had to deal with.



All substances manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities greater than one tonne per year must be registered. REACH also switches most of the responsibility of control and safety of chemicals from authorities, to chemical manufacturers, importers and users.

It also aims to promote alternative methods for the assessment of hazards of substances and eliminate unnecessary testing, especially on animals.

Initially it was estimated that some 30,000 chemicals would need to be tested and registered. Already that figure has passed the 150,000-mark - a five-fold increase.

And the pre-registration of companies and substances has risen to 2.75 million: 15 times the original estimate.

Manufacturers like ourselves are already beginning to share 'downstream' information. For example, if a product is used in agriculture, safety in that area has to be evaluated and recorded. The market at large now has a right to know if there are any side-effects.

However, protecting the public and the environment have always been prime company priorities.

Complex and costly as it is, we regard it as an extension of our existing duty of care policy.

**Roger Perry**  
Managing Director

## Wakefield Cadets put sea legs to good use - back on dry land

**W**akefield Sea Cadets are just as adept on land as they are on water - something they demonstrate regularly when they deliver this newsletter.

Brotherton Esseco have had a working relationship with the unit for a number of years, so we thought it was time to have a brief look at who they are and what they do.

The Sea Cadet Corps has one of the longest continuous histories of any youth organisation in the country. The organisation dates back to the Crimean War (1854-1856), when sailors returning home from the campaign formed Naval Lads' Brigades to help orphans in the back streets of sea ports.

### Successful

It has evolved to become Britain's most successful nautical organisation for the development of young people with units run by enthusiastic adult volunteers.

Open to young people aged 12 to 18 (with junior sections for 10 to 12 year olds), the corps has grown to 387 units nationwide. All are run as individual charities, with some 14,000 cadets, nearly half of them girls.

The Sea Cadets offer a wide range of largely free activities ranging from seamanship, sailing & canoeing to

rock climbing, engineering & IT and even music and cookery.

As well as experience and adventure for young people, the corps also aims to encourage good citizenship and provide worthwhile qualifications, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award and BTEC.

"Cadets have the opportunity to learn life skills whilst having fun and making friends," says Officer In Charge in Wakefield, Jean Pickering, who started as a Cadet herself back in 1972.

"We use a nautical theme to help youngsters become responsible adults, based on the traditions of the Royal Navy, giving Cadets an opportunity to progress and take up positions of responsibility as they acquire skills and seniority," continued Jean, who went on to say that on reaching 18, many Cadets choose to stay on as adult instructors.

After 67 years, Wakefield are planning to re-develop their Thornes Wharf site and are currently discussing the project with architects.

They meet every Tuesday and Friday and are constantly on the lookout for volunteers to help with fund-raising. Anyone who can help, or would like further details, can contact them on **01924 372519**.



Wakefield Cadets practice their rowing skills: part of a comprehensive life skills package to help equip them for adulthood.

## £4m investment in new equipment

**B**rotherton Esseco has confirmed plans to spend £4m installing new plant at its Calder Vale Road site.

When completed, at the end of Summer 2010, it will confirm the company's position as the UK's leading producer of sulphites.

The new equipment will enable Brotherton Esseco to manufacture its range of sulphite products for industries such as agriculture, food and oil exploration - without the need to store some hazardous raw materials.

It will increase profitability, create new jobs, reduce the need for on-site storage and cut the number of inward daily deliveries by road.

Design expertise will be drawn from its Italian parent company, who have extensive knowledge of the processes involved, but most of the work and materials will be sourced locally.

"It's marvellous news for us and Wakefield in general," enthused Managing Director, Roger Perry. "There is substantial demand for sulphite products in the UK and we will now be in a much stronger position to meet it competitively.

### Significant

"It's a sign of confidence from our parent company that they are willing to invest such significant sums at the moment.

"Being able to manufacture the basic raw material ourselves will free us from being dependent upon suppliers and enable us to prioritise our production processes without any compromise."

The state-of-the-art plant will create new jobs, with much of the training taking place on similar equipment at parent company headquarters in Italy.

Existing facilities previously used for the production of sulphites will be re-assigned to the company's renowned 'Safegrip' runway de-icer and other new products.

# No time to lose says Hazel, who has no time to spare!

**P**roof of the adage that: 'you're never too old to learn', Hazel Hunter has just completed the second year of a three-year Associated Accounting Technician course at Wakefield College, at 46 years old.

Hazel has worked at Brotherton Esesco for 18 years, latterly as Accounts Supervisor & Credit Controller and is full of enthusiasm for her new-found studies.

"With the exception of a year in sales when I joined, I've been working on the accounts side of things ever since, but only up to trial balance stage," she explained. "Now I have finished the second year of the course, I can go right through to the balance sheet and profit & loss."

Changing course is nothing new to Hazel. She's done it before in her previous working life.

At 18 she emigrated to South Africa for three years when her engineer father worked in an Angolan diamond mine. After she returned to the UK, she had a son, Peter, who's now 25 and began working for British Satellite Broadcasting: selling satellite dishes and then moving to their accounts department.

"When Sky took them over I was made redundant, but within a month I had joined Brotherton Esesco and followed the same career path, transferring from sales to accounts after the first 12 months. I knew it was the job for me and have been here ever since," Hazel told us.

In addition to her accounting responsibilities, Hazel is one of the company's first-aiders, a role she has fulfilled for 12 years.

Outside work, she swaps book-keeping for beefburgers to help out with her local Cubs as a Cook on their annual camping expeditions. Husband, James, runs the 9th Wakefield cub pack and Hazel has been keeping them well-fed and watered for the last 17 years! James received the Award for Merit in scouting last year, and Hazel is very proud of him for that.

## Hobbies

"The first-aid training comes in handy too," laughed Hazel, who has just returned from this year's outing - a weekend get-together for several local groups at Cleckheaton.

When you factor in her other leisure interests, such as walking, her new hobby of photography (where she's receiving expert tuition from Mark Thompson in the Brotherton Esesco laboratory, who was Chairman of a local photographic society) and searching for holidays on the internet, it's a wonder Hazel has any time left for her studies.

But even then she still manages to meet with fellow students every weekend as part of an impromptu study group they have formed.

"At the moment there's just three of us, meeting every Saturday for a few hours," said Hazel, "but pretty soon we expect another couple to join. It's a great way to supplement our studies and do a bit of Saturday morning socialising at the same time."

And as if that wasn't enough, Hazel has also joined a number of colleagues at Brotherton Esesco taking Italian lessons, in the wake of the company's takeover by the Esesco Group last year.

