

**Responsible Sourcing Report 2019** 









## Sustainability at Smart

#### About Smart Architectural Aluminium

Over the past forty years, Smart has grown to become the UK's leading supplier of aluminium systems and bespoke aluminium extrusions, building a reputation for both the quality of its products and its product innovation, design and technical expertise. Our products and systems are proven in a wide range of new-build and refurbishment projects throughout the UK, spanning the complete range of commercial, public sector and residential applications.

Based in Yatton, North Somerset, our purpose-built premises house state-of-the-art extrusion, finishing, warehousing and distribution facilities. Our own fleet of lorries makes daily deliveries to a network of fabricators and installers across the UK. Employing around 600 people, we have an annual turnover in excess of £120 million.

#### Our Approach

We are fully committed to working towards a greener, more sustainable environment, ensuring every aspect of our activities, from the procurement of raw materials to the delivery of finished goods, is conducted in accordance with sound environmental practices and in line with both UK and EU environmental regulations and legislation.

In the context of our business, we aim to promote an understanding of environmental issues among our staff, customers, suppliers and stakeholders, recognising our responsibilities to the delivery of long term, sustainable benefits. Our common goal is to ensure we continually improve the environmental impact of our global activities.

Throughout our development, environmental considerations have been central to our planning. To help formalise our processes and procedures, in 2011 we achieved ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems certification, and have maintained our certification via transition to ISO 14,001:2015.

As an ISO 14001 company, we regularly re-evaluate our working practices, ensuring we continually work to minimise the impact of our activities on the environment. As a result, we continue to invest in efficient machinery, effective environmental management systems and waste capture and recycling systems, as well as the use of sustainable power generation.

#### Responsible Sourcing and BES 6001

Governments, specifiers and architects are increasingly focusing on sustainable development and the source of construction materials. BRE's standard, BES 6001, enables manufacturers to ensure and then prove their products have been made with constituent materials that have been responsibly sourced, providing an approach based on governance, supply chain and community interaction, with a focus on environmental performance improvements.

In 2016 we made the decision to pursue certification to BES 6001 following clarification regarding traceability of commodity traded materials, such as Bauxite in aluminium production.

# LAXI Eddie Robinson Managing Director

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- Smart Systems is committed to carrying out its operations in a sustainable manner and in compliance with ISO 14,001, ISO 9,001, OHSAS 18,001 & ISO 50,001 requirements. To achieve this, Smart Systems shall: Ensure that all materials are sourced in a responsible manner.

\*smart Smart Systems is committed to carrying out its operations in a Responsible Sourcing Policy

# Responsible Sourcing & Supply Chain Management

How and from whom a company purchases materials can impact in many ways on the broader environment. By purchasing materials from suppliers who adopt responsible practices, we aim to stimulate demand for socially- and environmentally-preferable products.

Our finished profiles contain well over 90% of either aluminium or polyamide (which provides the thermal break to give a high performing u-value). We purchase raw materials and components from renowned suppliers with a proven ability to provide high quality goods at competitive prices.

However, we require much more than affordability from our suppliers; requiring them to have management systems in place to identify and reduce their quality, environmental and health and safety risks. As a direct result of this, a key supplier reports that their production sits below the industry average for energy consumption per kilogram of aluminium produced at 13.9kWh per kg; with 70% of their total production related energy consumption coming from renewable sources.

In 2019 we are pleased to report that 100% of our constituent materials came from suppliers that hold certification to ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14,001;2015 and OHSAS 18,001:2007 / ISO 45,001:2018

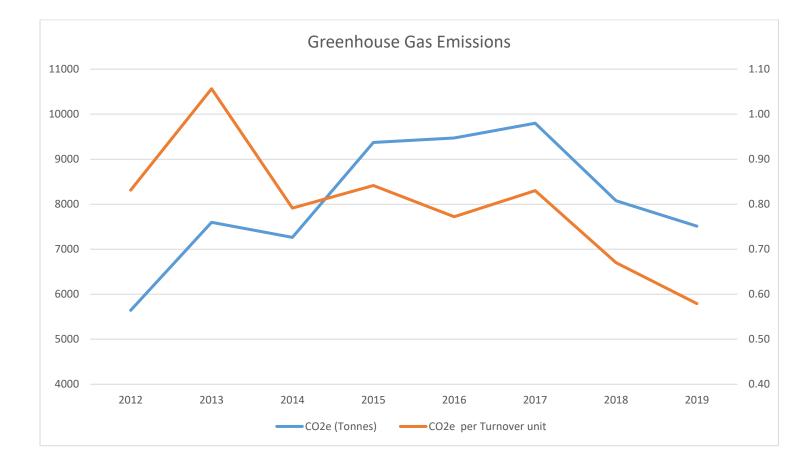


#### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

We recognise that our operation is energy-intensive, and according to our ethics and legislative requirements, we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with national commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Greenhouse emissions are produced from the combustion of natural gas and diesel on our site, as well as from our transport activities (including our delivery fleet, company vehicles and employee travel) and the electricity we purchase from the national grid.

Since 2010, restrictions of electricity supply to our site have required our extrusion operations to be powered by diesel generators. However, following significant capital investment in 2016, we gained our own independent grid supply, removing the inherent inefficiency of burning fossil fuels. In addition, we have planning permission to install two wind turbines on our site, which will potentially generate more than 15% of our extrusions electricity supply.





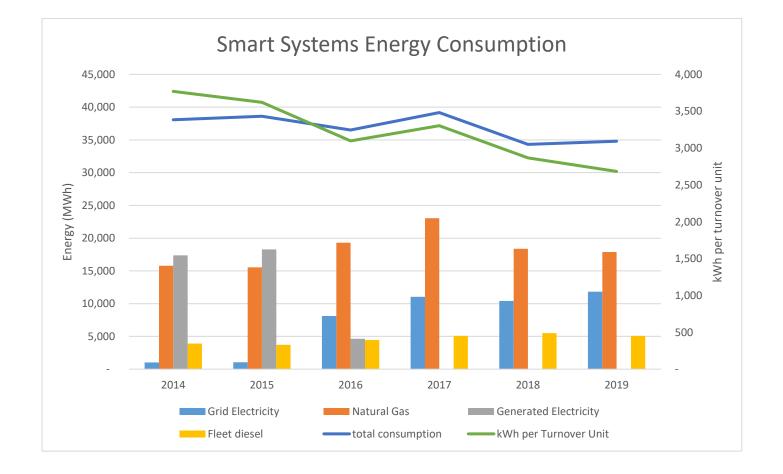
## **Energy Use and Management**

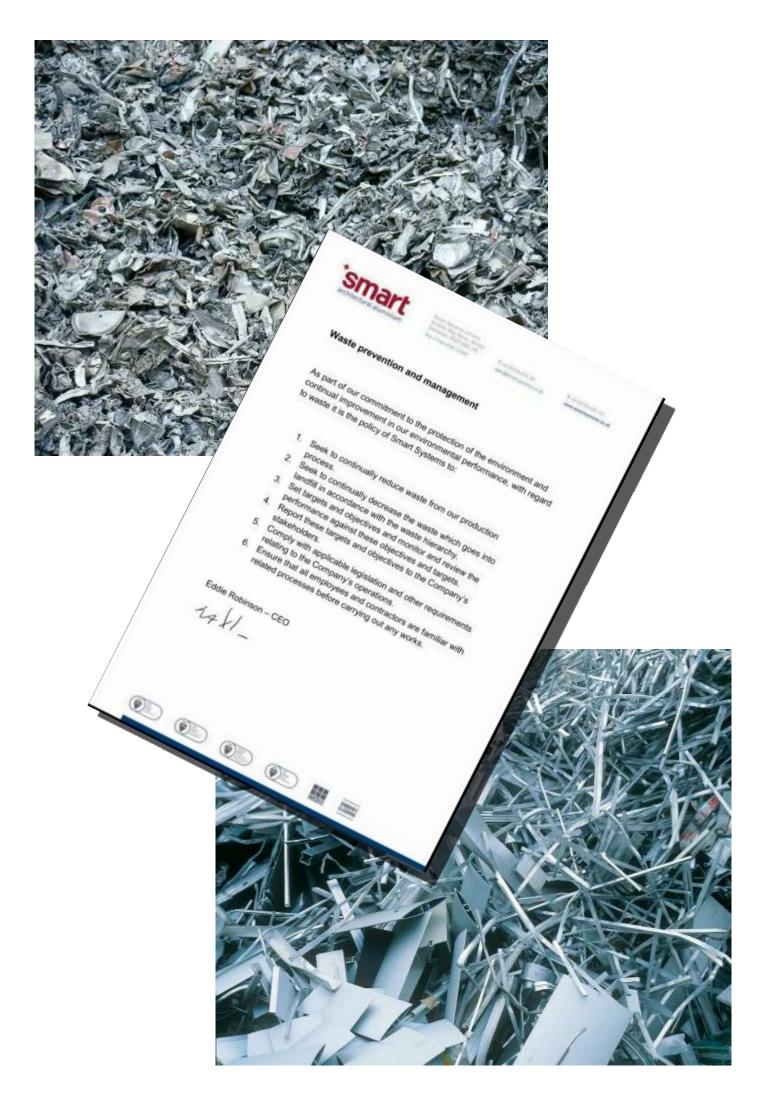
Energy management is a crucial element of our management of capacity, cost, emissions and future development. In 2015 in line with the energy savings opportunities scheme, we achieved ISO 50001:2011 certification, later transitioning to ISO 50,001:2018.

ISO 50001 is based on the continuous improvement business model, which is also used for standards such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. This makes it easier for organisations to integrate energy management into their quality and environmental management systems.

ISO 50001:2011 provides a framework of requirements for organisations to develop policy; set targets and objectives; use data to better understand and make decisions about energy usage; measure the results and then take appropriate improvement actions to continually improve energy management based on reviews of the system.

Since 2015 we have put in place a number of projects and plans to reduce our electricity and diesel consumption, improving our energy performance with respect to our overall output.





# Waste Prevention and Management

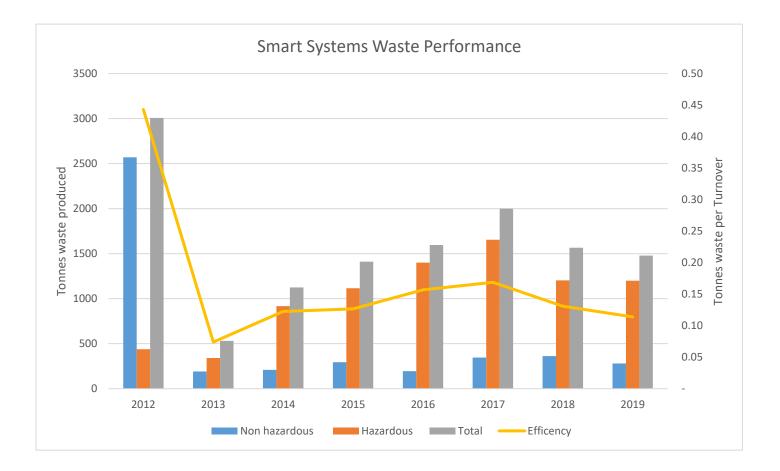
As a large manufacturing company, we generate waste in various forms - from routine inert office wastes to spent chemicals. As part of our commitment to prevent pollution and fully adhere to legal requirements, we ensure our waste is correctly separated and stored, ready for collection by our selected waste contractors, with whom we are pursuing a zero-to-landfill contract.

Across the aluminium extrusion sector, it is estimated that around 15% of extrusions will not be fit for their intended purpose. Rather than this material being declared waste, we instead collect it and transport it for remelting, receiving re-formed billet in return.

We have also considered waste when developing our manufacturing processes. Our powder coating lines recover and reuse up to 95% of excess powder to reduce our waste burden; powders we use are chromate free to reduce the amount of hazardous waste we produce; incoming packaging is reused onsite for material storage and we deliver our profiles in fully reusable stillages.

Furthermore, by ensuring that nothing we add to our profiles impedes recycling when an installed system reaches the end of its useful life, it can easily be recovered and sent for re-melting. However, the performance of our systems allows simply for the glazing component of an installed unit to be replaced in order to encourage post-consumer reuse; whilst installed accessories can be replaced to update the look of the unit.

Data reported below mirrors the information submitted to the Environment Agency annually.



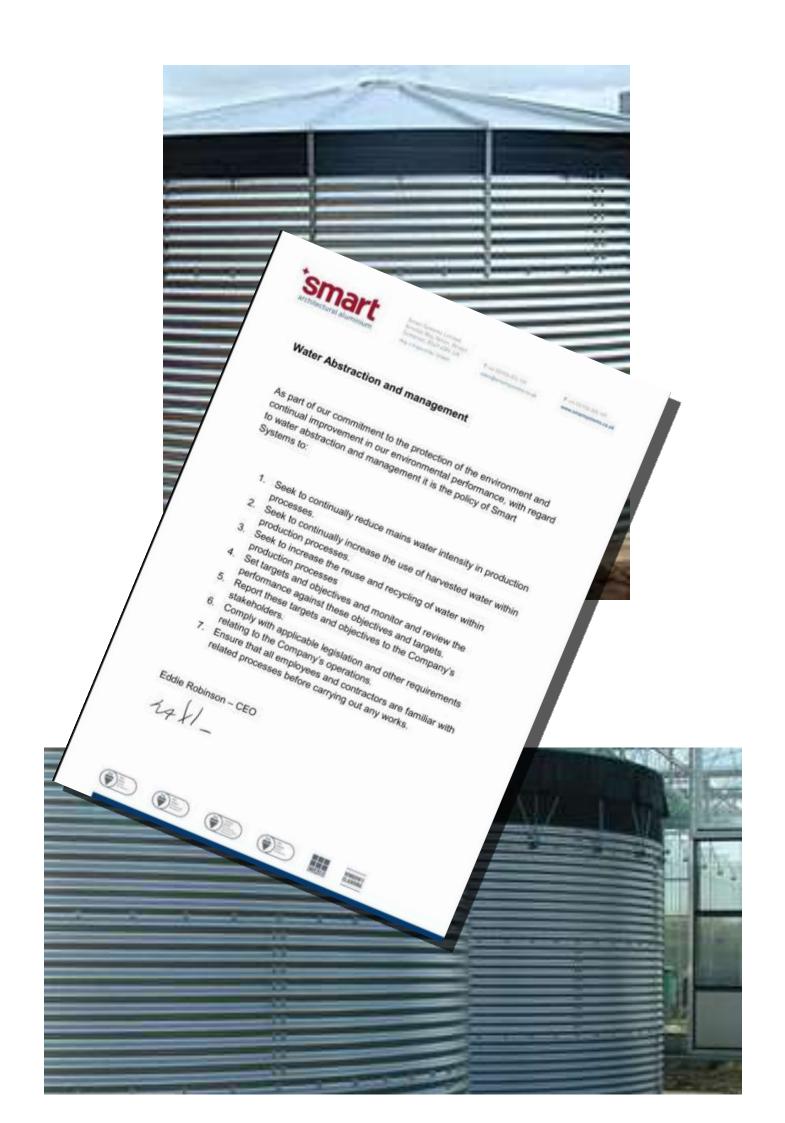


#### **Resource Use**

We are committed to reducing the environmental impact of our products, the constituent materials of which are aluminium (supplied to us as billet) and polyamide insulating profiles. We then offer a 60um powder coat to ensure long life and offer a range of colours. It is pleasing to report that in 2019 25.7% of our incoming billet was recycled rather than first use; and both vertical powder coating lines capture and reuse 98% of excess powder.

Through the design of our systems and their related profiles, we seek to minimise the amount of material used, whilst retaining the strength and durability of the finished products. To that end, we provide software tools and training to our customers, enabling them to assess minimum profile criteria based on wind load/specification; reduce wastage by optimising cutting of material during fabrication and offer bespoke, project-specific designs tailored to meet specific performance requirements.

We also recognise that our products have an impact on resource use at the end of their lives, and as such have taken measures to allow repairs, maintenance and upgradability through glazing and hardware to be carried out. Once our products reach the end of their life, they have a typical recycle rate of 95% and, as aluminium is widely recycled and contains no hazardous material, it requires no dedicated retrieval scheme.



## Water Abstraction

Recognising the impact water abstraction has on the environment, in 2011 we installed a combined attenuation and rainwater harvesting system to reduce the amount of water we need to abstract from mains supply. With an overall capacity in excess of 900,000 litres, the system collects rainwater from our roof and stores it ready for filtration and use.

Since 2011 we have been recycling and re-using the ionized water used in our powder coating lines' pretreatment processes, reducing our demand on local water resources through mains water abstraction.

As part of our expansion programme, in 2014 we installed a state-of-the-art vertical powder coating line, which has a lower water consumption rate than our horizontal, line. Utilising best available technologies, we have significantly improved our water-use efficiency.

In early 2017, we commissioned an additional harvesting/attenuation system, with a capacity of 1,920,000 litres. This will substantially reduce both the overall water abstraction demand of the site, and the overall intensity for the factory in the future.

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Note that the information reported below is a mixture of metered and estimated data, as supplied by the Utilities providers.



#### Lifecycle Assessment

The lifecycle of aluminium, and aluminium profiles is widely known and understood. With aluminium products recycled worldwide, it is believed that 75% of aluminium produced in the 1880s is still in use today.

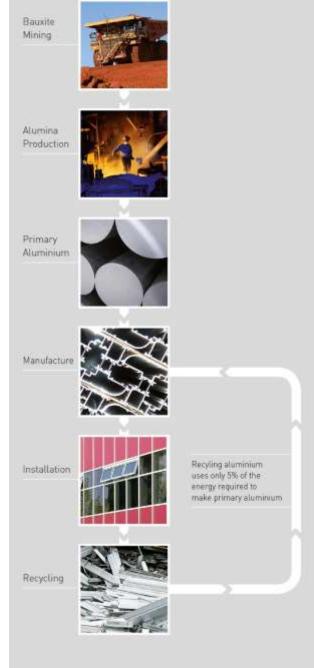
We consider the lifecycle of our products from the design room drawing board, through to production and beyond, identifying, for example, the risks that chromates hold in powder coating; the impact of energy demand in extrusion and the transportation of our products across the UK. Our objective is to improve the impact of our product across its lifecycle.

Detailed and thorough environmental product declarations, footprint calculations and lifecycle studies have been carried out by various aluminium sector trade bodies, action groups, and industry councils - as well as our own specific examples.

#### Aluminium:

#### The 'Cradle to Cradle' Lifecycle

Aluminium is commonly referred to as the ultimate building material. It is durable, light-weight, resistant to both corrosion and pollutants giving aluminium products a life cycle measured in decades rather than years. It is 100% recyclable, losing none of its material qualities in the recycling process. Large reserves of bauxite ore and the high quality of recycled aluminium offer a building material that is sustainable and effectively inexhaustible.



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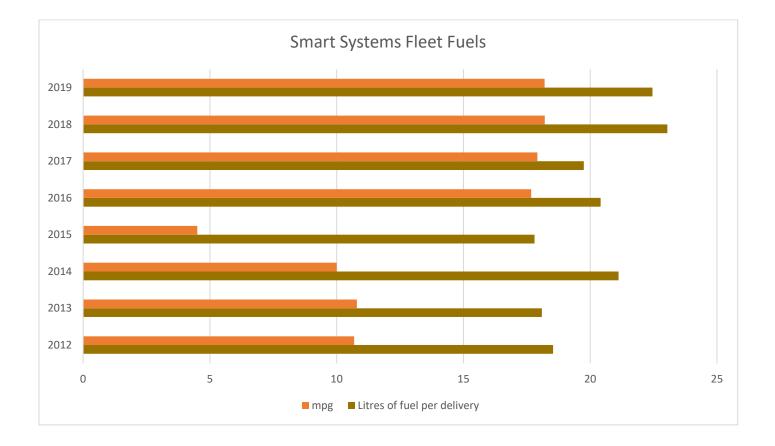
# **Transport Impacts**

We operate our own delivery fleet of rigid vehicles, with one wagon and drag, supplemented by efficient national haulage companies to reduce vehicle movements to and from our site.

In 2015, using expanded capacity provided by national haulers, we implemented a network of hubs around the UK, enabling our vehicles to pick up material without having to return to Yatton, reducing empty runs. Whilst this led to a lower overall MPG rate, as our drivers are doing more shorter, less efficient journeys, we have increased overall output by 20%, with only a 5% increase in fleet mileage.

In order to mitigate all the potential impacts of our transport activities (spillage and pollution, emissions, addition to congestion, noise etc.), we continue to invest in our fleet; by leasing and upgrading our vehicles regularly, we can meet current Euro V emission requirements. We also ensure each vehicle is maintained by the manufacturer in line with their recommendations, to reduce the risk of spills and leaks. Furthermore, we have installed 360 degree external camera systems on all our vehicles, giving drivers greater vision when operating in tight spaces, as well as the ability to assess their driving style.

From 2015, we set an annual target of a further 5% reduction in litres per delivery and by the end of the first half of 2016, we had already achieved a 3% reduction. With additional distribution hubs coming on line later in 2016, we are confident of achieving the full 5% reduction for the year.



## **Employment and Skills**

We employ around 400 people at our Yatton site. Whilst most of our employees live within a 15-mile radius, we have a diverse and inclusive workforce, with colleagues hailing from across the UK, Europe and beyond.

Where possible, we seek to develop and promote employees within the business, with advancements to supervisory and management roles, the development of technical skills and apprenticeships.

Our team leaders are responsible for identifying training needs and developing potential, enabling people to grow and develop organically without the pressure of 'management involvement'. When a training need is identified, if it is appropriate and practical, it is addressed by third party training, delivering certification for the trainee and aiding their continuing professional development.

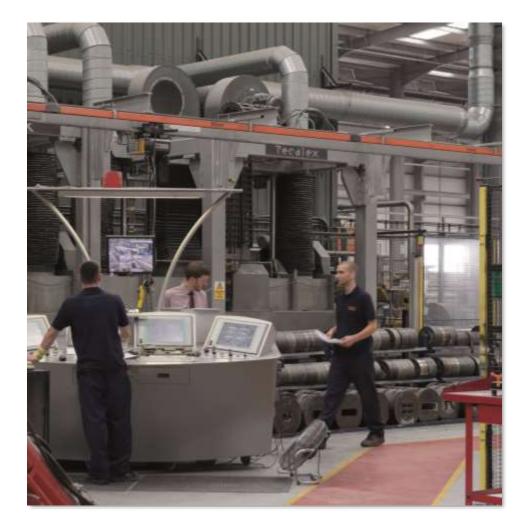


## **Ecotoxicity**

Chemicals within the European Union must be classified under the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) legislation. REACH addresses the production and use of chemical substances, and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment. At the time of writing no products manufactured by Smart Systems Ltd are above the REACH threshold.

However, although a number of chemicals used within our processes utilise REACH registered substances, none are classified as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) under article 57 of the legislation.

Chemicals used regularly in our processes are Sodium Hydroxide: Registration Number 01-211945-7892, Powder Paints: No known SVHC or SVHC candidates, Hydrochloric Acid: 231-595-7, and Ferric Chloride: 231-729-4.



#### **Business Ethics**

We operate in a business environment where the potential for business ethics to be violated or breached exists. Whilst we are able to operate with a large degree of freedom, we are bound not only by our own ethics, but also by those of our parent company, Corialis.

On completion of their induction, each employee signs a group-wide code of conduct, in which they are expected to follow the established Whistleblowing Policy, should the need arise.

The risk associated with bribery and corruption is assessed by the business regularly, to ensure legal and ethical compliance.



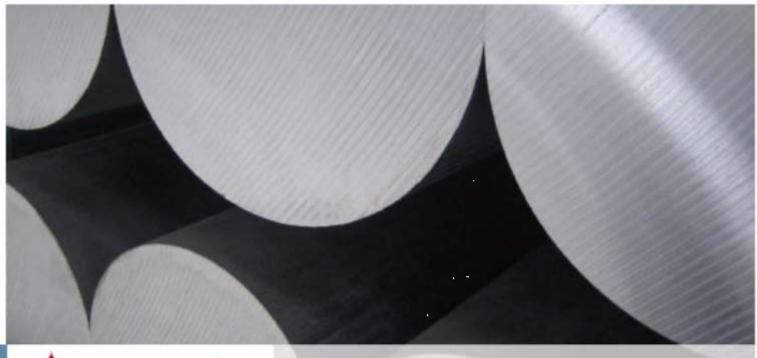
### **Local Communities**

As one of the largest local employers and the most active manufacturing facility in the area, we realise that our activities can have both positive and negative impacts on the local community. The nature of our operation makes it difficult for us to host groups of local stakeholders, however through meetings and consultations, we have involved the community at each stage of our site development.

We are proud to support local companies where possible and practical, including catering, consultancy, technical services, hotels and transport businesses.

As with any relationship, there are times when parties disagree, and we treat any community complaint with the same degree of seriousness and level of importance as we would if it were from a customer or regulator.

smart Smart Systems play a central role in community we are located in and beyond, as such we shall: Local communities 1. Identify those within the local community that are to be considered stakeholders 2. Seek to continually consult with local community stakeholders affected by production and development processes Smarr Systems Pray a centr beyond, as such we shall: affected by production and development processes. Ensure that any complaints from community stakeholders are treated in the same manner as a complaint from a customer Seek to continually consult with local community stak affected by production and development processes. Encure that any complainte from community staken Ensure that any complaints from community stakeholders are treated in the same manner as a complaint from a customer or regulator or regulator 4. Review our relationship with the community, the degree of stakeholder ennanement and the results of any complaints Neview our relationship with the community, the degree of stakeholder engagement, and the results of any complaints. Source materials, services and onode locally where stakeholder engagement, and the results of any comi Source materials, services and goods locally where appropriate and practical. 5. rax1-Eddie Robinson Managing Director 





#### Photographic Credits to:

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Data within this report has been verified by Dudden Ltd

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