

A green starburst



Window and door sector fastener specialist Rapiestar has embarked on a number of new initiatives to help reduce the environmental impact of its operations and further strengthen its credentials as a responsible supply chain partner.

Implemented as part of its latest environmental strategy are a series of changes at its Star Business Park HQ, warehouse and distribution centre in Cheshire. Here, better management of waste water has been prioritised with the installation of three new water treatment plants, which will turn waste water from the complex into drinking quality water for release into a nearby brook. An additional new oil capture tank that recycles brown water for further treatment from the large car parking area has also been installed.

Inside the building, Rapiestar has installed a dynamic lighting solution throughout its warehouse – where more than one billion window and door fasteners are stocked – and packing area. This has provided an energy saving of over 90%, by operating at only a sub 10% background lighting level before

responding immediately to any vehicular or personnel movement and switching to full luminaire level. And, packaging now utilises recycled packing chippings in all customer orders that are despatched, helping to reduce reliance on new packaging materials.

With transport being one of most significant contributors to carbon emissions, Rapiestar’s environmental strategy works to both inspire behaviour change and utilise new technology. Staff are already getting involved in car sharing and, for those who live locally, cycling to work is being actively encouraged.

As electric vehicle technology advances rapidly, Rapiestar has ensured that drivers of 100% electric vehicles – visitors and staff – can now charge up whilst on site with the installation of a new rapid charging point. This has also enabled the company to add a plug-in electric vehicle to its fleet, which will be used to provide emissions-free transportation on the final leg for the many visitors to Star Business Park who travel via Manchester Airport or mainline railway stations. □

www.rapiestar.com

Consumer protection organisation DGCOS has announced that it will be exhibiting at the 2019 FIT Show to update the market first-hand on what it has to offer installers to help them stand out from competitors.

“We don’t want to give too much away,” says Tony Pickup, founder of DGCOS, “but we’ll be at the show in style to make sure savvy installers are aware of all the benefits available to them through our organisation. DGCOS is based on three core values: trust, confidence and peace of mind and our approachable team will be explaining at the show, exactly how these translate to sure fire success for installers.

“We’re also hoping to host a special guest appearance at the show, when we introduce the new celebrity face of DGCOS. We’re keeping this a secret for now, but all will be revealed very soon. We’ll also have on the stand some examples of our exceptional marketing support – support that really does help close sales – as well as free consumer advice, mediation and, if required, independent inspections.” □

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www.dgc.org.uk



Pride in policy

Roofline, rainwater and cladding manufacturer Freefoam reports a strong increase in year-on-year sales. The company says its impressive performance is down to an innovative product range and a policy of working closely with customers to help them grow.

“We’re delighted with 2018’s strong results,” says commercial director, Colin St. John. “They were achieved in a difficult year for roofline and fenestration.

“Our mission is to help customers grow and achieve success. It’s how we operate our business. Freefoam has a clear stockist-only policy and provides them with the products, service, technical, commercial and marketing support to help customers build profitable businesses.

“We’ve made: [#HelpingCustomersGrow](https://www.freefoam.com/helping-customers-grow) our official policy because it’s what we have always done, and it works. Our customers continue to outperform their markets,



and when they grow, we grow. That’s true in the UK and in France, Ireland and other countries in the EU. Twenty years ago, we invested in our UK head office, factory and warehouse and distribution centre in Northampton and have continued to invest and expand it. Regardless of the current political turmoil, the work we’re doing together means that we expect our customers and Freefoam to grow strongly throughout 2019.” □

www.freefoam.com

Key, on app

Cambridge-based door and window hardware specialist Mighton Products has developed and launched a new smart lock based on Apple HomeKit technology. Mighton unveiled Avia at the giant Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which took place in Las Vegas early in January. With more than 182,000 visitors CES is the world's leading exhibition for the latest in electronics.

The multipoint locks are secured by simply raising the handle and unlocked using the dedicated Avia app installed on an Apple iPhone or iPad, by using a highly secure key fob from a range of up to 30 metres, or via an electronic keypad. A further innovation that will be available later in 2019 is face recognition, activated via an optional accessory. Conventional keys therefore become a thing of the past with access for additional users easily extended and controlled. Avia may also be controlled via the app from anywhere in the world, for example to allow easy access for service providers.

The Apple HomeKit platform is highly secure and stable and users of the Avia app can learn at a glance the status of the lock, with a full audit trail recorded for



all activity. A traditional key may be used in the TS 007 3 star cylinder as an emergency backup to offer total peace of mind. Any competent person may install Avia in minutes on existing multipoint-equipped doors. □

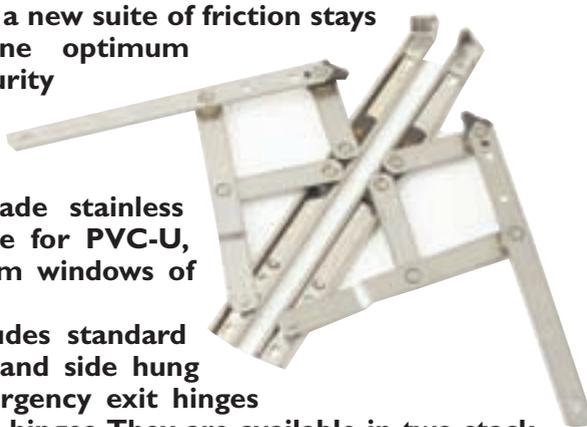
www.mightonproducts.com

Kenrick has launched a new suite of friction stays designed to combine optimum weather-sealing, security and operational performance. The friction stays are

made from high grade stainless steel and are suitable for PVC-U, timber and aluminium windows of all sizes.

The new range includes standard hinges for top hung and side hung windows, egress emergency exit hinges and egress easy-clean hinges. They are available in two stack heights – 13mm and 17mm – and a number of lengths, including 8in, 10in, 12in, 16in, 20in and 24in.

The friction stays have been tested to the performance requirements of BS 6375-1:2009 (parts 1 and 2) and have been neutral salt spray tested to 240 hours to meet BS7412:2007. They have also been cycle tested to 100,000 cycles of opening and closing. □



www.kenricks.co.uk

Planning for no deal

As part of Carl F Groupco's Brexit planning, the hardware supplier has expanded its storage facilities to house increased stock. Additional eight metre high racking installed at the company's UK warehouse in Peterborough represents an investment of £30,000. The customised racking has been designed to accommodate two metre long double pallets, which will house multipoint door locks in over 250 locations plus tilt and turn hardware in over 140 Euro pallet locations.



Carl F Groupco is also committed to a further £1m investment for stock provision as part of its Brexit strategy to maintain its high service levels and On Time In Full delivery commitment.

The hardware distributor offers an expanding catalogue of over 7,000 hardware lines including its own-brand SmartSecure electronic locking solutions. □

www.carlfgroupco.co.uk

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