



Sharp triumphs in Best Factory Awards (BFA)



Sharp Interpack and its Yate plant near Bristol outclassed notable global names as it received the top award for its commitment to health, safety and the environment in the prestigious 2007 Best Factory Awards held at the London Hilton during September.

Not only did it carry off the top award for Health, Safety and Environment but it was also highly commended in the "Best Household and General Products Plant" category.

It was an award that was long overdue for a manufacturer that has consistently maintained an enviable health and safety record and has paid close attention to the protection of the environment in the manufacture of its packaging. New products coming out of the site are drawing on material

science know-how allied to the rotary thermoforming process to employ mineral blend substitutes and supply chain waste to give an exciting yet pragmatic answer to the environmental challenge.

Twelve manufacturing companies with pioneering work practices were all cited in this year's awards, run by Cranfield School of Management in partnership with the publication *Works Management*. The judging panel were unanimous in the decision that Sharp Interpack was setting the agenda in safety and in addressing its environmental and social responsibilities

The company has invested time and money in its rotary thermoforming process and in the adoption of lean manufacturing techniques. Operations Director Phil Mather commented: *"we are very keen on deploying all the lean tools and are pleased with the results of our 5S and SMED programmes."* The result has been less waste, lower energy consumption and better use of manpower.

The lean programmes have also contributed to the impressive health and safety performance of the site. The plant has recently celebrated the achievement of half a million man hours worked without a lost time accident.

It was clear that employees and their well being were respected. This is cited by management as a factor in the low levels of absenteeism from the business – currently 1.9%.

The Managing Director of the Yate business, Andrew Copson, is delighted with the award. *"To measure up so well against so many great UK manufacturing companies is a tribute to the team in this business. We take collective responsibility for our performance and these rewards are a great reflection upon everyone's work and commitment."*

For further information visit www.sharpinterpack.com
Or telephone the Marketing Department on 01454 874100

To the editors

Sharpak is the UK's leading designer and manufacturer of thermoformed rigid plastic packaging for both food and non-food use. The company operates from three British Retail Consortium approved sites in Aylesham, Kent, Bridgwater, Somerset and Yate near Bristol. They have a sales office in the Netherlands to serve Continental Europe. Sharpak are the supplier of choice amongst the UK and Europe's leading brands and retailers and lead the way in environmental packaging.