

STOBARTS LTD ACHIEVES RECOGNITION TO THREE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SIMULTANEOUSLY

In an bold and innovative step the West Cumbrian company already well recognised for it's commitment to continuous improvement and development by Investors in People and the North West Society of Chartered Accountants announces that its combined management systems are recognised to three international standards by an independent and UKAS accredited body.



Cumbria, UK – Stobarts Ltd, a multidiscipline contractor in the construction, nuclear, decommissioning and facilities management industries, today co-announced with NQA Global Assurance their recognition against ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management, ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management and OHSAS 18001:1999 Health and Safety Management standards.

Stobarts Ltd have been working on an improvement programme for the past two years, involving heavy investment in Information Technology to manage and support business process. This improvement programme has already given tangible results in many announcements over the past two years, notably the achievement of Investors in People and being recognised as Business of the Year 2004/2005 by the North West Accountants Society.

In keeping with the company ethos of internal training and promotion from within, the company has developed a fully trained team of Lead and Internal Auditors in order to maintain the high standards that it has achieved and will shortly be offering these services to its key partners in the supply-chain through its 'Building Partnerships' strategy.

John Stobart, Managing Director delighted by the announcement states: "In order compete for new contracts in the future we realised that quality would become a priority for our existing clients. This announcement further secures our position in the marketplace as a leading Cumbrian contractor that continues to grow and develop beyond all expectations."

Christopher Rogan, Technology and Quality Manager for the company commented: "Stobarts Ltd have made a substantial investment in technology and training in order to improve the governance of company processes leading to the report by NQA. For us, accreditation is merely the beginning of our Management Systems improvement programme, with all the senior management team highly committed to continual improvement and development of the high standards we have now set. This achievement is a testament to the hard work of both the individuals who worked on formalising our management systems and each and every member of operational staff who work with systems day-to-day contributing to their ultimate success."

Michael Bear, Office Manager at Stobarts Ltd's Sellafield site adds: "As a company we have been committed to two things, creating high quality jobs for local employees and an uncompromising policy on meeting and exceeding customer expectations." Alan Winthrop, Safety Advisor continues: "With the quality and safety departments instigating a combined management systems programme encompassing, quality, environment and health and safety we can continue to meet and exceed customer expectations, which will enable us to secure larger and more prestigious contracts in the future."

Christopher Rogan, finalises: "Stobarts Ltd must also offer its gratitude to British Nuclear Group, as a valued and major client of the company their Quality Department has offered unparalleled support and assistance in developing our formalised management systems over the past few months, which has contributed to the speed in which we have achieved recognition." He also adds: "The team at NQA have also been incredibly supportive and flexible in helping us achieve our own rigidly self imposed deadline for recognition to the three standards. As a company they have shown a dedicated commitment to customer service and managed to provide certification auditors at short notice."

The company expects that the future development of these systems will become business-as-usual for many of its clients and expected at many contract pre-qualification stages. In order to continue to exceed these targets the company also aims to actively push these standards onto its key suppliers and work with them with its team of internal auditors to ensure that these standards apply internally, but also up and down the supply-chain.

Stobbarts Ltd will be having an official launch event for its management systems programmes in early January 2006 at its Sellafield site (more information to follow).

About Stobbarts:

Established over 20 years ago in Workington, Cumbria, Stobbarts started supplying joinery services to major contractors in the area. Today after much success, the company leads as a major contractor on many projects throughout Cumbria, North Lancashire, South Scotland and Northumbria. Having vastly expanded the scale and scope of the services it can provide in-house the company continues to go strength-to-strength it now acts as a multidiscipline company, currently employing 240 people directly across a number of sites in construction and facilities management roles. The company has achieved profitable growth successively for a number of years through a skilled and trained workforce, providing high quality services to a diverse client portfolio. Core skills include, but are not limited to: building, civil engineering, demolition, decommissioning, ground works, term contracts, nuclear works, formwork, joinery, responsive repairs and maintenance.

About NQA Limited:

NQA (National Quality Assurance Limited) was established in 1988 and is one of the world's leading certification bodies. A wholly owned subsidiary of the NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting - a consumer protection organisation with charitable status), NQA trades in almost every business sector, with registered organisations ranging from multi-nationals to small family-run businesses. Providing services to a wide range of manufacturing, commercial and service sectors, NQA assessors have in-depth knowledge and experience of all the industry sectors in which they work. The company is accredited by UKAS, RvA and ANAB – the respective national accreditation bodies of the UK, Netherlands and USA.

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