
P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT AWARDED FOR SAINT GOBAIN'S NEWARK GYPSUM QUARRY

Saint-Gobain's Formula arm in the UK has awarded a five-year contract to Darlington-based Banner Contracts to extract high purity Gypsum from its open-cast mine in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Banner Contracts was chosen after a thorough tender process involving eight potential suppliers, with Formula (a Saint-Gobain sister brand of British Gypsum) focused on securing a safe, competent and professional partner for this strategically key operation in the East Midlands.

The opencast mine, known as Bantycok, produces around 230,000 tonnes of gypsum every year. The high purity material is used in a range of everyday products from plasterboard (manufactured within British Gypsum sites) to plaster used in dentistry, ceiling mouldings and beer making.

Saint-Gobain Formula Plant Manager Mark Yates said: "Banner's professionalism and expertise is second to none so we are delighted to announce this contract. Their experience in mineral processing was a key factor in their selection as they will help us continue to improve our yield of useable gypsum versus the amount of rock we extract. This improved yield helps maximise the reserve life, whilst operating in a safe and sustainable manner. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship over the duration of the contract."

Banner Contracts Director Jo Banner commented: "This is an exciting opportunity for our company. Our mineral processing experience in quarries has proven to be directly transferable to the manufacturing of the grades of gypsum which Saint-Gobain Formula requires.

"The contract is a sizeable undertaking for our company and we have invested heavily in new plant and equipment to ensure that the anticipated increased demand for gypsum can be met in an efficient and timely manner. We are also eager to invest in the continued professional development of the team who will be working on this site.

"As a trusted partner for the project, we chose to appoint Hall Construction to carry out the earthworks in the mine."

Working with the Saint-Gobain Formula team, Banner is currently improving the infrastructure in the gypsum processing area, ready for the delivery and installation of the new processing plant this month.

Jo Banner explains further: “New concrete bases have been poured in preparation for installing a new Hercules Trommell (screening equipment), which we have commissioned especially for the application. We have invested in a number of Tesab machines including their new 800i jaw crusher, a TS1860 20 ft x 6 ft scalping screen, a TS2430 screen, and a Trackstack radial conveyor, as well as a sizer from MMD.”

A revised restoration scheme was recently agreed by Nottinghamshire County Council following extensive consultation. Benefits from this scheme are already being seen, with the backfilling of 25 acres with overburden completed and covered with topsoil this year.

ENDS

About Saint-Gobain Formula:

Formula is a leading supplier of industrial plaster and gypsum products. Formerly the industrial plaster division of BPB plc, Formula is now a Saint-Gobain Gyproc Company within the Saint-Gobain Construction Products Division.

Formula aims to be the industry’s first choice for specialist gypsum and plasters solutions, with leading product brands in all markets.

Through our people, we aim to build long-term partnerships with our customers worldwide, by excelling in product quality, customer service, technical support, innovation and sustainability.

Key Markets and Figures

- Supplier of high performance industrial plaster and gypsum products for ceramics, construction, interior design, personal care, food and agriculture markets
- 8 manufacturing locations: Germany, UK, France, Spain, Romania, Turkey, Thailand & Egypt.
- With a Customer Satisfaction Index of more than 90%*
- We sell to over 80 countries worldwide
- Our NPDs represent more than 15% of our sales

**CSI only applicable to 90% of our sales*

For more information about Saint-Gobain Formula visit www.saintgobainformula.com

About Saint-Gobain:

Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and solutions which are key ingredients in the wellbeing of each of us and the future of all. They can be found everywhere in our living places and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance and safety while addressing the challenges of sustainable construction, resource efficiency and climate change.

- World leader in habitat
- €39.6 billion SALES in 2015
- Operates in 66 countries
- More than 170,000 employees

In the UK and Ireland, some of the best known and respected companies in the construction industry are part of Saint-Gobain. Alongside British Gypsum, these include Glassolutions, Saint-Gobain Weber, Saint-Gobain Glass, Saint-Gobain PAM, Saint-Gobain Isover, Pasquill and Ecophon. Together they offer a range of high performance energy-saving products and solutions to help create a more sustainable built environment.

For more information about Saint-Gobain, visit www.saint-gobain.co.uk.

About Banner Contracts

Banner are a medium sized business based in the North East, employing 90 people (35-40 local to Newark). They process in excess of 4.5 million tonnes of aggregate per annum (c. 2.5% of the total UK aggregate production of 180 million tonnes). They operate a fleet of 33 crushers, 40 screeners, aggregate washing plants, excavators up to 70 tonnes, bull dozers up to CAT D9, loading shovels, and articulated dump trucks up to 40 tonnes.

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