

Vortok wins Queens Award for Innovation

Vortok wishes to say 'thank you' to all the companies who assisted in the Vortok Stressing Roller development

Vortok has been awarded the Queen's Award for Innovation for the Stressing Roller. Vortok's rollers replace the need for 3 devices, a jack to lift the rail and both the under and side rollers to improve the efficiency of the stressing operation and more importantly an improvement in safety.

The Queen's Awards are the UK's most prestigious awards for business performance. Winners receive a range of benefits including worldwide recognition and extensive press coverage. The Awards are presented in three categories: International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development. To win the Innovation award business units must be able to demonstrate substantial improvement, as a result of the innovation, in business performance and commercial success, to levels that are outstanding for the size of the applicant's operations. The Stressing Roller is now being sold in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Norway, South Africa,



Sweden, the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

Managing Director Richard Robertson says that this award "is a good news story for the whole British rail industry. Network Rail soon saw the advantages of this product and their support and feedback was crucial and this is now a British export success. The recognition implied by The Queen's Award will help us to win new customers overseas where the UK continues to enjoy a great reputation in railway innovation. I also want to take the opportunity to thank our staff, suppliers and of course customers around the world."

Vortok is already regarded as something of an innovator within the railway industry. The company is known and respected for its ability to solve the engineering problems experienced daily by track workers, through a combination of innovative design, a thorough understanding of the commercial needs of the railway industry and broad experience of developmental engineering in all sectors.

Improved safety for track workers has been central to Vortok's developments. This was acknowledged in 2002 with another national Safety Award from the UK Railway industry for its safety barrier, now used in the UK and overseas.

Innovative product development is at the heart of Vortok's philosophy and, over the last decade, it has been transformed from a one-product company to one with more than 65 unique designs, with more under development. Proven products in use include equipment for track renewals and maintenance, electrification and signalling while new modern materials have been introduced to enhance product performance.

