

Award winner – SX Environmental

At a prestigious MITIE suppliers' forum and awards event held in March, SX Environmental was very proud to be awarded the winner in the Thinking, Managing & Delivering category. With over 60,000 members of staff and a turnover of £1.7 billion it comes as no surprise to learn that MITIE has thousands of suppliers. So, well done SX. Not only does SX supply MITIE with its pest control products, SX also holds and distributes all the day-to-day items required by MITIE's pest technicians.

Receiving this award now is great for SX, as this year sees the 15th anniversary of the launch of the company by founder Richard Lunn.



First Level 2 Certificates awarded

A lunch was held on 17 March at the Royal Society for Public Health's (RSPH) events venue in Portland Place, London to recognise the awarding of certificates to the first batch of candidates to have successfully completed the new style RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management.

Hosted by RSPH and Killgerm, the nine candidates to receive their certificates were trained by Killgerm, who are registered with the RSPH to deliver this pest management qualification.

The Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management was changed last summer and for the first time covers practical skills as well as theory. (See page 11 of this issue for further details.)



Killgerm's Jonathan Peck (middle), with RSPH's Professor Richard Parish (left) and Dr Chris Suter

Paragon Professional Products sold to Killgerm

On 12 April it was announced that Ossett-based Killgerm Chemicals had acquired the pest control distribution business of Riwa Limited, which traded as Paragon Professional Products.

The Paragon distribution business has something of a complicated history – having been born out of the ownership by US-based servicing company, Terminix. To supply its band of pest control technicians, not only in the UK but also across Europe, Terminix effectively set-up their own supply network which they later extended to offer supplies to other customers. In 2001 when Ecolab bought Terminix, a management buy-out, led by Dr Peter Cottee, acquired the distribution business which then became Paragon Professional Products. However, the supply of products to the servicing operation, now Ecolab, continued. To this day, the Ecolab off-take accounts for roughly half of the Paragon distribution business.

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Pest control on TV

The subjects for TV programmes have a habit of going in phases – but pest control certainly seems ever popular.

The latest offering was a one-hour special on C4 fronted by Sarah Beene, right, of *My House is Falling Down* fame and broadcast on 18 April. Problems with rats, bedbugs and clothes moths in domestic situations were featured.

Pest control experts Jim England of Protex Pest Control, Paul Bates of Cleankill and Mark Astley of Trust K9 tackled the pest problems with Professor Moray Anderson starring as the technical expert.



BPCA moves

On 9 May the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) opened for business in their new offices. Still in Derby, BPCA purchased the land on Pride Park, a new development of purpose-built offices on the former home of Derby's railway industry. The premises will be BPCA's headquarters and also the hub of their training programme. The offices are built over two floors and feature a training room, kitchen and break-out space downstairs. Upstairs there are the BPCA offices, reception and more meeting space. There is plenty of parking nearby and the station is close by.

Simon Forrester, BPCA chief executive said: "The staff has really pulled together to help design the new office space, liaise with contractors over every aspect of the build, and of course more recently, pack and unpack everything we own. We closed the old office on Friday 6 May, and we were back up and running on the following Monday."

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The new address is: BPCA, 4A Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8GX. The telephone number remains unchanged.

Libya affects Rentokil results

Profits at Rentokil Initial for the first quarter of their trading year are down by two-thirds following a £4.8m write-off of income after suspension of its pest control activities in Libya and the recalling of their staff at the end of February. With Libya excluded, revenue within the pest control business rose by 1.1%. In the UK pest control showed a 5.1% growth in revenue.

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Canadian study suggests bedbugs transmit disease

On 11 May the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA published the results of a peer-reviewed study that suggests bedbugs may be involved in disease transmission. The study, conducted in an impoverished community in Vancouver, Canada, tested a small sample (five) of bedbugs collected from three patients who were hospitalised for unstated causes. One of the study's authors said that even though this was a small study, it suggests that bedbugs may be playing a role in the transmission of MRSA in inner city populations where bedbug infestations are a problem.

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) has reviewed the report and found that it leaves many questions unanswered. Not wishing to inflame the situation, NPMA is recommending the industry refrains from comment and has issued a statement for use by members. This can be found on the *Pest* website in 'News'.

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New rodenticide usage restrictions circulated

On 6 April the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) released for consultation its proposals for the future usage of rodenticide bait products. These covered restricting products for professional use only, pack sizes, the use of tamper resistant bait boxes and bait box servicing intervals.

Full details can be seen on the *Pest* website in 'News'. The consultation period has now ended. If adopted, the most radical proposals for professional pest controllers are that campaigns with anticoagulant bait are to last no longer than 35 days and that there should be no permanent baiting.

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New appointments

Robert Eardley joins Barrettine

Robert (Rob) Eardley joins Barrettine Environmental Health as its new technical sales manager for the Midlands and North. Rob comes with previous pest control experience having worked in the private sector and, more recently, as senior pest control officer at Coventry City Council.



Bayer appoints Claire Matthewman

Claire Matthewman has joined the Bayer Environmental Science team as product manager. Claire will be responsible for marketing relating to the professional pest control business for UK and Ireland. Claire comes to Bayer with a wealth of marketing experience and fresh ideas having previously worked outside the industry.



Kathleen Carter moves to SX Environmental

Has spent 15 years in pest control, initially with Insect-O-Cutor, then a private pest control company and most recently with Paragon, Kathleen Carter has joined SX Environmental to look after customer service.



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