

## Environmental Achievement, sponsored by PipeHawk

In this category, the judges noted the continued environmental leadership of major players like Balfour Beatty and Carillion, and were encouraged by how the message is now reaching right across the industry



### Winner

### Balfour Beatty Rail

PERHAPS Balfour Beatty Rail's most obvious badge of environmental honour is the boast that it was the first firm to get ISO14001 environmental management accreditation for the whole of its business. But you don't have to look far beyond this to find real evidence of Balfour Beatty Rail's commitment to environmental performance.

Balfour Beatty Rail was one of the first in the industry to set up a dedicated environmental management team to assess, and reduce where possible, the impact each part of its business has on the environment.

The examples of this business-wide approach are everywhere. Their obvious manifestation, in project management and activity on site, are object lessons in best practice. Environmental impact assessments begin at tender and planning stages; 'green' materials procurement policies apply at all times... and everything is measured so that it can be done even better next time.

In materials specification, for example, Balfour Beatty Rail has held supplier open days at which it has set out its environmental policies and discussed with its supply chain how best to execute them. This has helped motivate materials suppliers and get them to buy into the environmental idea.

It even works when material goes off site. "We check that only licensed carriers take muck away from our sites, and we also check that the material is disposed of at licensed tips," says site environmental representative Pat Gallagher.

One of the firm's graduate training schemes

#### What the judges said:

**"Strategically, they are really very good. Everything's properly thought-out."**

**"I was impressed by their sincerity... there's real commitment there and it's producing results."**



involves the trainees studying the full life-cycle cost of a product used on site. This is an exercise which environmental manager Gerard McLaughlin hopes will enforce a culture in which the true value, not just the initial cost, of a material or component is appreciated.

The company has even undertaken a study in which

the resource consumption of each person on site was calculated. The results were sent back to head office where they were used in the formulation of environmental key performance indicators. "The key to environmental best practice is your own people," says Mr McLaughlin. "Our site environmental reps are how we get the message embedded."



### Highly Commended

### Carillion

CARILLION is never far down the list on the construction industry's environment roll of honour. In fact, it has won this award twice in the past four years (as has Balfour Beatty, now).

Carillion's success in this year's Quality in Construction Awards offers recognition of the way in which the company has stuck with its environmental strategy, developing and improving its methods and policies in a dedicated and intelligent way.

Carillion's environmental programme was initiated in 1994 as part of the group's policy of working towards sustainable construction. "Sustainable development lies at the core of our operations," says Quentin Leiper, director of engineering and environment at Carillion.

"It delivers significant business benefits while at the same time helping to protect and improve the quality



#### What the judges said:

**"A very coherent strategy, bedded in the business. This is driven right from the top."**

of life for future generations." Carillion has earned the reputation for being able to demonstrate improvements in its environmental performance, pioneering such initiatives as waste segregation and recycling on site and 'green' procurement processes.

An integral part of Carillion's environmental strategy is measurement.

It sets itself targets each year and has its performance independently verified. Last year, 69 per cent of the 71 targets set for 2000 were verified as having been fully achieved, compared with 55 per cent the year before.

Last year, Carillion was the only major construction industry company to appear in the newly-created FTSE4Good Index of the UK's "most ethical" companies – an achievement which Carillion says is timely recognition of its environmental performance.



### Finalist OLE Distribution & Alliance



### Finalist

### Simons Construction

THE OVERHEAD Line Equipment (OLE) & Distribution Alliance is a joint venture of construction, engineering and M&E contractors forming part of the ambitious West Coast Route Modernisation programme. The contract is worth about £500 million.

The Alliance is the first contractor on the project to have achieved a stand-alone ISO14001 certified environmental management system.

"The West Coast Mainline is a very heavily used route, and we have undertaken to do the upgrade with the minimum of disruption," says project director John Dunwoodie. "We recognise the importance of the environment, but the work is heavily dependent on heavy plant which brings the risk of fuel spills, among other environmental issues such as noise and light pollution."

The Alliance has tackled this risk by insisting on the use of biodegradable hydraulic oil in all machinery, developing its own special spill-kits, and establishing a project-specific pollution incident procedure. Logistically, controlling pollution is a considerable challenge on this project, where about 800 staff operate out of 100 different locations spread across 53 local authorities and crossing no fewer than 40 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Keeping track of environmental performance is made possible,



#### What the judges said:

**"Communications strategy is first-rate."**  
**"Superb performance at site level."**

however, through the use of key performance indicators developed and agreed by the Alliance and its client, Railtrack.

#### What the judges said:

**"I commend them for their environmental policy statement. With continued commitment from the board, I think they'll be a company that's worth watching."**

SIMONS' pursuit of environmental excellence is firmly rooted in business prudence: "We wanted to get a 'green' reputation because we thought it would be an important key to getting more work in the future," says environmental manager Barry Smith.

Thankfully, Simons chose to tackle the issue properly when, like many organisation who recognise the business benefits of a 'green' reputation, it could have made a few gestures to improve its image.

However, unlike the other finalists in this category, Simons has not gone for ISO14001 accreditation. "ISO14001 won't add anything to our business," says Mr Smith. "It costs a lot



to achieve and to maintain and we'd rather spend that money of actual improvements," he says.

So what has Simons' done for the environment? It has set up a group environment squad to launch various initiatives and monitor environmental performance in all activities. On site, Simons employs waste segregation bins to enable materials to be recycled. The amount of waste sent to landfill has fallen as a result. "In 1998-99 we spent £36,000 to get rid of 720 tonnes of waste. Between April and September 2000, only 83 tonnes of waste had to be taken away, and half of that was recycled," says Mr Smith.