

GREEN AND LEGAL EXPANSION

Raising efficiency and cost-effectiveness, while complying with fast-expanding environmental law, is challenging for many growth-orientated businesses. J Hare Diamond Drilling (Hitchin) found the focus it needed to succeed on Fast-Track-14 (FT-14).



Expansion, greater operational control, more efficient resource application and a practical awareness of the growing canon of business and the environmental law go hand-in-hand. Particularly where the common denominator is a structured approach to environmental performance so that 'green' savings translate directly into commercial savings.

For J Hare Diamond Drilling, the denominator was Fast-Track-14 (FT-14), a six month supply chain engagement programme championed by Lang O'Rourke (LOR) leading to ISO 14001 Certification. The nature of the 50-strong Hertfordshire-based company means that it does not pitch for work in the normal sense but needs to be attuned to the priorities of major contractors. "In recent times, we have been growing quite steadily," explains Environmental Manager, Cheryl Hare. "You tend to think you are on track until you are challenged."



"FT-14 made us pause and review our position, particularly with regard to complying with environmental law. I now frequently check legal websites. We were not a million miles away, but it is good to be pulled up sharply to look again at legislation, efficiency and savings."

As a result of the programme, the company has also focused pragmatically on improved slurry treatment, water use, filtration and dust vacs. However, it was the mind-set change that was important. "FT-14 was short and very concise. It stayed on the point, puts you in control and guides you straight to information not immediately at hand. There was interaction between group members. Had we been on a programme lasting two years - instead of six months - we might easily have been tempted to take our eye off the ball."

Removing barriers saves time

FT-14 successes are based on removing avoidable knowledge gaps that routinely hold back committed, but busy, companies, so they can focus on resolving the real effects of their operations on the environment and stakeholders. Systematically paring down inefficiencies can enhance profit margins, cut waste and allow companies to control risks associated with new commercial opportunities, especially in turbulent and competitive markets.

The programme provides expert information and detailed step-by-step EMS implementation guidance via a highly-interactive online portal. Another key element is participation in seven, half-day workshops, where groups of suppliers meet to share experiences and best practice, discuss problem-solving approaches and receive individual advice.

(caption to come)



J HARE DIAMOND DRILLING (HITCHIN)

Shared awareness

"Without FT-14 and LOR's high-level understanding of environmental priorities, I doubt we would be involved to the level that we now are," says Hare. "From day to day you tend to have a moving set of priorities and business growth and compliance can slip. This is where ISO 14001 comes in. There has been noticeably more pre-qualification tendering over the past year and it is extremely helpful to be able to show how you can add value."



"FT-14 was short and very concise. It stayed on the point, puts you in control and guides you straight to information not immediately at hand. There was also interaction between group members, with many helpful emails going back and forth," she adds.

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As a specialist sub-contractor providing concrete cutting and drilling services to the UK construction industry, J Hare Diamond Drilling has a prestigious client list and was involved recently on projects that include the Isle of Capri, Aurora, Terminal 5, White City, London Underground, St Pancras Chambers and English Heritage.

www.jhare.com



Cheryl Hare (centre) receives J Hare Diamond Drilling's FT-14 successful completion certificate from Laing O'Rourke Construction South Director, Chris Scutt (right) and Environment Leader Eddy Taylor.

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