



## Z-Tech Recognised at E.On Awards Dinner

**Having been invited as a nominee for the rule.one safety award, we were pleasantly surprised to also win their overall contractor of the year award.**

The rule.one club was set up by E.on to promote best practice for health and safety within its supply chain. HSEQ director Jeremy Bull (pictured above right) has enthusiastically involved Z-Tech by contributing to the overall aims of the group. A significant number of our staff have attended behavioural safety programmes run by the rule.one club and in return we have contributed ideas and helped to develop best practice within the

club. The award for overall contractor of the year was attributed to the hard work and enthusiasm shown by our team at the Citigen power station next to London's Smithfield Market.

Next month Z -Tech will be hosting a safety day for rule.one members in Nottingham, where Z-Tech staff and invited speakers will present series of papers on a wide range of Health and Safety.

Jeremy Bull HSEQ director commented " This award is not about management systems or a box ticking exercise, this is about our culture at all levels in the business. It is recognition of a team effort and enthusiasm." Looking forward he adds" Whilst we should be very pleased with this award, I hope that in the future, we will look back and see this as one of the milestones in our process of continuous improvement"

# New People

A big warm welcome to all our new starters!

Greg Barnes

Barbora Bartosova

James Bingham

David Cleary

Christopher Halfyard

Simon Higginbotham

Louise Hunter

Peter McKenna

Robert Stringer

Simon White

Barbara Gajewska

# Pooling Resources Gets Results



Z-Tech were called upon to undertake an unusual mechanical replacement at Heston Swimming Pool in Middlesex recently. Originally having been asked to replace pumps associated with the pool circulation and cleaning systems, it became clear that the main isolation valve had failed and would need to be replaced. Conventional replacement techniques, such as pipe-freezing were not viable and the option of draining the pool and subsequent possibility of cracking were deemed to provide an unacceptable risk. After evaluating all options, Z-Tech proposed that a diving team would use purpose made inflatable bungs to isolate all pool drainage, whilst a full mechanical team would be on hand to carry out



replacement of the valve in the minimum possible time.

Fortunately a large number of Z-Tech are fully trained divers and the work was carried out without disruption to the operation of the baths. Contingency planning was critical to ensure that the whole operation ran smoothly and took less than 5 hours to complete.

# Batteries – Complying with Hazardous Waste Regulations



At Z-Tech we purchase significant numbers of batteries each year. Used batteries are Hazardous Waste and need to be stored and transported safely to ensure compliance with environmental legislation.

By 2012 the UK will be legally required to recycle 25% of its waste portable batteries. Currently only 3% of these batteries are being recycled. To play our part we have recently introduced a battery box scheme where any of the following can be disposed

- AA, AAA, C, D single use or rechargeable
- Button batteries
- Mobile Phone Batteries
- Laptop Batteries

Please be kind to the environment and use the battery box. If you have any questions please contact Jeremy Bull at the Z-Tech office or [Jeremy.bull@z-tech.co.uk](mailto:Jeremy.bull@z-tech.co.uk)

# Biggest Turnout Ever at 2008 Christmas Do



2008 saw the largest turnout for our Christmas party yet, with over 130 people attending our event at Henry's Bar alongside the River Cam in the centre of Cambridge. This year the event was organised by Financial Director Colin Weir, with help from the Z-Tech office staff.

Thanks to Colin and the staff at Henry's for a fantastic party.



## Prize Draw

Our lucky winner for February is Ian Mackay. Ian has worked with the Thames Water District Metering Team for over five years, helping to ensure that Thames Water's stock of over 3000 district meters are kept at maximum operational strength.

Ian was nominated for providing high levels of customer service and being willing to "go the extra mile" in helping other teams within Z-Tech.

For his prize Ian has chosen a £250 contribution to a flat screen television.



Ian (right) is pictured here being congratulated by Patrick Heaton

# A Tricky Installation

We regularly carry out flow-meter replacements for water companies as part of their ongoing capital investment programs, however some recent installations have provided increasing challenges for our installation team.

Never known to refuse a challenge, they recently carried out a replacement of a 1400mm full bore meter at Thames Water's Kempton site. Replacing this type of meter entails interruption of flows within the network and requires a very detailed risk assessment and contingency planning process by Thames Water, before we are allowed to even prepare for replacement.

For our installation team a large replacement such as this required detailed planning to ensure that the work is carried out safely and without complication during the window of opportunity created by the Thames Water planners. Working with other contractors and operational staff means that everyone needs to be clear about the activities being undertaken and the associated health and safety risks.

In the event this particular replacement was carried out within 8 hours and the network was restored to ensure high quality supplies were uninterrupted.



## Thames Water Award Framework For Second Time

For the second time Z-Tech have won the Thames Water Flowmeter Verification Framework. Originally awarded to Z-Tech in 2004 the framework was put out to tender and following a short-listing and evaluation process Z-Tech have now secured the framework for a further 5 years.

Over the last five years Z-Tech has invested heavily in equipment and training. This coupled with our ability to adapt meant that we were able to demonstrate increased levels of performance and increased value for money.

Flowmeter verification is receiving greater focus from water companies and regulators as there is a realisation that the uncertainties associated with flow measurement can have a significant impact on water companies to deal with issues such as water quality, leakage and matching customer demand. Z-Tech have worked with their customers to provide industry leading meter verification and maintenance techniques coupled with network analysis and reporting tools.

Congratulations go to the Flowmeter verification teams that have worked so hard over the last 5 years.

# Editorial

At the time of printing our last NEWZ, the implications of the credit crunch were just starting to be felt in the UK. No one fully predicted the events that followed and the only thing that is certain is that we don't know what will happen next.

Despite this Z-Tech has performed well over the last year and some of the reasons for this

success are featured in this Newsletter. Z-Tech has adapted to the changing circumstances by being innovative and providing our customers increased value for money and quality, when they need it most. It is crucial that our customers see us as their best option to maintain their competitiveness.

One last note – if there is anything you would like to hear about or something you think we are missing then let me know (patrick.heaton@-tech.co.uk) . You can send ideas or even write a short article yourself. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

## Major Refurbishment Completed On Time!

Z-Tech have recently completed a substantial refurbishment of a fermentation process plant for a major pharmaceutical company. The scope of the project included power, control, communications, earthing and safety systems.

Stringent regulations in the pharmaceutical industry mean that special materials must be used e.g. stainless steel panels and cable containment or the use of biological seals at each cable entry point. This in turn leads to the requirement for specialist tooling and more importantly skilled personnel to operate it.

The team including Gary Pettengel, Ian McCaul, Steve Fuller, Jeremy Vincent, Callum Cooper, Dave Orvis, Bill Haley, Collom Boland and Zoran Zoric completed the work to time and budget over a 9 month period. The improvements have led to greater plant efficiency, reduced waste and energy consumption.

Working was made more difficult by the need to maintain plant operation throughout. Planning and management of potential risks were key to staff safety and product integrity. On a more personal note a number of staff compared it to working in a steam room.



## Training Completed

**Congratulations to all the following colleagues who have completed external training courses since the last edition of *NEWZ***

### **Confined Space Entry**

Adam Harvey

Simon Higginbotham

Dave Turner

### **Street Works**

Ian MacKay

Trevor Croxford

### **Water Hygiene/DOMS**

Louise Hunter

James Bingham

### **Basic Emergency First Aid & CPR**

Nigel Creak

Nathaniel Higginbotham

# A Day in the Life of “Nick Mclauchlan”

Nick joined Z-Tech in August 2007 as a systems engineer after taking his girlfriend Lily, now fiancée, on an around the world trip. Before this Nick worked for Thames Water as an electrical and instrumentation technician working on the ring main where he used his broad range of skills and knowledge gathered from working as a junior technician in the Royal Air Force. Nick was based for 12 years at RAF Marham in Norfolk. He completed a BSc (Hons) in Information Technology and Computing in 2007 to add to an already long list of earlier achievements and qualifications.

Nick's day starts with a big coffee (matched later by his even bigger sandwich) to blow away the late night working blues from the previous shift at Liverpool Mail Centre, where Nick has been the site supervisor for a contract recently awarded to Z-Tech by Royal Mail (featured in a previous edition of NEWZ).

First job of the day is to visit the site security person in charge to arrange the smooth delivery of today's supplies – this is essential due to the high security procedures at Royal Mail sites. A site walk around is then conducted to ensure that the health and safety requirements for today's shift are in place before a meeting with Royal Mail's site manager to obtain a plant release form, a hot work permit for the mechanical team and to ensure that the site manager is content with yesterday's work done by the Z-Tech team. Now onto a toolbox talk to discuss with the Z-Tech site team today's potential issues and means of resolving them.

Work starts with the installation of emergency stop pillars to a bag opening table and the fitting of guards to a chain drive motor to meet PUWER regulations. Nick explains one of the



key aspects of this project is “We are offering a one-stop solution to our customer. By carrying out all of the fabrication, installation and commissioning ourselves it means that our customer doesn't have to worry about squabbling between contractors and is more confident that the work will be carried out safely”

Nick now attends a project progress meeting with Royal Mail representatives to review the work done so far. This goes very smoothly and Royal Mail are very happy with the delivery of the project. After this, Nick assists the electrical team in the identification of a suitable cable route for one of the many Castell Interlock keys

that are being installed. This one is for a large sack chute that allows mail to pass from one floor to another. This turns out to be less than an exact science due to the awkward location and involves many paces and turning at about the right time. Nick chuckles and says that this reminds him of his RAF days!

Asked what Nick enjoys most about his position and working for Z-Tech, he responds “the variety; one day is PLC's at a Water Treatment Works, the next is good old fashioned cable pulling for the Royal Mail” And least, “the long drag up the M6 to Liverpool of course!”.

## Z-Tech Amongst First To Gain Home Office Licence

### Home Office UK Border Agency

HR Manager Colin Moore was aware of the imminent changes and had been planning for the assessment in order that Z-Tech would be one of the first companies to undertake the assessment process, which looks at our record keeping and compliance with employment law and industry best practice.

Preparation certainly paid off as we have been awarded an A rating by the assessors. We can expect regular audits and need to maintain the high standards of record keeping and employment practices. Congratulations to Colin Moore.