

Ipswich becomes new Textron HQ

With Textron's acquisition of Ransomes now complete, a new Textron Turf and Specialist Vehicles Group has been created and the rationalisation process to pull together Ransomes and Jacobsen in the UK is well underway.

This process has involved a careful assessment of the requirements of each of the businesses in the Group and a full audit of all the physical and human assets that the company possesses.

The decision has now been taken to headquarter the new Group at Ipswich, the established base of Ransomes, and to combine the activities of Ransomes Textron and Jacobsen Textron on this site.

A number of key staff will be relocated and the principle objective is to ensure a continuity of the high quality levels of service for customers of both Jacobsen and Ransomes.

Textron Turf & Specialist Vehicle Group now includes brands such as Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman, E-Z-GO and Ryan. It is the company's stated intention to support fully each of these brands.

David goes West



Etesia has appointed David Shepherd as Area Manager for the western side of the UK. David will look after a territory covering Wales, the West Country and the north-west, where he will be responsible for maintaining the company's existing dealer network and seeking opportunities to increase Etesia's market share.

"In the nine years since Etesia entered the UK market, the company has continued to affirm its commitment to selling quality machines through specialist dealers who can offer customers the kind of service and back-up they expect. The close support our Sales Team provides is a key link in ensuring complete satisfaction at every junction of the sales process," said UK Sales Manager, Robin Taylor.

No bugs with this Millennium winner

The Sisis Ecospray, drift-free sprayer, has been selected for the first tranche of Millennium Products.

In September last year, Tony Blair, launched Millennium Products and began the search for the country's most innovative products and services. The challenge went out to submit for consideration ground-breaking products that will change the way we live in the 21st century. The aim is to have 2000 examples of British business ingenuity by the new millennium.

The selected products are allowed to carry the Millennium Products marquee, will go on display in national and international exhibitions and will be a major feature in the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. They will also be featured on the Millennium Products

website which went live in April.

The Sisis Ecospray was seen as an environmentally responsible sprayer, solving one of the major problems with conventional sprayers.

Most sprayers are based on agricultural models, with the attendant problems of spray drifting from the intended target. Spraying contractors, and indeed all users of spraying equipment, have to take great care to protect people and environment alike and should only spray when weather conditions permit. A slight breeze can cause a pesticide application to be abandoned; even on a still day, a freak gust of wind can cause damage to adjoining vegetation or watercourses.

Each unit on the Ecospray, therefore, is enclosed by a shroud to reduce "drift" to an absolute mini-

mum. Solid covers can alter the spray pattern; the Ecospray has specially designed and patented, perforated, shields developed in conjunction with an experienced spraying contractor and Cranfield University, who implemented computer modelling and wind tunnel tests to achieve the optimum design. Bubble jet nozzles were fitted to give a more uniform droplet size, which also reduces drift and improves leaf contact. Sisis subsequently developed the original idea into a viable, commercial product.

The Sisis Ecospray is available in two models, 5-unit towed gang and 3-unit fully mounted. Other models will be available shortly. The first production models are now in use with spraying contractors Complete Weed Control Ltd.



Brushcutter with designs on success

The Stihl FS 85 brushcutter has been chosen to join the permanent collection at London's Design Museum, of objects representative of late 20th century industrial design.

The Conran Foundation, was set up by Sir Terence Conran in 1993 to assemble a collection of industrially designed mass-produced objects. Each year a British resident with an 'educated' awareness of design is given £27,000 to construct a collection of their own choice. Selectors can choose anything from domestic items are packaging to vehicles. The only criteria are that they must choose "things they would like to live with" and that are "in current production".

In time, a fascinating collection of mass-pro-

duced design will be formed, representing changes in design technology, as well as individual tastes. Such a collecting policy is unique among museums worldwide and will result in a truly fascinating collection that will provide a major design resource for the late 20th century and beyond.

The collection currently on display has been specially chosen by Dan Pearson the well known TV gardening presenter and Sunday Times' gardening columnist.

In selecting the Stihl FS 85 Dan Pearson said, "Lots of strimmers are very flimsy, but this professional quality model is designed to last. The frame is lightweight but strong and the nylon blade can be replaced."