

PLANT OF THE YEAR FOR '09



E-Z-GO's World Headquarters in Augusta, Georgia has been named one of American magazine IndustryWeek's 2009 Best Plants of the Year.

According to IndustryWeek, despite possibly the roughest economic conditions in many decades, the winning manufacturing facilities still

pursued process and people improvements, and achieved enviable performance metrics in numerous operational areas.

"In the face of challenging economic conditions, E-Z-GO has maintained a lean corporate culture and has relentlessly pursued improvement and progress

toward key company goals," said David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

E-Z-GO was evaluated by a panel of IndustryWeek editors, who also solicited independent evaluations from manufacturing experts and other industry specialists.

Sole Rights for Etesia

An agreement has been signed giving Etesia UK Ltd sole rights for the UK and Eire distribution of Pellenc's patented professional ranges of Selion chainsaws and polesaws; plus the Helion hedgecutter and Treelion powered secateurs. It is the first time that the parent company of Etesia has allowed its UK subsidiary sole discretion in trading in a brand outside Etesia's own product range.

Etesia is looking for new specialist dealers for its Pellenc business, which will also be offered to selected existing Etesia sales outlets.

Etesia's managing director, Patrick Vives, is very enthusiastic about the positive contribution this initiative will make to the industry.

"From both an environmental and operational point of view, these no-emission products offer an enormous number of benefits and are the way forward for end users," he said.

Ernest Doe takes on Case IH Franchise in Esher



The Ernest Doe Power sales team at Esher. From left; Grant Buckingham, sales representative, Robin Martin, sales representative, David Watson, branch manager, and Steve Alabaster, sales representative.

Following the awarding of the Case IH franchise to its Esher location, the Doe Group has re-branded the branch under its Ernest Doe Power banner. In East Anglia, the Doe Group markets Case IH products through outlets branded Ernest Doe Power, so the name change at Esher brings the branch in line with other parts of the Group.

Colin E Doe, Managing Director said, "The company and staff remain the same, so it's business as usual with the extra benefits of the Case IH franchise, but with a change of trading name. We will still be supplying the parts and services for any tractor previously supplied. Our vehicles

and showrooms however will be brought in line with the Ernest Doe Power branding.

Commenting on the awarding of the new franchise, Branch Manager David Watson said, "We are really pleased to have gained the Case IH tractor franchise because they have such a large, strong product range from 65hp. These tractors are favourites with local authorities as well as organisations operating in the sports and leisure market. They will complement perfectly the tractor range from Iseki, and the groundcare products from Ransomes Jacobsen, with which we have had a lot of success."

East Ayrshire Council adds to Zero-turn Fleet

East Ayrshire Council has just taken delivery of 12 new John Deere 997 Z-Trak zero-turn mowers equipped with 60in rear discharge decks from Glasgow dealer Nairn Brown Ltd, which brings the fleet size to 20 models in all.

The council was the first in Scotland to buy the 997 mowers shortly after their launch in 2005, and was immediately impressed by their road speed, general productivity and reliability compared with previous front rotary mowers.



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Shropshire Groundcare Dealer Scoops Top Award



The groundcare division of Shrewsbury-based Oakley's Ltd has been named Allett Mower's Dealer of the Year for 2009.

The award was made during Harrogate Week by Allett's parent company, Turfmech, in recognition of the sales achievements and high level of service provided by Oakley's in 2009 to owners and users of Allett pedestrian mowers and turf maintenance equipment.

Presenting the award to Oakley's staff, Turfmech and Allett sales director, Leigh Bowers, said that Oakley's had produced consistently strong results over many years as an Allett dealer. However, 2009 had proved exceptional for the business, culminating in the firm securing the Allett Dealer of the Year award.

PHOTO ABOVE: Turfmech/Allett sales director, Leigh Bowers (centre), presents the 2009 Allett Dealer of the Year to Richard Jones, sales director of Oakley's groundcare division. Also pictured is Paul Bennett, professional sales representative with Oakley's.



New Role for Alan

Alan Sharp has joined Symbio as its Regional Technical Manager for Kent, Essex, East Anglia and Cambridgeshire.

Alan has 25 years experience as a Course Manager latterly at Scotsraig and Chigwell.

"I have great belief in more natural plant management and I am committed to reducing applications of inorganic fertilisers and fungicides on golf courses and sports grounds," said Alan.

Symbio's Managing Director, Martin Ward, said, "We see key industry professionals like Alan with their wealth of experience as crucial to the service and support we want to offer our customers."

Alan can be contacted on 07973712275

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