



SUDS work, but only in the right circumstances...

The industry currently sits in limbo as the Flood and Water Management Act remains partly implemented. Critical elements are yet to be enacted, such as the 'National Standards' for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and the introduction of the SUDS approving body (SAB).

"We have found over the last 12 months, a huge national variation in requirements and attitudes towards sustainable drainage design, which means it's extremely difficult to provide consistent advice to clients in these circumstances," says Eddie Mewies, managing director of M-EC.

"SUDS works extremely well when the ground has infiltration potential and it doesn't when you have relatively impermeable subgrade such as clay soils. In those cases, is it still worth using SUDS techniques?"

"There remains pressure from 'the powers that be' to implement SUDS regardless of the ground conditions. The SUDS treatment train, as outlined in CIRIA document C697, is often regarded as the model to follow but this does not give consideration to the individual site constraints. The document advises that two or three treatment train processes are required for developments, the first being the main attenuation pond or basin, and the other two techniques are simply to tick boxes."

"Our view on the SUDS treatment train is that it is quality not quantity that matters. One thoughtfully designed pond with settlement, adsorption, filtration and ecological benefits incorporated is far more effective than a mish-mash of additional, expensive and relatively useless techniques."

To discuss your SUDS requirements in more detail, please contact Eddie Mewies ibstock@m-ec.co.uk

Hands on Qualification

Graduate Engineer, Paul Hands, has completed his Technical Membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers (TMICE) and is well on his way to becoming a fully chartered member of ICE.

After compiling various reports, projects and undergoing a gruelling one hour interview to demonstrate the extent of his engineering knowledge, Paul surfaced a Technician Member.

With over eight years' experience in engineering, Paul works

predominantly within the Flood Risk and Drainage department but also undertakes Topographical Surveys on site if called upon.

"This is a positive step in the right direction to achieving chartered status. With this qualification, it shows I have greater knowledge and am more accomplished at undertaking difficult tasks, which benefits not only me but the business too," said Paul.

Apprentice Notes

Since my last update, I have been involved in some of the larger scale projects and given some responsibilities of my own. My skills are improving on AutoCAD and I'm enjoying a diverse range of work within the Drainage, Highways, Surveying and Flood Risk teams.

I've also been working closely with Dan Halstead using the levelling instrument which I've been learning about at college so it was good practise with it on site.

A highlight of the past few months has been working closely with a number of our clients on Drainage and Highway schemes. I was involved in completing designs for local authority submissions for sites at Oxfordshire and Solihull and I have been designing private drainage systems for both Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes.

The time is flying by but I'm relishing every opportunity to gain as much experience as I can.



Jake

ASPIRE

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M-EC



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Consulting
Development
Engineers

M-EC

Wellington House
Leicester Road, Ibstock
Leicestershire
LE67 6HP

T: 01530 264 753
F: 01530 588 116
ibstock@m-ec.co.uk
www.m-ec.co.uk

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MD'S Message

The sun might have set on a scorching summer but that's certainly not the case for the team at M-EC, whose projects are still hotting up! Typically our spread of services is required at a project's pre-planning and planning stages and there's no doubt we have seen an upturn in demand over the past six months, with existing clients bringing more projects forward and new clients bringing us schemes from further afield.

In this climate of burgeoning confidence we're being called upon to support schemes at every level of development and with more pressure to deliver excellent work fast and cost effectively, it's a challenge we're relishing. I'm pleased to announce five new professionals have joined the team to help us rise to the challenge and continue to develop the business - **meet them and their skills in this issue**. Their expertise, together with the recent highly successful launch of our Photogrammetric Survey division, is bringing a whole new dimension to work here at M-EC.

Thanks for your continued support.

Eddie Mewies.



PHOTOGRAMMETRIC LAUNCH

Billing it as the 'solution for large scale development surveys', M-EC is offering detailed land and planning surveys on large, inaccessible or dangerous locations, using the latest Photogrammetric software, saving clients thousands of pounds, and weeks in time on large scale surveys.

The surveys have been proven to offer an overall reduction in project costs of up to **75%** and can be carried out up to **75%** quicker, without the M-EC team having to leave the office.

M-EC's experienced Photogrammetry team use aerial imagery, taken from 20,000ft, of a site or location and turn this into a 3-dimensional image, from which they can conduct a detailed Topographical Survey with surprising accuracy. "Turning the aerial imagery into a 3D model on screen allows us to really feel the levels of the site and give the client as much detail as they will need. The end product is not only a detailed survey but a map-accurate image and a true visualisation of a difficult to reach or dangerous location," said M-EC's senior photogrammetric specialist, Ken Hill.

Want to know more? Why not book a demonstration appointment at a time to suit you?

Email ken.hill@m-ec.co.uk or call 01530 264 753

Profiles



Name: Neil Onions
Department: Flood Risk & Hydrology
Email: neil.onions@m-ec.co.uk
Role: Neil has extensive experience in surface water drainage strategy designs and river and flood modelling. Utilising the latest techniques and software, he is working with a number of key house builders and planning consultants, providing advice and reports at the pre-planning stage.

Neil said: "What makes M-EC different is the full range of in-house flood risk and drainage services we can offer. We have an experienced and dedicated team that is fully versed with current best practice and legislation in the water industry."



Name: Kevin Bullock
Department: Ground Investigation
Email: kevin.bullock@m-ec.co.uk
Role: Kevin joins M-EC with over 12 years' experience in Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering. His team is responsible for being potentially the first on site and throughout most stages of construction to supervise or validate works to ensure they are carried out appropriately.

"We really are in on the ground, so to speak, for each project. Our role generally includes initial Desk Study Reports, follow up Ground Investigations to identify areas of potential concern, develop a conceptual model for the site and determine the most cost effective development solutions. You will often find us supervising drilling or piling works, identifying and treating contamination," said Kevin.



DYNAMIC DUO APPOINTED

M-EC has added to its rapidly growing team with two new appointments, Gaetano Pellegrino and Manos Mavrogiorgis. With over eight years' experience, Gaetano Pellegrino joins the Hydrology team as a specialist flood risk/hydrology engineer and will be responsible for river/flood modelling, flood risk assessments and drainage strategies for high risk sites.

Joining the transport team as a graduate transport engineer, is Manos Mavrogiorgis. Manos will work on a range of assignments including transport statements, travel plans, site access advice/design, off-site highway improvements and sustainable transport appraisals.

M-EC's managing director, Eddie Mewies said: "Despite difficult market conditions, M-EC continues to grow and we felt the time was right to appoint Gaetano and Manos. Both recruits are enthusiastic, committed and professional so will complement the team perfectly."

Come on feel the noise

M-EC is pleased to announce the launch of its new, dedicated Noise & Air Quality division, led by in-house expert Rosie James, who joined the company in April with over six years' experience in this specialised field.

With noise and air quality major factors in determining the suitability of a site for development, M-EC can offer an integrated solution from the earliest stages of planning. Typically more and more development sites are becoming challenging in terms of noise and air quality due to locations adjacent busy roads, rail or industry.

By conducting noise and air quality assessment work to identify constraints, develop solutions, inform master planning and support planning applications as early on in the development process as possible, M-EC's new division can help clients make significant cost and time savings.

Rosie said: "I am excited to be a part of such a young and dynamic team at M-EC. I have a passion for shaping sites which will benefit not only the end users but also the local community."

Email rosie.james@m-ec.co.uk or call 01530 264753

Rosie James on site

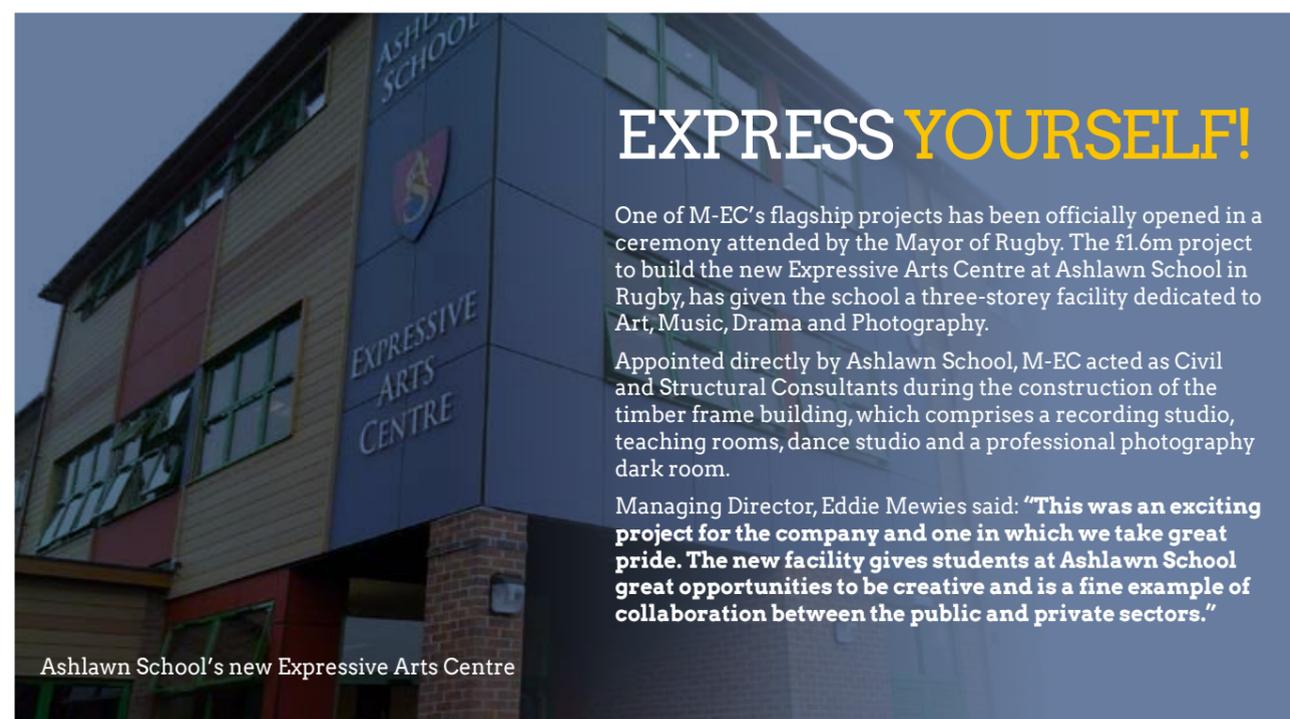


EXPRESS YOURSELF!

One of M-EC's flagship projects has been officially opened in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Rugby. The £1.6m project to build the new Expressive Arts Centre at Ashlawn School in Rugby, has given the school a three-storey facility dedicated to Art, Music, Drama and Photography.

Appointed directly by Ashlawn School, M-EC acted as Civil and Structural Consultants during the construction of the timber frame building, which comprises a recording studio, teaching rooms, dance studio and a professional photography dark room.

Managing Director, Eddie Mewies said: "This was an exciting project for the company and one in which we take great pride. The new facility gives students at Ashlawn School great opportunities to be creative and is a fine example of collaboration between the public and private sectors."



Ashlawn School's new Expressive Arts Centre