

10 years of humidity control

Humidity Solutions recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Here, managing director John Barker reflects on a sometimes challenging decade and looks forward to future innovations.

Ten successful years in business is something to celebrate and we at Humidity Solutions were very pleased recently to gather many of the people and businesses that have helped us to succeed over the past decade.

Humidity Solutions started trading on 1 October 2008, a day that saw not just the launch of a new and energetic company committed to providing the best possible service, but also the day that Lehmann Brothers collapsed, sparking the biggest financial crisis in history to date. The day the banks went bust - what a day to start a business! It was also the day David Cameron, as leader of the opposition,



announced that he was the man to rebuild broken Britain - what could go wrong?

In the buoyant climate of 2008 we started a business and, since then, have had the joy of recession, austerity and now Brexit. So I think it's fair to say that we have had a challenging climate in which to work. However, with the great team we have built at Humidity Solutions, we have managed to not only survive, but to prosper during this time.

To celebrate this success, and mark a significant anniversary, we held a media event at Church House, next to Westminster Abbey. This magnificent building, which housed Parliament when



Celebrating the anniversary in the splendour of Westminster Abbey
Photograph: Andrew Fleming Photography

Westminster Palace was bombed during the second world war, is in the grounds of Westminster Abbey, where Humidity Solutions provides humidity control for the abbey's museum.

Twenty journalists attended the event, representing magazines from the many sectors we serve, including HVAC, refrigeration, print, leisure, charcuterie and pharmaceutical, as well as the broader commercial and industrial sectors. They came to hear a little about our past, but mainly about the innovations and plans that we have moving forward.

Information presented at the event included case studies for humidifiers and dehumidifiers, announcements of new products - such as the new Nepronic SKE4 resistive humidifier - and other developments, such as Devatec's new state of the art factory in France. Formal presentations were followed by a break out session over lunch, with suppliers from around the world adding their expertise and knowledge in wide-ranging discussions, bringing new angles and life to these stories and making them even more relevant to the magazines' readers.

All of which demonstrated how standard humidity control products can be applied to a range of applications when combined with experience and expertise. For instance, a stable 50% RH is important to enable glue to cure, prevent static, provide dimensional stability for paper or timber and to keep employees comfortable.

That same evening, Westminster Abbey was the location for a celebratory dinner,

where those who have been integral in the success of the company enjoyed a private tour of the Abbey, followed by a magnificent banquet in the Cellarium. A truly unique and unforgettable evening.

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Looking ahead

Humidity Solutions leads the way in humidity control, being the only company that is not owned by a manufacturer and is therefore independently better-placed to select the best products from around the world. Indeed, we are delighted to be magnificently supported by our suppliers from France, Canada, Lithuania, Italy and Denmark.

Looking ahead to the next 10 years, I foresee many directions that we as a business can aim for, alongside our suppliers.

For example, there are exciting discussions around humidifiers that generate their own moisture supply so that they do not need to be mains or tank fed.

The concept of a waterless humidifier using desiccant technology may sound strange,

but this could be a viable solution for small applications where suitable water supplies are not readily available.

Another development to watch out for is recyclable steam generating cylinders for electrode boilers to reduce environmental impact. There also needs to be a move towards humidifiers and dehumidifiers that are independent of the grid and can operate from solar or wind power units using battery technology.

Even more important are the growing markets for humidity control: where day in, day out repeatable conditions maintain an optimum humidity environment. This applies to a wide range of applications where proper humidity control improves indoor air quality, creates consistent conditions for manufacturing, reduces the risk of dehydration in homes and businesses and suppresses infection risk in healthcare facilities.

As domestic properties become more and more airtight, as is already the case in North America, the need for residential humidity control will become essential for maintaining a healthy environment. These are just some of the sectors where appreciation of effective humidity control is increasing.

Humidity Solutions is well positioned to continue to provide solutions for old and new challenges, and we look forward to further strengthening our relationships with colleagues, suppliers and customers into the future.

www.humiditysolutions.co.uk



Humidity Solutions and its suppliers gave an insight into future innovations at Church House

