



Hambleside Danelaw Ltd
Press Release
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The Queen's Awards for Enterprise: Innovation won by building materials manufacturer lobbying for action on climate change

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd, a manufacturer of industrial rooflights and other building materials that has been calling for tax incentives to encourage the construction of energy-efficient buildings, is among this year's winners of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise: Innovation.

The company expects that the award will be a major asset in promoting messages to architects and designers about sustainable development, particularly the cost savings that can be gained from using insulated materials.

The Queen's Award recognises Hambleside's 'outstanding innovation' in introducing to the building industry the *Insulator* range of rooflights, suitable for industrial and commercial buildings, such as large retail stores and distribution depots. The rooflights incorporate a transparent insulation in the form of an advanced honeycomb technology that allows the maximum possible natural light into a building. This can lead to improved workforce productivity and, according to research, boost retail sales.

Insulator rooflights are extremely effective in limiting carbon emissions through a building's heat loss. The Carbon Trust has found that the product is providing a typical industrial building with a saving on energy consumption of 13.1% in a typical industrial building with a 7,865m² floor area. Hambleside Danelaw estimates that it can also deliver up to 24.2 tonnes of CO₂ savings each year in comparison with a rooflight that complies just within the current regulatory limits.

Incentives needed for Building Regulations compliance

The Government has said that newly amended Building Regulations, introduced on 6 April, form a key part of its efforts to tackle climate change, but Hambleside Danelaw believes that a widespread lack of compliance with the regulations will continue to limit their effectiveness. With limited resources available to local authorities for enforcement, the company has been advocating new tax incentives to encourage builders to comply with the energy efficiency provisions in the regulations.

Hambleside Danelaw is concerned that the Chancellor's recent budget and the publication of the Government's climate change programme have done little to address the fact that almost half of the UK's carbon emissions come from buildings. The company is hoping that the Treasury-sponsored Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change will be much bolder in making recommendations for action later this year.

Robin Jeffery, Hambleside's vice-chairman, said: "We are seeing major technological advances, such as the *Insulator* rooflight, regularly enter the market because Britain has the R&D capability to generate them. The Government should be focusing its efforts on incentivising their take-up by the construction industry and as part of this process, the Stern Review can't afford to be another missed opportunity."

Tim Boswell, one of the company's local MPs who has supported the company's campaign in Parliament, said: "I am delighted that Hambleside Danelaw has won a Queen's Award that recognises the importance of innovation in meeting the challenges of climate change. An approach that embraces incentives to tackle the issue is gathering increasing cross-party support at Westminster and I will be doing everything I can to persuade ministers to follow this route."

Chris Avery, managing director of Hambleside Danelaw, said: "I want to thank all of the staff at Hambleside Danelaw who have created an environment where innovation can flourish. They have all played a part in winning this prestigious award. Our job now is to persuade more architects and builders that the incorporation of energy-efficient materials into building specifications is cost-efficient as well as making a difference to the environment and reducing the building occupier's ongoing operating costs"

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Notes

1. About Hambleside Danelaw Ltd

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd manufactures Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) rooflights and other roofing and ventilation materials in Daventry and Inverness. As part of the Hambleside Danelaw Group with headquarters in Waterlooville in Hampshire, its turnover is currently in excess of £10 million a year and it employs almost 90 people. The group was established in 1975 with its first factory at Inverness for manufacturing GRP products becoming operational in 1978. The factory has won a Green Apple award for its efforts to reduce its environmental impact and has attained BS 14001:2004 in recognition of its environmental management systems. In 1992, the company began producing in Daventry non-GRP products primarily for roof and cavity wall ventilation.

2. The Insulator Inplane GRP rooflight

In addition to winning this year's Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation (www.queensawards.org.uk) and the Business Commitment to the Environment Award (www.bceaawards.org), the Insulator rooflight range was a finalist in the Carbon Trust Innovation Awards 2005 which recognised that the product was providing a typical industrial building with a saving on energy consumption of 13.1%. The incorporation of an advanced patent protected transparent honeycomb core creates 'still air zones' to provide the insulation, reducing U-values (the heat loss measurement) to as low as 0.8 W/m²K. Insulator's performance is designed to provide:

- maximum use of daylight with a positive impact on health and productivity
- the best safety solution in terms of non-fragility
- thermal efficiency
- energy cost savings through the need for less lighting, heating and air-conditioning.

Technical literature on the Insulator range is available from the company.

3. Lobbying by Hambleside Danelaw on climate change

Hambleside Danelaw believes that more energy efficient buildings would be built if there were easily understood improvements to the Building Regulations, which were also being properly enforced, and the introduction of financial incentives by the Government to encourage the building industry to comply with the Regulations. In the company's view, the recent changes

to Part L of the Regulations for England only create a recipe for confusion which will lessen the chances of increased compliance.

Hambleside Danelaw was disappointed that the Chancellor's budget and the climate change programme offered little in tackling the problem, but it is encouraged that Sir Nicholas Stern has said (reference: Oxonia lecture, 31 January 2006 – see http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm) that his Review of the Economics of Climate Change will consider recommending the introduction of key policy instruments shaping incentives including taxes, property rights and regulation. The company has made two submissions to the Review, both of which can be found on the Review's website.