

## News Updates.

On 1st May 2015 Solomons Europe merged with Doig & Co to bring back in house the NEC3 and contract navigation expertise the Doig & Co business had developed over its 4 trading years.

Solomons Europe was established in 1998 specialising as a provider of commercial support services for the process, engineering and infrastructure sectors. Doig & Co, founded in 2011 provided specialist consultancy services, focusing on NEC3 and Contract Navigation.

Through this merger we are able to offer clients, existing and new, enhanced provision in terms of capacity, services and skills across the spectrum of project services.

Managing Director Dominic Doig said: "This is a very positive change for the businesses – by joining forces we are able to build on the both the expertise and strong brand identities of quality of service and flexibility. We see this as an extremely beneficial move for not only our clients, but also our people – who have always shown strong commitment to ensuring continuous professional development and good practice."

## New Director Appointments.



As part of the merger process John Rossiter has been appointed to the Solomons Board as Executive Director and will continue to support the business in specialist dispute avoidance projects, as well as contributing to the formulation of long term business' plans and strategies.



Ian Hedley also received a Director appointment on 1st May following a year of exceptional performance in growing and developing the business' North East region

## Business Growth & Development Plans.

Solomons Europe now boasts a 45 strong team and has ambitious growth targets for the forthcoming 3 year period.

The Company will be entering Phase 2 of their Growth Accelerator Programme, supported by Tony March of Lonsdale Consulting. This will see the company aim to achieve significant growth in the period 2015 to 2019, with a strong focus on Tier 1 growth which will be complimented by a supportive staff culture based on a strong family business ethos.



## Health & Wellbeing.

Solomons have made some exciting appointments to support their commitment to staff training and development this year.

The company are partnering with Jon Lever of DeLever, to support candidates undertaking the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) through regular workshops and 'mock' assessments. It is hoped this regular workshop environment will ensure those facing the APC become more familiar with what is expected on the day, feel able to ask questions and pick up tips, and most importantly receive coaching to settle those big day nerves!

We have also appointed Dawn Powell of SEL Talent Solutions to support the company by working with individual team members in formulating career development plans to help them achieve their personal career goals and perform to the best of their ability on their assigned projects. Dawn has a wealth of public and private sector experience which is put to good use in providing workable 'onboarding' and training and development plans for every Solomons team member to ensure their skills and development gaps are identified and realistic plans for achievement can be outlined.

## Community Support.

A significant proportion of the company's business is now focused in Cumbria – so this year we have been looking at community projects in the Cumbrian region to get in touch with the wider community and to better understand the needs of such a diverse landscape.

Cumbria has two famous elements – the renowned and spectacular National Park, with its stunning scenery and wildlife, and the engineering supersite that is Sellafield. Cumbria seems to manage to balance these two remarkably well, but they are not without their challenges.

In June this year we were delighted to be able to offer the Ulpha & Seathwaite WI support in their fundraising activities to site defibrillators in remote rural areas. These pioneering ladies have raised funds to site 3 defibrillators at key locations in the Duddon Valley – where an ambulance can take 40 minutes or more to reach a 999 emergency.

This project involved the development of the first UK solar defibrillator unit, which has now been installed run 'off grid' in Cockley Beck, a remote part of Cumbria, which sits at the foot of Hardnott Pass and which may be familiar to cycling enthusiasts as the most demanding section of the Fred Whitton challenge.

In July this year we were also lucky enough to be given a guided tour of the Growing Well site in Cumbria - a charitable social enterprise using organic gardening to support people recovering from mental health problems in Cumbria and North Lancashire.

The organisation works collaboratively to help build confidence and skills in its volunteers and has achieved some very admirable results. Growing Well is a truly inspiring place and does some fantastic work with vulnerable people - so it is great to have been able to offer corporate sponsorship to help continue this community service. [www.growingwell.co.uk](http://www.growingwell.co.uk)

