

Twenty-five years young

Raeburn Drilling & Geotechnical looks back over two decades of doing good business

RAEBURN Drilling & Geotechnical (RDG), which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, began trading in July 1985. The Raeburn family, among their other business interests, had been involved in the drilling industry since the mid-1940s.

Originally, the company focused on rotary drilling operations, but as the business progressed it grew to incorporate the following: water well rigs; soils rigs; geology and engineering services; water-well design and installation services for the private, commercial and public sectors; and a UKAS accredited laboratory.

RDG can now provide a complete in-house site investigation service, and it is confident that it can offer a comprehensive solution to any site, irrespective of the complexity.

In 2001, RDG integrated Terra Tek and DTS Technologies into the company structure, augmenting staff numbers, and increasing its overall technical and logistical capacity, to become the largest independent site-investigation contractor in Scotland.

These acquisitions also enabled the company to extend its service offering to the Midlands, with RDG, TTK and DTS Raeburn operating from Birmingham to provide drilling, laboratory services and environmental consultancy.

General manager Anne Baxter recalls: "It was the beginning of an exciting phase in the development of the company. The combined experience and resources of the three companies assimilated into RDG's structure during this time immediately increased our profile, and presence, within the industry. The aim had been to establish the company as a major player in the provision of a comprehensive, in-house site-investigation service. With the acquisitions of TTK and DTS, we were able to accomplish this goal."

Further expansion in 2002 saw RDG acquire all of the drilling plant formerly operated by Tarmac's in-house drilling company, Millfield Geotechnical Services. The specialist equipment enhanced RDG's ability to provide drilling services tailored to the requirements of the quarrying and mineral exploration industry.

In 2003, the company acquired one of the longest established geotechnical laboratories in the country



Boart Longyear DB520 rotary rig using ODEX system to drill through coarse, granular deposits near Kishorn, Scotland

from Laings, and opened a new division of Terra Tek in Chesham, near London. In the same year, RDG also invested in the development of an in-house chemical laboratory in Birmingham; a facility that is now MCERTS-accredited for a wide range of tests.

RDG opened a new division in 2007 – Raeburn Drilling & Geotechnical (Northern) – in Aberdeen to service the north of Scotland and the Islands market more comprehensively.

Throughout its history, RDG has grown and developed, not only in response to market demand, but also to changing legislation. It has invested heavily in quality, and health and safety, and now holds: ISO 9001, 14001 and 18001; Achilles Verify; Achilles Link-Up; Constructionline and Investors in People accreditations.

The company has strongly supported the aims

of the British Drilling Association over the years, having played an active, ongoing role in promoting its values and objectives. Several employees have served on BDA committees, and two have been elected chairman.

Managing director John Kemlo comments: "We are proud to be an integral part of the UK civil-engineering industry, and our expertise is being put to use in the dynamic sectors of infrastructure, health and housing. In addition, the opportunity to work on wind farms and major geothermal projects in the emerging markets of renewable and alternative energy is exciting, and an area which the company is well placed to address.

"We are proud of our history and reputation, and would like to take this opportunity to thank customers, employees and suppliers for helping us to reach this significant milestone."

Hagglund BV206, modified in-house to carry a Dando Terrier 2000, window-sampling peat deposits on the Inner Hebridean island of Skye

