



Newsletter

Issue 5

2026

#SealingTheFuture
www.beldamcrossley.co.uk

to make the dream work

Beldam Crossley is proud to announce that it has been awarded a prestigious King's Award for Enterprise: International Trade, recognising the company's outstanding growth in overseas sales and international business success.

The King's Awards for Enterprise are regarded as the UK's highest official honour for business achievement. In 2026, only 186 organisations across the UK received an Award across all categories, with just 76 recognised specifically for International Trade.

From its headquarters in Bolton, Greater Manchester, Beldam Crossley has built a strong international presence through specialist engineering expertise, advanced manufacturing capability and long-standing customer partnerships.

Previous recipients of the Award have included some of the UK's most respected engineering and manufacturing organisations, including Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Jaguar Land Rover, BAE Systems and JCB, placing Beldam Crossley amongst a highly respected group of British exporters and innovators.

The Award will be formally presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, His Majesty The King's representative for the region, during an official ceremony at Beldam Crossley. The business have also been invited to attend a Royal Reception at St James's Palace hosted by His Majesty The King.

Dave Haxton, Managing Director of Beldam Crossley, said:

“Receiving a King's Award for Enterprise for International Trade is an incredibly proud moment for everyone at Beldam Crossley. This recognition reflects the hard work, dedication and expertise of our entire team, alongside the trust and support of our customers, suppliers and partners around the world.”

Subsea Bearings: Small Component, Big Responsibility

CROSSFLON® XS

Once equipment reaches the seabed, going back to fix it is rarely simple — and sometimes impossible.

That is why subsea bearings must do more than reduce friction. They need to carry heavy loads, control movement and resist creep, wear and seawater exposure for years. Ian Harbottle explains how understanding the movement first helped our engineers develop a more dependable Crossflon® XS solution for a demanding subsea project.

Read the full story on our website

Ian Harbottle Solving Tough Applications

Got a challenging project? Ian helps customers find practical solutions for load, wear, friction, and material performance challenges.

Contact Ian via enquiries@beldamcrossley.co.uk



The problem: low friction is not enough on its own

Ian Harbottle, Division Manager
at Beldam Crossley

“

The lesson was not always use the strongest material.

It was more practical than that.

The right subsea bearing is the one that lets the structure move as the engineer intended.

Too much friction, and the structure can be subjected to unwanted stresses. Too much creep, and the geometry changes. Too little thought about the interface, and the bearing can become the weak point between two much more costly parts of the system.

CI & INNOVATION

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Meet Tom, our new Head of Quality

Tom joins us with 10 years' experience in quality management across automotive, oil and gas, and aerospace manufacturing.

He began his career in the automotive sector, building a strong foundation in lean manufacturing, process improvement and customer-focused quality before moving into industries where precision, consistency and traceability really matter.



“Quality should be built into every stage of the manufacturing process, not simply checked at the end. I’m passionate about using continuous improvement, technology and collaboration to deliver better outcomes for our customers and the business. I’m looking forward to working with the team, simplifying processes, improving efficiency and supporting a culture where everyone takes pride in getting things right.”



Polymer Power

From Material Choice to Finished PTFE Part

Crossflon® materials are matched to the application, then moulded, machined and finished in-house in Bolton.

Getting the Right Material from Day One.

In chemical processing equipment, component performance depends on matching the right application, material and product design.

Beldam Crossley has produced a free selection guide to help equipment manufacturers choose suitable polymer materials for applications including pumps, valves, dosing systems, mixers and fluid-handling equipment.

From valve seats and bearings to seals, diaphragms and custom-machined parts, our team can support material selection from the earliest design stages. Getting this combination right helps manufacturers reduce premature failures, warranty replacements and servicing requirements. Beldam Crossley components are manufactured within controlled quality systems and can be supplied with full material traceability—giving manufacturers and their customers greater confidence in the reliability and quality of every critical polymer part.

To request your free Chemical Processing Material Selection Guide, email sam@beldamcrossley.co.uk or visit our new website material selection hub.



CROSSFLON®

PTFE Is a Starting Point — Not a Specification

By Martin Lister, Business Development Manager

“We need this part in PTFE” is often where the conversation starts. It should not be where the specification ends.

Virgin PTFE offers excellent chemical resistance, low friction and a broad operating-temperature range. But a finished part may also need to carry load, resist creep and wear, hold a tight tolerance, run against a sensitive mating surface or survive repeated cleaning cycles.

That is why we begin with the application. What is the component doing? Is it a seal, bush, valve seat, bearing, diaphragm, gasket, bellow, liner or wear pad? What pressure, speed, movement, media and temperature will it see? What is failing in the current design?

The answers guide both material and manufacture. Glass, carbon, graphite, bronze and other specialist fillers can be blended with PTFE to improve compressive strength, dimensional stability, wear life or friction behaviour. **Our Crossflon® range allows those properties to be matched to real service conditions.**

Material selection is only half the job. Beldam Crossley moulds, sinters, precision-machines and even etches complex PTFE and polymer parts in-house, with engineering review, inspection and traceability throughout.

The goal is not simply to supply a part made from PTFE. It is to deliver the right material, geometry and finish for a component that performs reliably in the complete system.”

Read Martin’s full specification advice on our website.



CI & INNOVATION

The Hatch Seal Is Part

of the Safety System



CUSTOMER FOCUS

Pilot® Lidpack® is engineered for repeated compression and demanding chemical, petroleum and solvent cargoes. With controlled UK manufacture and recognised product approvals, it gives vessel operators greater confidence that the seal will continue performing after the hatch has been opened and closed time after time.

Explore the full marine sealing on the Beldam Crossley website →

Marine Conversations in Athens

This June, Gareth and Lee took our UK-manufactured sealing expertise to Posidonia in Athens.

The event brought together shipowners, fleet managers, marine engineers and technical buyers from around the world. It gave our team the opportunity to discuss Pilot® Lidpack®, packing and sealing products for applications where reliability and compliance cannot be left to chance.

No long speeches. No hard sell. Just useful conversations about keeping vessels sealed, safe and moving.



Buyer Notice: Make Sure Your Pilot® Lidpack® Is Genuine



When purchasing marine tank lid packing or braided sealing/Packing products, please make sure you are buying genuine British-made Pilot® products from Beldam Crossley.

Beldam Crossley is the original British manufacturer, design authority and rights holder for the Pilot® Lidpack® product range, including **Pilot® Lidpack® 3800** and **Pilot® Lidpack® 3801L**.

The trade name Pilot® belongs to Beldam Crossley in relation to braided packing products. It must not be used by any other other manufacturers, sellers or online listings to describe, promote or pass off imitation braided packing products as genuine Beldam Crossley products.

If you are buying Lidpack® or any Pilot® braided packing product, the safest route is simple:

Come directly to Beldam Crossley first.



Distributor Spotlight: Local Expertise, Global Standards

Built on Trust: The Story Behind Beldam Crossley and Wakasugi

Some business relationships are built around a single order. Others grow steadily over decades, shaped by shared values, specialist knowledge and the people who keep turning up for one another.

The relationship between Beldam Crossley and Wakasugi Co. Ltd belongs firmly in the second category.

Based in Japan, Wakasugi has been part of the marine and industrial supply sector since 1956. Long before global supply chains became as connected as they are today, the company had already built a strong reputation in Japan's maritime market, supplying sealing products, repair materials, corrosion inhibitors, IMPA catalogue items and other essential marine supplies.

It was through this shared world of sealing technology and marine reliability that Wakasugi and Beldam Crossley first found common ground.

It was around 50 years ago, Beldam Crossley's specialist Pilot® Lidpack® hatch seal was introduced to the Japanese marine market. Around the same period, Wakasugi recognised its relevance for vessels operating in demanding conditions and began introducing Beldam Crossley products to customers across Japan. What began as a practical product connection soon developed into a trusted working partnership. Read more on the Beldam Crossley website



Masaki

WAKASUGI CO., LTD.



Introducing the New Beldam Crossley Distributor Directory

We are pleased to launch our new distributor webpage, created to make it easier for customers around the world to find trusted local support for Beldam Crossley products.

Our distributor network has always been an important part of the Beldam Crossley story. Many of these relationships have been built over decades and have played a vital role in helping us supply specialist sealing and polymer solutions across international markets.

We greatly value the knowledge, commitment and local expertise our distributors bring. They are not simply sales partners; they are a long-standing and important part of the Beldam Crossley community.

The new directory currently features a selection of our trusted partners, with more valued distributors being added over the coming months.

Watch this space as our global network continues to grow.



We are excited to spotlight
Jeff from Munaco, USA in
our next issue so watch
this space...



Meet Harry Thompson

Building a Future in Manufacturing Maintenance

Harry joined Beldam Crossley straight from school and is now a final-year manufacturing maintenance apprentice. In that time, he has become a trusted member of the team supporting the equipment, people and processes that keep production moving.

Maintenance is often noticed only when something stops. Behind every smooth production day, however, is a team keeping machines safe, reliable and ready to meet customer requirements. Harry has built a reputation for being calm, capable and willing to learn.

A practical route into engineering

An apprenticeship gave Harry the opportunity to combine technical study with real responsibility on the factory floor. Working alongside experienced colleagues has helped him develop the confidence to diagnose faults, understand machinery and contribute to preventative maintenance.

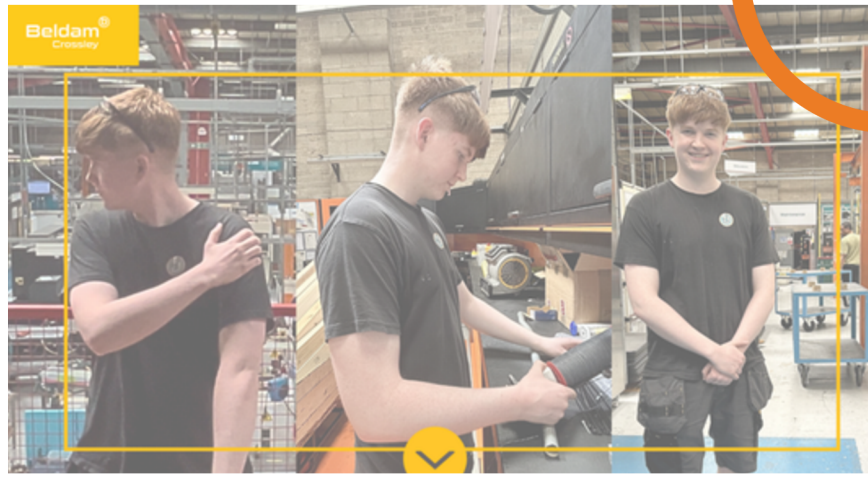
His progress shows the value of giving young people a clear route into manufacturing. Skills grow through patient coaching, hands-on experience and the chance to take ownership of meaningful work.

Read Harry's full story at beldamcrossley.co.uk/meet-harry/

Investing in Future Skills

Harry's story reflects Beldam Crossley's commitment to developing practical engineering talent. Apprenticeships build capability for the future while allowing knowledge to pass between generations.

As Harry approaches the end of his apprenticeship, he is building the technical grounding and judgement needed for a long-term career in manufacturing maintenance.



Learning by Keeping Production Moving

From planned maintenance to fault finding, Harry's work supports reliable production across the Bolton site.

“ What stands out is his attitude: he listens, learns quickly and helps without being asked twice. Those qualities have made him a valued part of the rhythm of the factory. ”



Sustainability Progress

- Carbon Literacy Silver achieved
- 100% renewable electricity
- ~48% reduction in Scope 1 emissions since 2023
- Machine-level energy monitoring
- 104 employee volunteering hours

Having achieved Carbon Literacy Silver, Beldam Crossley is progressing towards Gold — embedding informed carbon action across its people, processes and decisions. Read the 2025 Sustainability Report on our website.

REFLECTIONS VOL. 5



Volumes 5 & 6 Will look at how both Beldam Packing and Crossley's supported the WW1 & WW2 efforts. Still to this day Beldam Crossley holds Defence approval and standards including Joscarr, Aerospace AS9100 & Cyber Essentials Plus to name a few.

The First World War, 1914–1918

Steam, ships and an expanding industrial network
When Britain entered the First World War in August 1914, both Beldam Packing and the newly established Henry Crossley business were working in an industrial world powered largely by steam.

High-pressure steam systems depended upon effective packing around moving shafts, piston rods, pumps and valves. Without it, steam escaped, pressure fell and machinery became inefficient or unsafe. On naval vessels and merchant ships, sealing products were therefore essential operational components rather than routine consumables.

Beldam Packing & Rubber Company

The Beldam Packing and Rubber Company was formally incorporated on 7 August 1914, just days after Britain entered the war. The company had already developed a strong reputation for high-pressure steam packing, including its Pilot and V-Pilot products. Its products were used within marine engineering and aboard major ships before the conflict began.

The war produced an enormous increase in demand from naval and merchant shipping. Britain depended upon its ships to move troops, food, fuel, raw materials and munitions, while the Royal Navy maintained the blockade of Germany and protected global sea routes. Every vessel contained pumps, engines, valves and auxiliary machinery that needed reliable sealing. According to the company's historical record, wartime demand led Beldam to invest in:

- new production mills;
- rubber-calendering machinery;
- vulcanising equipment;
- presses;
- workshops and additional factory space.

Its workforce more than doubled during the conflict. The war effectively accelerated Beldam's development from a successful family concern into a substantial industrial manufacturer.

Beldam's contribution was not limited to packing.

George Beldam's tyre designs were reportedly used on armoured cars operating in desert conditions during the First World War. A contemporary connection is recorded through T. E. Lawrence's description of Beldam inner tubes being used during high-speed desert operations.

Behind the products sat an increasingly sophisticated distribution system.

Beldam already had representatives in major British ports, where technically knowledgeable branch managers held stocks and could speak directly with ships' engineers. As the photographed company history explains, materials could be taken directly to a vessel by foot, bicycle, tram, train or motor van, allowing urgent repairs to be completed in hours rather than days.

That ability mattered greatly during wartime. A ship held in port by a leaking pump, valve or engine component represented lost operational time, delayed cargo and potentially wider disruption to the war effort.

Henry Crossley (Packings) Ltd

Henry Crossley established his packing business in Bolton in 1913, immediately before the outbreak of war. By 1938 it was operating from Temple Road, Astley Bridge, and manufacturing specialist packings and sealing products for heavy engineering applications. The business's known capabilities included braided and plaited materials, gasketing and industrial seals for high-pressure machinery.

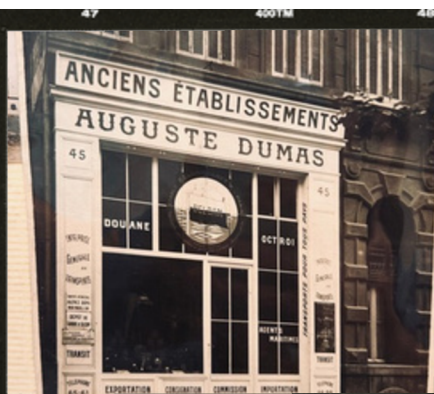
Its industrial context, however, is clear. Henry Crossley entered business at precisely the moment when Britain required greatly increased production of steam, marine and mechanical equipment. Packing and gasketing were necessary wherever shafts moved, valves operated or pressure had to be retained. The company's wartime role is therefore best understood as part of the supporting engineering supply chain that kept machinery functioning.

The legacy of the First World War

The conflict demonstrated that relatively small engineered components could have strategic importance.

A vessel might contain thousands of individual sealing points. Each seal supported a larger system: propulsion, pumping, steering, fuel handling, steam generation or weapons operation. The experience gained under wartime production pressures helped both companies build the manufacturing knowledge that would become even more important during the Second World War.

The Next Issue covers WW2 in Reflections Vol.6



Big Machine, Tight Squeeze — One Very Committed Weekend



Precision Braiding, Built for Growth

The bespoke vertical-axis braider was built for Beldam Crossley in 2026. Its 32 carriers, electronic pitch control, motorised die holder and inline taping system support braided products from 6mm to 70mm diameter.

These controls will help maintain consistent braid construction while improving flexibility across different sizes and specifications.

Lidpack® manufacture remains a carefully controlled process: material preparation, dipping, taping, braiding, inspection, calendaring and coiling all contribute to finished performance



ONE TEAM

Why More Capacity Matters

Pilot® Lidpack® sales achieved 16% growth and gained more than 30 new customers last year alone..

The new braider will reduce lead times, improve repeatability and strengthen worldwide supply.



A major new investment has arrived at Beldam Crossley — but getting it into position took considerably more than opening the factory doors.

Our new OMA 32-carrier industrial braiding machine has been installed at the Bolton manufacturing facility. Worth approximately £70,000, it becomes the eighth machine in our specialist braiding department and increases capacity for genuine UK-made Pilot® Lidpack® and other braided sealing products.

Maintenance Supervisor Matt Yates led the installation, supported by a team that spent weeks measuring the access route, planning lifting operations and preparing the production area.

There was one important challenge: parts of the machine were wider than the route to their new home. Doorways had to be widened and sections of the building adapted safely, with minimal disruption to production.

Director's View: A Year of Positive Progress

There is a lot to feel positive about at Beldam Crossley so far this year.

We are working through a challenging political and industrial environment, with changing regulations, rising expectations and continued pressure across global supply chains. Yet throughout it all, our focus has remained clear: invest wisely, support our customers and keep strengthening the business.

Receiving the King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade & Eco Vardis Silver are an incredibly proud moments in our history. It reflects years of hard work across the whole company and demonstrates the global value of specialist products manufactured here in Bolton.

We have also welcomed new people into key roles, bringing fresh knowledge, energy and ideas into quality, customer service, warehousing and engineering. Alongside this, our relationship with Indutrade continues to give us the support and stability of a global group while allowing us to retain the independence and character that make Beldam Crossley unique.

Investment has remained a major theme. Our new Lidpack® braiding machine is now installed, increasing capacity for our growing marine sealing range. We have also secured important approvals for our upgraded in-house polymer etching process.

We believe this makes Beldam Crossley one of very few UK manufacturers—and potentially the only one—combining AS9100 aerospace-approved polymer component manufacture with specialist in-house surface etching capability. This gives customers greater control, traceability and confidence from material manufacture and machining through to surface treatment and final inspection. Great work to all those involved in obtaining this approval.

There is still plenty to improve, particularly around speed, communication and making it easier for customers to do business with us. But the direction is positive, the capability is growing and the team is stronger.

Thank you to everyone who continues to play a part in our progress.

Dave Haxton

Managing Director, Beldam Crossley



Chris FD, Dave MD (Centre) & Gareth Sales Director

