



# Full Steam Ahead

Is it a coincidence that we appear to have encountered a huge number of coincidences over the past couple of months? Take, for example, our recent visit to see the new European headquarters of Doosan Power Systems Limited.

We'll be honest, and admit that, before doing our research prior to this case study visit, we didn't know a whole lot about Doosan. Moving forwards two days, we're sat watching the Open Golf Championship and who do you think is the competition's main partner. Yep, there's the name Doosan behind Rory, G-Mac, Big Darren – and all the other major winning Northern Irish golfers!

Doosan Power Systems, designs, supplies and constructs advanced steam generation technology for the power industry. The company develops some of the cleanest, most efficient coal-powered plant in the world. Doosan is also a leading energy services company operating in the thermal power, nuclear, oil and gas and petrochemical industries. Through its innovation it supports and enhances the service life of energy assets across the world. Doosan employs around 5,000 people, many of whom are based in the new European headquarters in Crawley – our destination for today.

If we were in any way uncertain about Doosan's size and status before our trip to this impressive, modern business park, a look across to the company's new neighbours gives us a good idea. Let's face it; Boeing and Virgin aren't the worst brands to sit alongside.

But it's Doosan and its new home we'd like to concentrate on, and the company's Assistant FM, Susan Wells and Business Environments' Peter Taylor are on hand to tell us exactly what we'd like to know about the project here. We quickly learn that the working relationship between Doosan and Business Environments goes back some time. "They▶▶▶▶▶





## Case Study



that the modern, smart and professional facility is now used and liked by even the most traditional amongst the staff.

Carefully tendered planting in the central atrium space offers a welcome touch of green and outdoors, whilst to call the large and impressive dining facility a cafe may be doing it a slight disservice. The team here has carefully considered the palettes and colour schemes, moving Doosan firmly into the 21st century, whilst not being overtly flamboyant or ostentatious.

The same is true of the open plan working areas, where the large, smart Techo desks we've talked so much about are paired with Giroflex 646 task seating whilst Bisley's Lateral Files were selected for the open area storage.

It might not, at first, sound like too difficult a process, but we think it takes no little skill and judgement to walk that fine line where you are able to cater for the wants and needs of even the most set-in-their-ways engineers and important clients at the same time. To do this under the pressures of time, budget and broken supply chains deserves huge respect.

It's not just the Northern Irish who are major winners after all! ●

▶▶▶space planning issues. 'We have a certain amount of in-house design capability and we played with the layout before giving the whole thing to Peter and his team,' Susan reveals. 'Business Environments are very proactive and soon came up with the best-fit addressing the needs of departments and individuals.'

'The high occupancy levels were clearly going to impact the workstation footprint but we managed to develop a workstation that would meet the demands of the engineers who make up approximately 80% of the staff here,' Peter continues. 'I have to say, I am really pleased, as is the client, with the layouts, finishes and the resulting environment'

We move on to ask about the interior layout. 'We have three floors on Block A and currently just the top floor of Block B,' Susan explains. 'This ground floor space was quite a challenge for us. The meeting suite and reception space had already been decided upon – and it's now full nine times out of 10. It has proved very successful.'

'Also, because we were moving out of the town centre, we wanted a really good cafe area. This had to be phased in, together with an awful lot of computer equipment and advanced technology. At the same time

we needed to provide a barrier between this front of house area and the rest of the floor as we can and do get competitors walking in here.' The impressive meeting suite and reception area may not, we guess, have met with unanimous approval from Doosan's traditional engineers at first. Susan reiterates



### essential ingredients

Client • **Doosan Power Systems** | Interior Design (original) • **Pacific Interiors**

Interior Planning & Furniture Consultancy • **Business Environments** 01342 718 171

Systems Furniture • **Techo** 020 7430 2882

Task Seating • **Orangebox** 020 7837 9922

Storage • **Bisley** 020 7436 7111

Breakout Furniture • **Senator** 020 7388 7621