

WALO

WALO UK LIMITED



MEDIA BRIEFING KIT

walo uk ltd

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WALO UK media briefing kit, which has been designed to provide journalists with detailed information about WALO.

This media briefing kit sets out the background to WALO and explains how the company's technological expertise, services and products deliver superb, long lasting results.

It also makes suggestions for potential case studies and lists contacts for further information.

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ABOUT WALO UK LTD

WALO is a specialist in the field of hydraulic asphalt engineering. WALO specialises in providing impermeable barrier systems for a large range of applications including dams, reservoirs, landfill sites, hydro electric infrastructure and artificial lakes.

Founded in 1917 by Walo Bertschinger, the company has been providing hydraulic asphaltic barrier systems for the containment of water all over the world for more than 90 years.

The company has focused on the constant improvement of processes such as horizontal and near vertical laying of asphaltic lining systems. By using the most modern and unique machinery WALO has also achieved outstanding results in the production of landfill seal systems and snow reservoirs.

WALO provides a complete service to its customers both at home and overseas – from initial feasibility studies to designing, manufacturing and installing suitable materials to match their individual requirements for sealing systems in every kind of hydraulic application.

The WALO group, which is still wholly owned by the Bertschinger Family, currently employs over 3,200 people. Its UK arm, WALO UK Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary, is based in Stafford.



DENSE ASPHALTIC CONCRETE

WALO has world leading established technical engineering knowledge and the necessary modern specialist plant and equipment to provide a Dense Asphaltic Concrete (DAC) impermeable barrier system anywhere and for any situation.

WALO's DAC lining system, made from clean aggregates, fillers, sand and bitumen is installed using specialised laying and compaction techniques. Due to its high density, DAC is highly impermeable and extremely resistant to chemical attack while being very strong and still flexible.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT WALO'S DENSE ASPHALTIC CONCRETE?

WALO's DAC is quick to lay and extremely stable. It is specifically designed for use on large slopes and in areas not easily accessible with other materials.

Long, near vertical slopes up to 1:1.6 can be constructed using WALO's specially engineered equipment and DAC. Any joints required in the DAC system are made strong and totally impermeable by the special treatment and compaction methods employed.

THE WALO LABORATORY

WALO's central Laboratory and mobile labs are accredited test stations for bituminous materials and for all hydraulic engineering applications, dam and landfill construction, fresh concrete and concrete, primary and secondary building materials and flooring systems.

Every DAC project undertaken by WALO has its own unique design mix, formulated by the company's experts in its own laboratory in Zurich. For over sixty years, WALO has built on the lab's services to ensure consistent quality of both building materials and end products. It also monitors both application and installation work.

To watch a video of WALO at work, go to www.walo.co.uk/#Media.



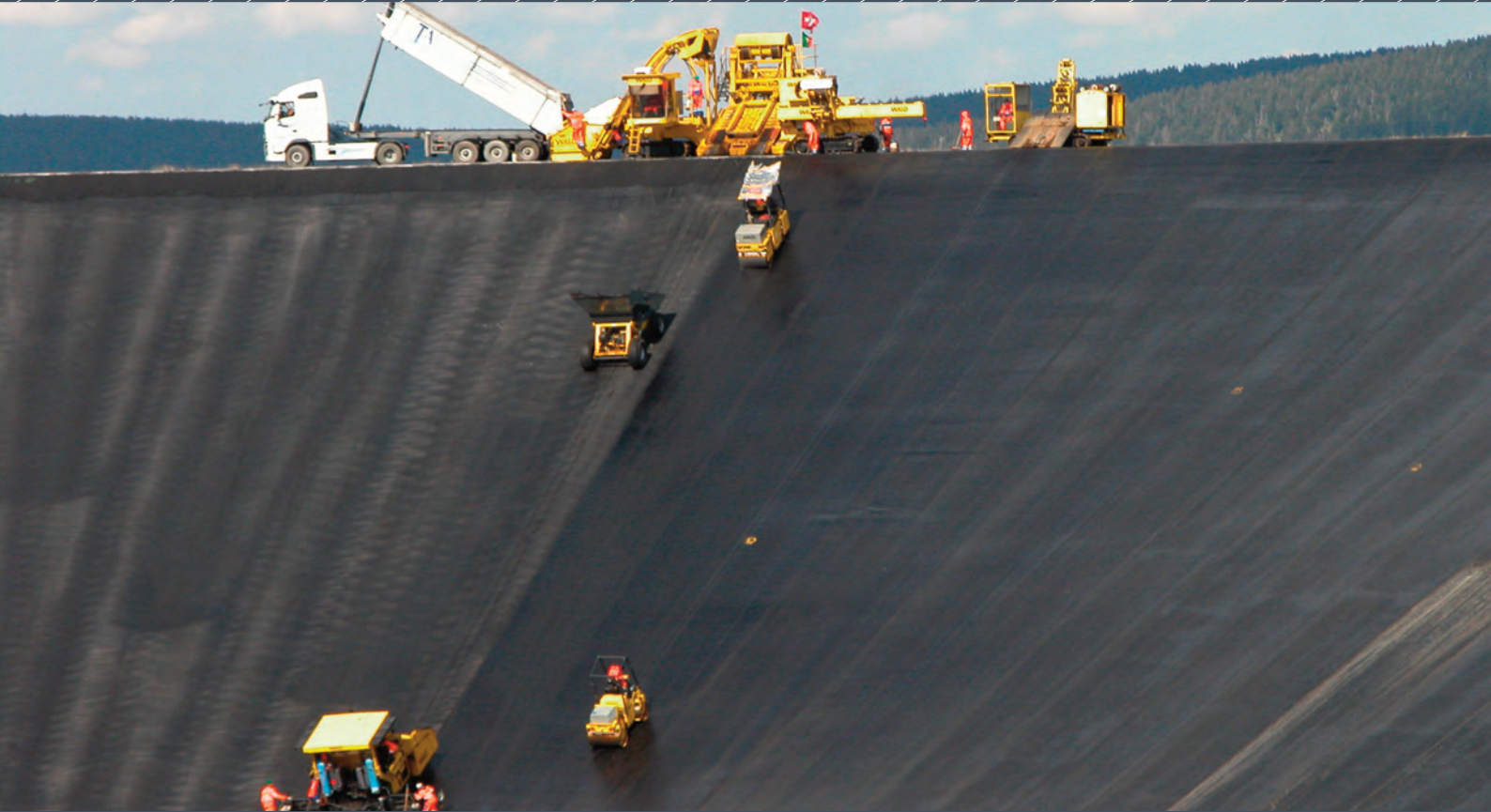
OUR SERVICES

DAMS & RESERVOIRS

WALO's DAC lining system provides a strong, flexible, non-toxic lining, which is thin enough to flex under extreme pressure without cracking, while being totally safe for human, animal and marine life. These factors make it perfect for water storage.

WALO provides hydraulic asphalt concrete impermeable barrier systems to the water and power industries, lining dams of every size from relatively small projects to major hydro electric plants.

For example, many of Switzerland's major power stations have large equalising reservoirs which have been lined by WALO using exclusively designed machines built in the company's own workshops.



OUR SERVICES (CONTINUED)

LANDFILL

Using Dense Asphaltic Concrete, WALO has created an impermeable landfill barrier system, which is impermeable to methane and leachate, found in most solid waste landfill deposits.

Leachate drainage from landfill cells is always a major concern for waste operators, who are under increasing pressure to prioritise environmental considerations. The application of DAC means that landfill sites can now safely house very toxic waste as the resulting contained landfill cannot leach through the impermeable barrier into the groundwater.

Many potential sites, such as old quarries, are dismissed out of hand as unsuitable for waste treatment as they have very steep walls. However, landfill designers and engineers looking for practical solutions for landfill lining find that DAC is very stable on slopes, even those as steep as 1:1.6, which means even sites with very steep walls can be used for landfill.

Thus more space can be created for contained landfill while still providing great protection for the environment. Very strong – yet very flexible – DAC is only 34 cm thick and provides decades of impermeable sealing service in the waste treatment industry.



OUR SERVICES (CONTINUED)

OTHER APPLICATIONS

In addition to lining dam faces, reservoirs, canals and landfill sites, Dense Asphaltic Concrete (DAC) is a very versatile product, useful in all kinds of containment lining systems where an impermeable barrier is needed.

WALO is at the forefront of technological advances in hydraulic technology which has even seen DAC being used for creating snow reservoirs in ski resorts for the production of artificial snow.

CASE STUDIES

WALO sends its highly trained teams together with their specialised machinery and equipment to sites all over the world and has a large and wide-ranging client portfolio. The following sample of case studies provides a brief overview of just a few recent projects carried out.



WESTMILL LANDFILL

The Westmill Landfill site is located in Hertfordshire, UK in a working sand and gravel pit.

Background

Westmill receives general municipal waste from all over the south east of the UK, including parts of London. WALO constructed eight cells on the site using Dense Asphaltic Concrete. After lining the cells WALO installed a leachate collection and removal system.

Challenge

The site is situated on a chalk aquifer and therefore environmental considerations were of the utmost importance.

Solution

WALO utilised the most robust and reliable lining system available – Dense Asphaltic Concrete.



HORNBERG UPPER RESERVOIR

The Hornberg Upper Reservoir is part of the Wehr power plant in Germany and its associated pump storage facilities.

Background

The old asphalt lining showed signs of ageing due to UV exposure while the upper part of the slope, exposed to the stresses of a constantly changing water level was also showing signs of wear and tear. After milling off 40mm of the upper part of the slope, WALO replaced it with a new DAC layer, which benefited from the addition of polymer-modified bitumen. The complete slope was sealed by a sand-mastic coat. The base was resealed by both both sediments contained in banded areas and in part new conventional mastic coat. The joint construction to the bottom outlet and around the outlet tower were also rehabilitated.

Challenge

Work had to be carried out on a near vertical 1:1.6 slope.

Solution

WALO deployed its state of the art machinery and equipment to carry out the work. Without the specialist equipment the work could not have been undertaken.

CASE STUDIES

(CONTINUED)



SOELDEN SNOW RESERVOIR

The Soelden Snow reservoir in the ski resort of Soelden, Tyrol in Austria is used to store water for the production of artificial snow. At an altitude of approx 2,930m above sea level, close to a glacier, it has a usable storage volume of some 400,000m³.

Background

The formation level of the slopes were covered by a drainage gravel layer placed by paver. The complete surface of the reservoir was then surfaced with a bituminous binder layer, dense layer and a mastic coat. The surrounding top five metres of the slope was covered with lcoal stone chippings rolled into the mastic layer to help the reservoir blend into the natural environment and give it a 'natural' finish.

Challenge

The construction schedule of the works had to be very flexible, owing to the changing weather conditions at such high altitudes. Even in the summer, more than 2m of snow fell at the site.

Solution

The dedicated WALO's team experience of working with their highly specialised equipment at high altitudes in all kinds of weather, meant that the asphalt lining works finished on time after an intensive four month period, despite the challenges.

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PRESS OFFICE CONTACT

For all media enquiries, further case studies, requests for photographs or interviews with WALO UK Ltd Managing Director David Wilson, please contact:

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For more information about WALO UK, go to
www.walo.co.uk