

New Offices for a New Era



Accord Lift Services was conceived way back in 1983 and initially offered its services to larger lift company's; they were recognised for their skills in providing 'high level' technical support, particularly in fault resolution scenarios.

The support service quickly developed into a complete lift service aimed directly at clients of the lift industry; the business grew steadily, mainly through recommendation into one of the leading privately owned independent UK Lift Companies.

Their success in the market place attracted the attention of the CNIM Group, a major player in the fields of Transportation, Energy, Environment, Defence and Aerospace; the Paris based group acquired ownership of Accord Lift Services in June 2006.

Accord continued to develop under their new French owner's right up until February 2010, when they were acquired by the 'well respected' Schindler Group.

Schindler quickly recognised the fact that further investment in Accord would really accelerate the company to the highest echelons of the UK Independent sector; they decided to start by commissioning the complete refurbishment of the office building in Ash, near Sevenoaks in Kent.

The task of organising and managing the refurbishment works was placed in the capable hands of Nicola Sims, who normally deals with HR and acts as PA to Nigel

Bennett (Chairman) and Liam Raftery (Managing Director).

Nicola set about planning a scheme that would not only demonstrate the value that Schindler place in their new acquisition but also the value they place in 'state of the art' facilities for their Clients and staff. Nicola said: "We decided that a new Reception Area should create an initial impact befitting of our status; this was very important because first impressions often stick.

"We intended that the new scheme should include improved staff welfare and training facilities along with disabled facilities; these facilities include – a kitchen breakout area for staff to relax during break times and a new garden area for staff and visitors to enjoy when the weather conditions allow.

"Additionally, the new scheme incorporates an independent suite for our specialist Transport Division (which deals with the Public Sector / Transport Sector) and two Training Facilities comprising of an area for technical training and training room for theoretical training.



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“The refurbishment works were contracted to VBO Construction and had to be carried out whilst the staff continued to work; this required a great deal of planning and co-operation from the staff as they were continually moved”.

The end result is a modern user friendly building with exceptional facilities for both staff and visitors; a facility that enables the ‘dual brand’ to be showcased to the industry and its clients.



Accord recently organised an ‘open day’, where visitors were given the opportunity to see the new facilities and at the same time meet the Management and staff. The event was hosted by Nigel Bennett and Liam Raftery along with Schindler’s Thomas Oetterli, President Europe North and East.

Nigel Bennett said: “Accord is an innovative and dynamic company. Its staff are highly motivated and dedicated and with all of these aspects combined, it is clear that Accord are a force in the UK market and will sustain Schindler’s UK growth”

Liam Raftery added: “I am extremely proud of our achievements to date, following the acquisition of Accord by Schindler. We continue to expand and develop our portfolio and further strengthen our position in the marketplace. We are proud of the refurbishment of our facilities and are delighted with the end result”.

Finally, Thomas Oetterli said: “With the investments for refurbishment, we as Schindler wanted to demonstrate our commitment and believe in Accord’s market position. Accord will be an important contributor in Schindler Group’s success in the UK market”.



Head Office
 Unit 1, Michaels Lane, West Yoke, Ash,
 Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EP
 Tel: 01474 879 858
 Fax: 01474 874143

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