



# Press release

**AkzoNobel**  
Tomorrow's Answers Today

## **DEFENSE OPERATION VOC EMISSIONS DRAMATICALLY REDUCED WITH WATER-BASED COATINGS**

UK defense equipment maintenance site DSG Bovington has seen a dramatic reduction in VOC emissions since switching to high solids, water-based paints in 2007.

DSG (Defence Support Group) Bovington is one of a number of sites around the UK responsible for the expert maintenance, repair and upgrading of equipment for the UK's armed forces. Cutting VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions is one of the establishment's targets and progress is reviewed quarterly and annually as part of a five year strategic plan, with DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) providing guidance.

In the financial year 2006/7 Bovington, which handles track and wheeled vehicles, had a turnover of £37.3m but while this grew to £45.2m during the year 2008/9, VOC emission dropped dramatically by more than 60%.

"I was surprised and extremely pleased with the consistency of the results," commented Phil Wellstead, DSG Bovington's Business Unit Compliance Manager, whose role includes environmental, health and safety and quality management. "We have since seen the same results mirrored at Warminster, another location in our business unit, where we saw a 69% reduction in VOC emissions last month alone."

Switching to water-based from traditional solvent-based products initially caused some concern among Bovington's operators. "Water-based products have been around for some time, but not in this form," Phil added. "The high solids formula not only gave improved coverage, we found it was even slightly easier to use. It doesn't only help the environment, it helps the people too - health and safety issues are vastly reduced."

### **Safe Harbor Statement**

This press release contains statements which address such key issues as AkzoNobel's growth strategy, future financial results, market positions, product development, products in the pipeline, and product approvals. Such statements should be carefully considered, and it should be understood that many factors could cause forecasted and actual results to differ from these statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, price fluctuations, currency fluctuations, developments in raw material and personnel costs, pensions, physical and environmental risks, legal issues, and legislative, fiscal, and other regulatory measures. Stated competitive positions are based on management estimates supported by information provided by specialized external agencies. For a more comprehensive discussion of the risk factors affecting our business please see our latest Annual Report, a copy of which can be found on the company's corporate website [www.akzonobel.com](http://www.akzonobel.com).

Bovington has adopted a complete water-based solution, including primer, topcoat and degreaser, a system that has a combined VOC emission of less than 100g/litre.

Bovington began looking at water based technologies as part of its ISO 14001 commitment to continuous business improvement. A number of coatings brands were looked at before the organization selected AkzoNobel's Intergard® to meet the operation's needs. Now 92% of the paints at Bovington are AkzoNobel's water-based products.



Rob Walker of AkzoNobel (left) with Coatings Operators at DSG Bovington with two of the vehicles coated in Intergard® from AkzoNobel Aerospace Coatings – a 430 APC (Armoured Personnel Carrier) and a Bulldog.

For more information visit: [www.akzonobel.com/aerospace](http://www.akzonobel.com/aerospace)

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#### **Note to editors**

##### **About AkzoNobel**

AkzoNobel is proud to be one of the world's leading industrial companies. Based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we make and supply a wide range of paints, coatings and specialty chemicals – pro forma 2008 revenue totaled €15.4 billion. In fact, we are the largest global paints and coatings company. As a major producer of specialty chemicals we supply industries worldwide with quality ingredients for life's essentials. We think about the future, but act in the present. We're passionate about introducing new ideas and developing sustainable answers for our customers. That's why our 60,000 employees – who are based in more than 80 countries – are committed to excellence and delivering Tomorrow's Answers Today™.

##### **About AkzoNobel Aerospace Coatings**

At AkzoNobel Aerospace Coatings we strive to develop, manufacture and supply high-quality coating solutions to serve the current and future needs of the aviation industry worldwide. We are always finding ways to improve our products and provide new practical answers to customer's needs including reduced process times, technical support, enhanced protection to aircraft, and unique colors with brilliance. We think about the future, but act in the present. We're passionate about developing sustainable answers for our customers.

##### **For more information:**

[www.akzonobel.com/aerospace](http://www.akzonobel.com/aerospace)

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##### **About DSG**

The Defence Support Group was formed in April 2008 by merging ABRO and DARA, two existing bodies charged with the maintenance of land and air defense equipment respectively. DSG has a workforce of 3800 and a turnover in excess of £200m. The organization's head office is in Andover, with main sites at Catterick, Colchester, Donnington, Sealand, St Athan, Stirling, Telford and Warminster and Bovington and smaller support sites and support teams in other UK military locations.

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