

News from Kingspan

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KINGSPAN INSULATION LIGHTS THE WAY

The installation of one of the largest roof-top photovoltaic (PV) arrays in the UK on the roof of Kingspan Insulation's manufacturing facility in Pembroke is the latest testament to the company's commitment to improving the sustainability of its manufacturing operations.

5,583 m² of roof space is now covered by the Kingspan Roof PowerPanel System, which was supplied by fellow company in the Kingspan Group, Kingspan Insulated Panels. Offering a design capacity of 800KW, the System will take up the burden of electricity needed to run the site's lighting and its manufacturing lines.

This initiative is the latest in a long line of actions that have seen the business reduce the impact of its electricity usage. This started with the retrofit installation of roof lights to reduce electric lighting demand, improving the efficiency of the remaining luminaires and installing intelligent controls to cut down on demand. Electrical motors on the manufacturing lines have been replaced with energy efficient variable speed drives, compressors have been replaced with more energy efficient models and improved controls have been installed on the extraction system and compressors, which constitute two of the main energy loads on the site.

In 2008 the company installed a gas fired CHP plant which produces part of the base electrical demand of the site whilst delivering heat to the production processes. However, even after this step, the company was left importing significant amounts of grid electricity. This will now be history during daylight hours when the new photovoltaic array is delivering its carbon free power.

Spencer Murtagh, Operations Director at Kingspan Insulation commented: “The operations process will benefit from the installation of these PV panels. We had already made the production process and our lighting systems as efficient as possible, so this was the next logical step to reduce our demand from the National Grid.”

Kingspan Insulation carefully monitors energy consumption throughout the Pembridge site, by means of energy meters for gas and electricity, with increased sub-metering to monitor consumption in production areas, and this monitoring will readily provide useful information about the effectiveness of the PV array.

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Notes to Editors

A member of the fast-growing Kingspan Group plc, Kingspan Insulation produces the widest range of insulants available from any UK or Irish manufacturer. They are the market leader in the manufacture of rigid phenolic and rigid urethane insulation, and offer products for use in the industrial, commercial and housing sectors.

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Using the extensive roof space available at Kingspan Insulation's manufacturing facility in Pembridge to install one of the largest PV arrays in the UK is the latest testament to the company's commitment to improving the sustainability of its manufacturing operations.