

# Foam Engineers



Another example of a safety application. Foam used in anti-collision testing systems by Moshon Data



Thermo-formed and embossed rescue tube manufactured for the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS)

**A**s a foam fabricator operating for nearly 90 years, High Wycombe-based Foam Engineers is a specialist business with extensive expertise. It is a little known fact that our foam creations can be found on our front line in military defence vehicles, in the air supporting our commercial air-liners, improving the safety and standard of our drinking water using foam filtration technology, in our NHS hospitals as wound treatment and even assisting submarine fibre optic cable connections worldwide.

Foam Engineers is rated within the top 5% of bespoke technical foam fabricators nationwide. At the top of their game, Foam Engineers, a family run business since 1928, has a proven ability to innovate and adapt to change. From client to supplier there is evidently a lot of trust associated with Foam Engineers, our products, capability and service. With a focused and proven business model, the company provides critically relied upon foam solutions to a vast and broad number of industries.

## Who Are We – Industry Pioneers – The Culture

We exceed our customers expectations by delivering high quality bespoke products. Closely monitoring feedback and working in partnership with our customers to provide a responsive, outstanding service which ultimately makes it more attractive for our customers to do business with us. Together we find ways to adapt and change in line with our customers and markets. Working as a close-knit collaborative team, collectively we're strong, talented with a positive attitude.

### FACTS ABOUT FOAM ENGINEERS

- » 500+ foam grades for any application
- » Market leaders in design and manufacturing capabilities for foam products
- » Skilled, Qualified & Experienced workforce
- » 3D CNC cutting technology
- » UK's only fuel tank safety foam supplier and distributor.

» SPECIALIST FOAM APPLICATION

**F.E. Customers and suppliers**

- » Airbus – Mil-Spec conductive Safety foam inserts
- » GKN Aerospace – Explosion suppressant foam
- » PPG Aerospace
- » Blatchford – UK’s only lathe machined prosthetic limb manufacturer
- » NHS – Negative pressure wound therapy
- » Martin Baker Aircraft – Precise ejector seat foam
- » BAE Systems
- » Moshon Data – Vehicle impact safety foam
- » Premier Fuels – Nascar fuel tank safety foam
- » Ministry of Defence – Military vehicle safety foam
- » McLaren – Alternator protection foam
- » Continental – Fuel tank safety foam
- » Lifesavers – Industry recognised thermo-formed products
- » Zotefoams – A World Leader in Cellular Materials Technology
- » ACC Shipping – Global Transport Solutions.

**F.E. Accreditations**

- » ISO 9001 Accreditation
- » Approved supplier to Airbus, GKN aerospace, PPG aerospace, Martin Baker aircraft & BAE Systems
- » UK Government recognised outstanding manufacturing company
- » Approved Zotefoams convertor

“Critically relied upon foam solutions to a vast and broad number of industries”

Continually inspired, shaped and developed from more than 90 years experience

Based in Buckinghamshire, Foam Engineers originally manufactured metal seat springs in a thriving furniture town. It’s these historical roots which meant the company was amongst the first to become involved in the fabrication of cellular plastic foams which were invented in the 1950s. Being pioneers in the early days of foam means that today the company retains its uniqueness: an open-minded and adventurous culture with the business and a passion for developing and providing innovative foam designs and solutions.

Perceived by the competition

We are often referred to by our competition as the ‘fuel tank safety

guys’. It’s no wonder considering our prolonged contribution to this specialised market, being the UK’s only supplier of military specification anti-explosion suppressant fuel tank safety foam. Our innovation lies in using existing cutting techniques by finding new ways to create complex and intricate shapes.

A story of niche marketing

Foam is a very versatile material as Matt Wright, Head of Technical Sales, is keen to point out. With a background in design and engineering, Matt explains that there is no limit to the uses for foam products. For instance, in recent years, Foam Engineers has been contracted by Alcatel Submarine Networks, which lays cables under sea beds.

Technology and the future

Our manufacturing strategy and business improvement plan going forward will harness the company’s strengths and enable us to take advantage of opportunities in new industries and further expansion within the existing technical market.

To drive this, we’ve invested in cutting-edge equipment at our High Wycombe facility. Bringing a combination of the latest CNC and automated machinery into our work shop, our capabilities can now accommodate all designs and development no matter how complicated.

We’ve mastered CAD software which we now use to our advantage with a team of professionals that can work in tandem with our equipment making the whole process more seamless.

The Core – The Factory – The Team

Foam Engineers is a dynamic and agile manufacturing company and at the core of our business is the factory and ultimately the team.

Manufacturing is forever changing and our factory has always adapted to these changes: Our dedication is to further develop a multi-skilled, knowledge-based workforce, capable of producing variable high quality work content in order to create the flexibility to respond effectively in line with our customer's requirements and expectations.

## Growth and expansion

A beneficial arm of support, Foam Engineers has made extensive use of the UK Government's Research and Development Tax Credit Scheme. MD and company owner, James Wiles explains: 'The scheme has encouraged the company to embark on many projects which would otherwise have been considered too risky. Being less risk averse has given us the confidence to innovate and develop new ideas and has eliminated the hesitancy identified with smaller businesses, allowing us to grow, expand and think bigger when bringing new products to market'

Our staff have also embraced the influx of new technologies such as CAD, enthusiastically undertaking the necessary training. Not only do these investments give us greater customer capabilities, but they also demonstrate a willingness to embrace new innovations and refine existing processes.

## Adopting a global outlook – Predicting an optimistic future

Adhering strictly to technical excellence and precision engineering means the company has been able to take on business on a global scale, this has created many of today's opportunities. Winning contracts in security sensitive industries has obviously enhanced the company's credibility which is critical for our business.



Ferrari F40 fuel bladders incorporating Military Specification Anti Explosion Safety Foam by Premier Fuel Systems Ltd

The modern day Foam Engineers, with a team of skilled and dedicated technicians, is embracing a bright and positive future. Every member of our team can confidently describe themselves as experts in an industry where art matters as much as the science.

Underpinning our present and future success is our secure and long-standing partnerships with material suppliers around the world. From our UK base, we have instant, exclusive and reliable access to global foam producing experts, from the USA to mainland Europe. These partnerships are increasingly important in a chain of diverse supply ultimately manufacturing end user product quality.

We've managed to be innovative in a highly competitive sector, and see each new customer as a further endorsement of what we do. This is especially pleasing considering our products are mostly safety-related; designed to assist, protect and help the end user. Many people are dependent on what we are able to create and rely on the quality we strive to achieve. This we take very seriously.

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