

X NEWS

NO.2 2021 | THEME: MACHINE SAFETY | A MAGAZINE FROM THE AXELENT GROUP

We know machine safety

A sustainable future

Continual improvement and smart solutions are key

The people behind the door

Join the journey and see how a new door becomes reality

Invest in safety

A guide to machinery directives & standards

X NEWS

A MAGAZINE FROM
THE AXELENT GROUP

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OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE IN TURBULENT TIMES

The year is drawing to a close, and, looking back on 2021, we remember a year that was initially marked by uncertainty due to the pandemic. So, it now comes as a huge relief that, as we sum up the past year and look forward to 2022, we can do so with considerable confidence.

However, the pandemic is still not over, and here at Axelent we continue to persevere and take the measures needed to put everyone's health first. The year has brought a gradual easing of restrictions, and finally we have all been able to gather safely under the same roof again. Meeting up with each other and our customers has given us all a much needed energy boost!

We can see that a lot of things are starting to return, trade fairs being one such example. On page 7 you can read how our colleagues in Germany and Italy once again got to show off our products and acquire new contacts at trade fairs in their respective countries.

THE HIGH PRICE OF STEEL and difficulties in obtaining materials for the production processes have been major challenges over the past year. Times like these serve to highlight the importance of good relationships with suppliers. Our good working relationships and a common willingness to find solutions have enabled us to continuously supply our production processes with materials.

When it comes to the steel price, there is reason to be optimistic for continuing positive trends in 2022.

Despite the challenges that we and industry in general face, we can look back on a year of solid growth – better than we had dared hope for! This is largely due to a strong upward trend in these final months of the year. It makes it easy to be optimistic as we look ahead!

ON PAGE 4, you can read more about Axelent's work on sustainability –

“Sustainability will play an even greater part in our future customer offering.”

something that is very close to our hearts. We have been investing in wind power for many years, and more recently we have also invested in solar cells for our properties. We have also worked hard on achieving a circular energy flow in our production processes. It is simply a matter of drawing the greatest benefit from the energy that is in the building and reusing it.

Sustainability will play an even greater part in our future customer offering.

YOU CAN READ about the people behind our smart products on page 14. For us, flexibility is at the heart of our products; our goal is to always offer the customer the solution that suits them best. A safe workplace improves the working environment and, by extension, efficiency.

FINALLY, I would like to wish you all a successful end to 2021 and a very prosperous new year, with all the opportunities it may bring!

Amanda Hilding
CEO, Axelent AB

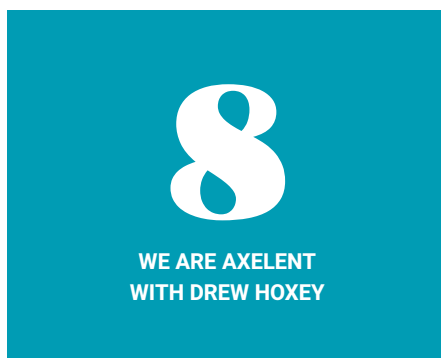


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THEME: MACHINE SAFETY

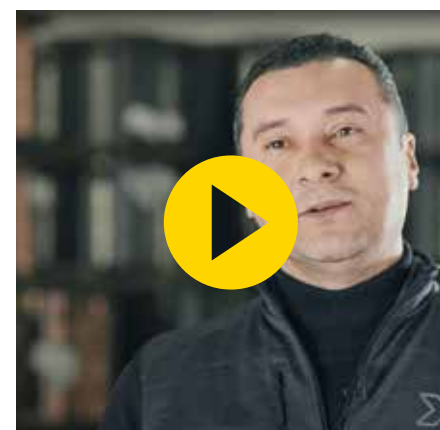
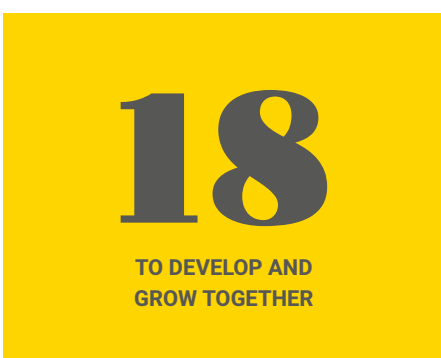
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Social media

From LinkedIn, @AxelentGroup

Is it possible to still be passionate about your job after 25 years within the same company? Our Production Manager Dejan Elezovic is a living example that it is.



Follow us on social media!



Towards a sustainable future

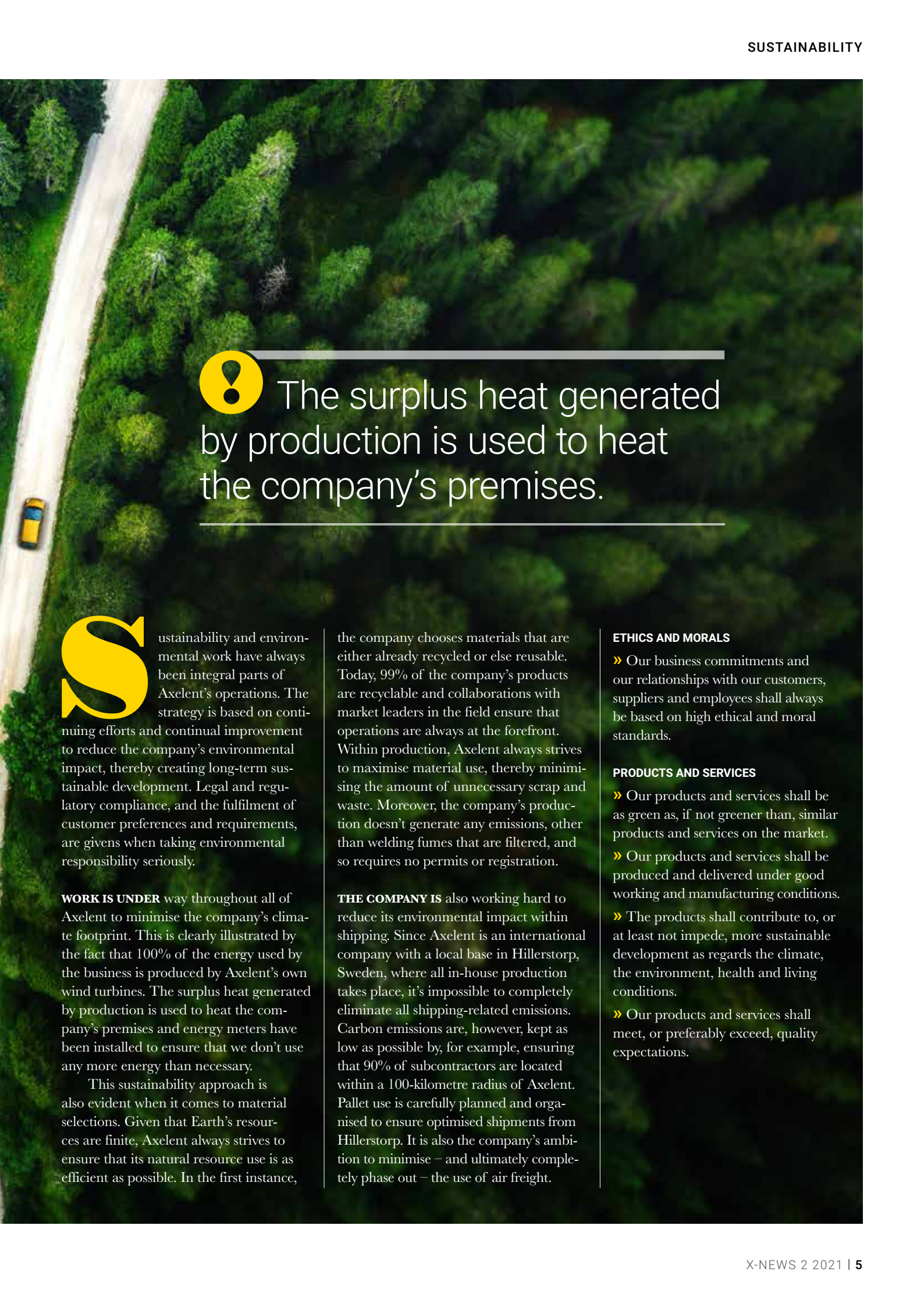
Continual improvement and smart solutions are central to Axelent's sustainability work. With a strategy entailing continual development and renewal, the company aims to reduce its environmental impact in all areas of operations.



90 percent of Axelent's subcontractors are located within a radius of 100 km



99 percent of Axelent's products are recyclable



! The surplus heat generated by production is used to heat the company's premises.

Sustainability and environmental work have always been integral parts of Axelent's operations. The strategy is based on continuing efforts and continual improvement to reduce the company's environmental impact, thereby creating long-term sustainable development. Legal and regulatory compliance, and the fulfilment of customer preferences and requirements, are givens when taking environmental responsibility seriously.

WORK IS UNDER way throughout all of Axelent to minimise the company's climate footprint. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that 100% of the energy used by the business is produced by Axelent's own wind turbines. The surplus heat generated by production is used to heat the company's premises and energy meters have been installed to ensure that we don't use any more energy than necessary.

This sustainability approach is also evident when it comes to material selections. Given that Earth's resources are finite, Axelent always strives to ensure that its natural resource use is as efficient as possible. In the first instance,

the company chooses materials that are either already recycled or else reusable. Today, 99% of the company's products are recyclable and collaborations with market leaders in the field ensure that operations are always at the forefront. Within production, Axelent always strives to maximise material use, thereby minimising the amount of unnecessary scrap and waste. Moreover, the company's production doesn't generate any emissions, other than welding fumes that are filtered, and so requires no permits or registration.

THE COMPANY IS also working hard to reduce its environmental impact within shipping. Since Axelent is an international company with a local base in Hillerstorp, Sweden, where all in-house production takes place, it's impossible to completely eliminate all shipping-related emissions. Carbon emissions are, however, kept as low as possible by, for example, ensuring that 90% of subcontractors are located within a 100-kilometre radius of Axelent. Pallet use is carefully planned and organised to ensure optimised shipments from Hillerstorp. It is also the company's ambition to minimise – and ultimately completely phase out – the use of air freight.

ETHICS AND MORALS

» Our business commitments and our relationships with our customers, suppliers and employees shall always be based on high ethical and moral standards.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

» Our products and services shall be as green as, if not greener than, similar products and services on the market.

» Our products and services shall be produced and delivered under good working and manufacturing conditions.

» The products shall contribute to, or at least not impede, more sustainable development as regards the climate, the environment, health and living conditions.

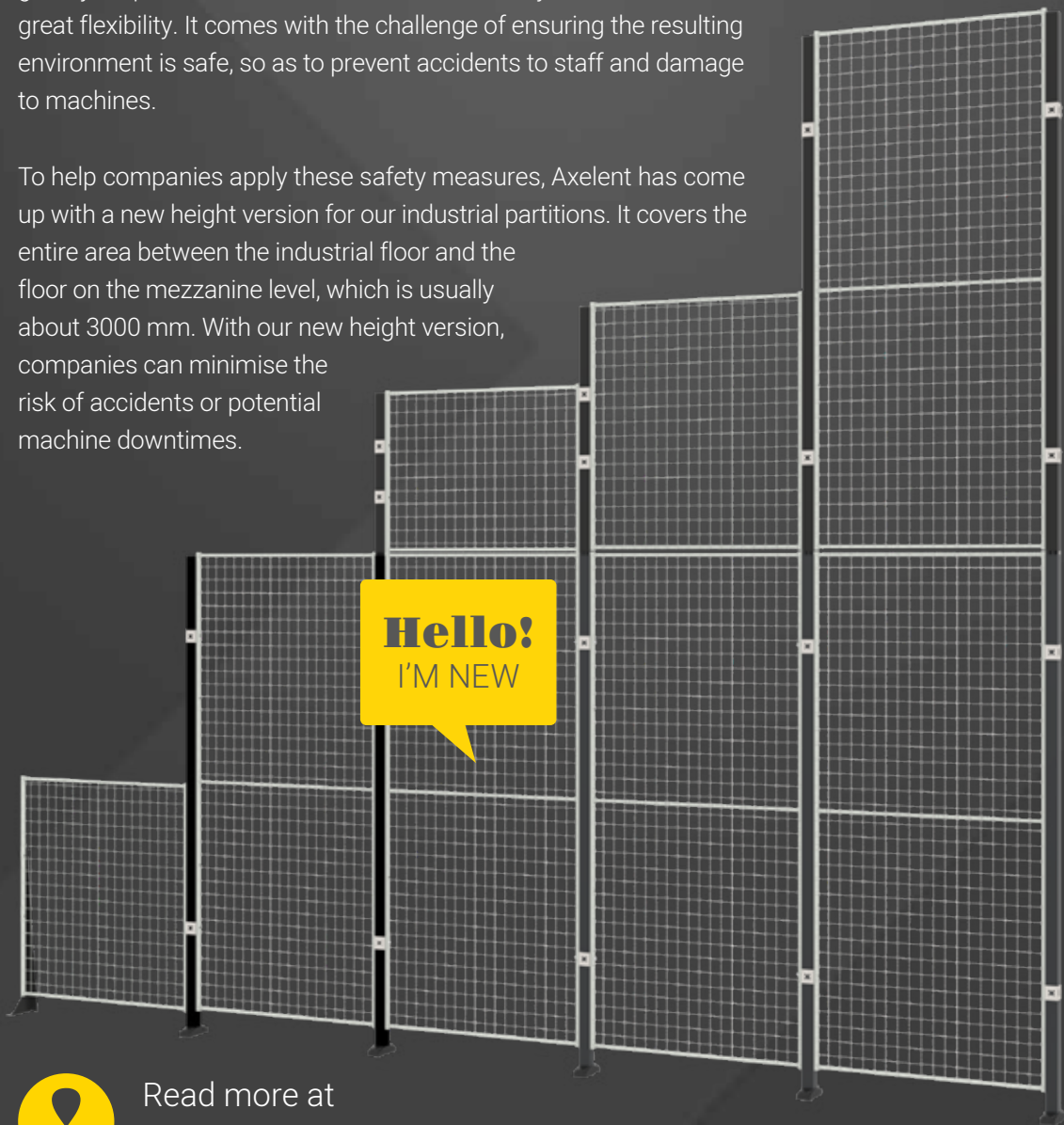
» Our products and services shall meet, or preferably exceed, quality expectations.

X-STORE

Our warehouse partitions are now available in an additional height version

Many companies suffer from lack of space but still need to increase their storage area. To address this, they often choose to invest in a mezzanine level – an efficient and economical solution. A mezzanine gives your premises an extra floor; it can be easily extended and has great flexibility. It comes with the challenge of ensuring the resulting environment is safe, so as to prevent accidents to staff and damage to machines.

To help companies apply these safety measures, Axelent has come up with a new height version for our industrial partitions. It covers the entire area between the industrial floor and the floor on the mezzanine level, which is usually about 3000 mm. With our new height version, companies can minimise the risk of accidents or potential machine downtimes.



Read more at

WWW.AXELENT.COM

The world of Axelent



WITH THE SUN AS MOTIVE POWER

We are proud to announce that Axelent is once again the main sponsor of JU Solar Team. The team consists of students from Jönköping University (JU). Together, they are building a car from scratch that is powered by solar energy alone. Using their car, they will then compete against other colleges/universities around the world in several races.

JU Solar Team wants to be part of the development of the fuel of the future with the help of the largest renewable natural source – the sun!

Stefan Axelsson, co-owner of Axelent, is in full agreement and tells us: “Renewable energy is close to Axelent’s heart. Over the years, Axelent has invested in wind power to match our electricity consumption. When we built new premises for Axelent Safe-X, they were equipped with 800 solar panels as a further contribution to a sustainable energy supply.

All the members of the team involved in the solar car are highly motivated and skilled in their particular areas of expertise. We are delighted to have this opportunity to get to know them and hope that we can continue our collaboration after they have graduated.”

EXHIBITIONS



AXELENT GERMANY ATTENDED MOTEK 2021 IN STUTT GART

Following a one-year break due to the pandemic, the Motek exhibition finally opened its doors once more on October 5th, before coming to a close three days later.

Axelent Germany had home field advantage at Motek in Stuttgart. The exhibition was held close to the office, only a few minutes away by car. It marked the 14th time that Axelent participated in the exhibition, the first time was 2007.

The new X-Rail was prominently featured at the stand, together with X-Guard and the services of Axelent ProfiServices. The exhibition was very well attended, and the team really enjoyed their time at Motek as they presented Axelent and had qualitative exchanges with the attendees, customers and potential customers.

AXELENT ITALY PRESENT AT EXHIBITION IN BRESCIA

In September, Axelent Italy was present at the Brescia Industrial Exhibition (BIE). Our X-Guard polycarbonate protections have been chosen and exhibited in the stand of Prisma Sas, a company specialized in the automation sector and with which we have started a partnership born from the desire to respond to customer needs and integrate their ideas in the best possible way.

The presence at the exhibition was of fundamental importance. An opportunity to restart in the right way and with the right determination.



We are Axelent



Drew Hoxey

Having never had a formal interview it was quite a daunting experience, after a few minutes of stumbling I spoke up and confessed to Stefan that this was my first interview, on which he looked at me then looked down at my CV and asked how I had ended up with my previous roles. I explained, got the job and made my way up in the role and company.

HOW DID YOUR JOURNEY AT AXELENT BEGIN AND HOW HAVE YOUR CAREER AT THE COMPANY DEVELOPED FROM THAT TIME?

In November 2014, I was recommended to Axelent and went to an interview at the old office with Stefan Axelsson (one of the owners from Sweden) and our previous Director.

Having never had a formal interview it was quite a daunting experience, after a few minutes of stumbling I spoke up and confessed to Stefan that this was my first interview, on which he looked at me then looked at my CV and asked how I had ended up with my previous roles.

I explained, got the job and made my way up in the role and company.

I joined the team in January 2015 as a Business development Manager for VIC NSW and QLD (states in Australia), at the time I was travelling once a month and rotating around the states. Soon it became obvious that this wasn't enough, and more was needed and started travelling every few weeks.

When our Director decided to leave in September 2016, I was asked to become the new one, this was a huge step up but I knew I was up to the challenge. I produced a 5-year plan and showed it to Stefan and his words were "make it work then".

I am glad to say that due to the amazing team we have we have managed to "make it work" and have opened a first-class facility here in Adelaide which was opened in August 2018. We are now looking at getting a rep in QLD as well as expanding the team locally to support the orders coming in.

6

YEARS AT AXELENT

YOU HAVE BEEN AT AXELENT FOR QUITE SOME TIME – CAN YOU SHARE AN AXELENT MEMORY WITH US?

I have been with Axelent for over 6 years now and to share only one story is not easy, so here a couple.

I remember being told that Axelent is a family business and you are a person not just a number. It's one thing to hear this, but to have an owner on the other side of the world that remembers all of the staff's names no matter what role they have is impressive let alone the fact he has rolled

We are Axelent



up his sleeves and helped the team, from unloading contains on a 46-degree day, to setting up racking, to packing an order is amazing.

Going to Sweden to Axelent HQ for a sales meeting, this was an amazing experience to sit with colleagues from all over the world discussing everything and receive the sales training. Going through the factory understanding the processes as well as how it all works along with the vision of the future. I could honestly talk all day about the great memories so far

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE AN ORDINARY DAY AT WORK?

No two days are the same, we are a close net team, so we speak every day due to some of the team being split all over the country. Chasing new customers, doing designs as well as site visits and digital meetings.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I class myself as a very lucky person as I love my job and also working within an amazing team. Watching the company and team grow is the best feeling as well

“ I class myself as a very lucky person as I love my job and also working within an amazing team.

DREW HOXEY, AXELENT AUSTRALIA

as selling a great product that you not only like but also completely believe in is amazing.

I try to make sure that we all leave work happier than we arrived. Everyone in the team does an amazing job and we all know that others depend on us so this drives us.

WHAT IS MOST CHALLENGING FOR YOU IN YOUR JOB?

Most challenging part for me especially during COVID-19 is trying to keep the team connected and feeling a true member of the team.

WHAT CHARACTERIZES A TYPICAL AXELENT-PERSON?

My description of a typical Axelent person, would have to be a person who always puts the customer first, always works as a team knowing that as a team we will always win. Also, that no matter who gets enquiry, or the order, who packs the order or ships it we are nothing without each other.

Tips from the experts

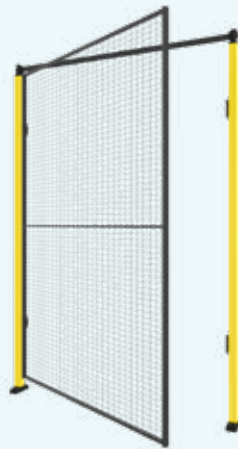
CHOOSE THE RIGHT DOOR WITH THE HELP OF OUR GUIDE

There are several aspects to bear in mind when it comes to choosing a door. Choosing the right door allows you to restrict access to a defined area by selecting a lock or safety switch. You can also ensure that the door does not pose a hazard to people in the vicinity and that there is no risk of collision or getting trapped.

WE HAVE GARNERED expertise from within our organisation about the main factors to consider when choosing a door. You can view the results on our website. We will be presenting all our doors with an accompanying installation video.

First up is our single hinged door. In the vast majority of cases, it is used as an ordinary through door or emergency exit, but it can also be used for handling materials. Its simple function, reliability

and affordable price mean that in many cases the hinged door will be the natural first choice. For routing cables to locks, switches and other equipment, we obviously want to strike a blow for our custom X-Tray for X-Guard.



Sven Toftgård

PRODUCT MANAGER
MESH WALLS



Daniel Filipsson

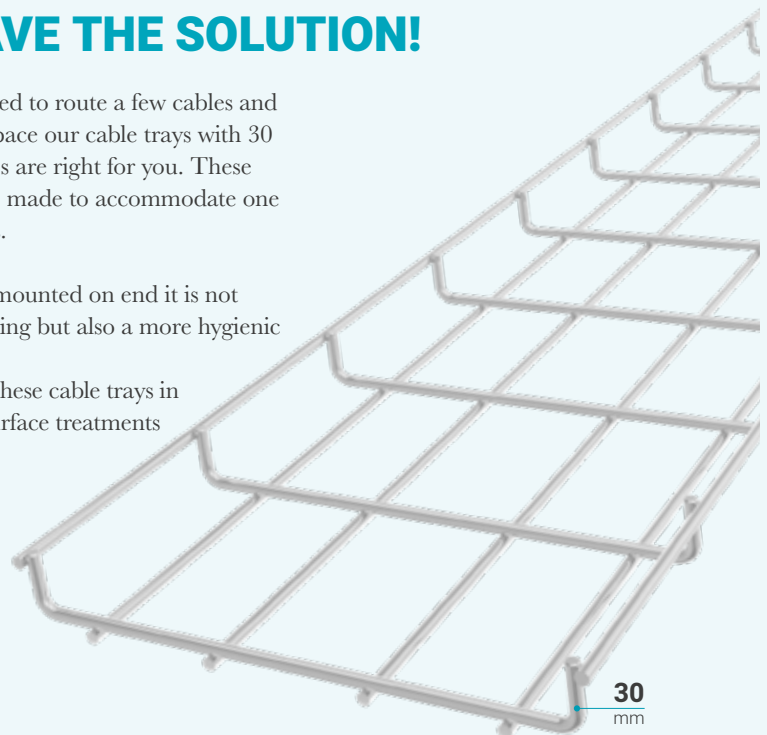
PRODUCT MANAGER
CABLE TRAYS

SHORT ON SPACE? WE HAVE THE SOLUTION!

If you only need to route a few cables and are short on space our cable trays with 30 mm high edges are right for you. These cable trays are made to accommodate one layer of cables.

IF THEY ARE mounted on end it is not only space-saving but also a more hygienic installation.

We have these cable trays in all sizes and surface treatments in stock.





OUR USER-FRIENDLY DRAWING APPLICATION SNAPPERWORKS

Thanks to Axelent's in-house developed, user-friendly drawing application SnapperWorks, our customers enables to get a quick layout drawing of for example X-Guard. At the same time that you draw the machine guard you can also choose to get a drawing which includes our cable trays (X-Tray for X-Guard).



everything is prepared so that you can only click, drag and get a complete drawing with all the parts you need.

IT IS THAT simple and quick to get an overview of what you need and what your mesh panel system will look like. The drawing can then be used as an order basis.



THE BENEFITS OF SNAPPERWORKS ARE MANY

- » It is tailored to Axelent's modules and contains all our mesh panel, machine safety systems and cablemanagement
- » It is easy to learn
- » The program enables you to import DWG and DXF files and draw, for instance, panels straight onto the drawing.
- » From specified lengths you can let the program configure the most economical panel layout.
- » It quickly provides you with a complete drawing including material specifications.

Did you know?

- » SnapperWorks is made by Axelent = We support you from our office
- » Every month 1800 STEP-files generates out of SnapperWorks = 21 600 / year
- » We have about 1700 licenses all over the world
- » We update the program twice per year with new features
- » Webupdates with new products
- » The drawing can be used as an order basis

Keep up with the Axelent Group

Be sure to check out our YouTube channel, AxellentGroup. You can also access all videos from the news feed at our website. You will find a variety of topics from all of the Axelent Group. Below are a few samples of recent videos.



Demonstration video
Portable panels is a flexible system when you need to divide spaces or people



Product launch video
X-It Electric – lock for a safe warehouse storage



Installation video
Single Hinge Door – The natural first choice of passage door



Installation video
Single Sliding Door – Suitable in spaces with lack of space



Axelent Safety

Q&A

IS IT REQUIRED THAT ACCESS DOORS IN SAFETY FENCING ALWAYS OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE?

This is not required directly in generic safety standards or the Machinery Directive. However, EN 528 for rail dependent storage and retrieval equipment requires this.

In building construction this also is a requirement; doors in escape routes must always open toward the safe area (generally out from a hazardous area or the out from the building).

FOR MACHINERY THIS is a part of the risk assessment. Consider the following:

- » Is it possible to walk into and inside the machine or system? If a person could stay inside the fenced-in area, he/she could be endangered in there.
- » Are there permanent hazards inside the fenced-in area or could a hazard come up while a person is inside? In many cases this cannot be completely excluded; even when machinery has been shut down, maintenance work may cause hazard, forcing a person to leave the fenced-in area quickly.
- » If the doors in a safety fence may thus be considered escape doors, they should open to the outside. And even more importantly: If the door is held closed by a guard

” Doors in escape routes must always open toward the safe area.

lock that prevents opening, a so-called “escape release”, it must be fitted to allow opening the door from inside at any time.

BUT WHAT TO do, if there is no space to allow the door to open to the outside? Then there must be enough space inside the hazard zone to open the door safely and quickly toward the inside.

Plan for an escape route width of at least 650 mm (better 800 to 1000 mm). If it's not possible for space constraints, you will need to install equipment allowing safe detection of persons inside the hazard zone. Such equipment must switch any hazard off when persons are detected inside (pressure-sensitive mats, laser scanners, etc.).



Matthias Schulz

Matthias Schulz is an independent machine safety consultant with 25 years of experience cooperating in a joint venture with Axelent in Sweden and Germany.

Matthias is the author of our popular Safety Book that guides you through laws, regulations, EU directives, requirements and certifications.



Are you interested in a copy?

Contact your local sales representative.



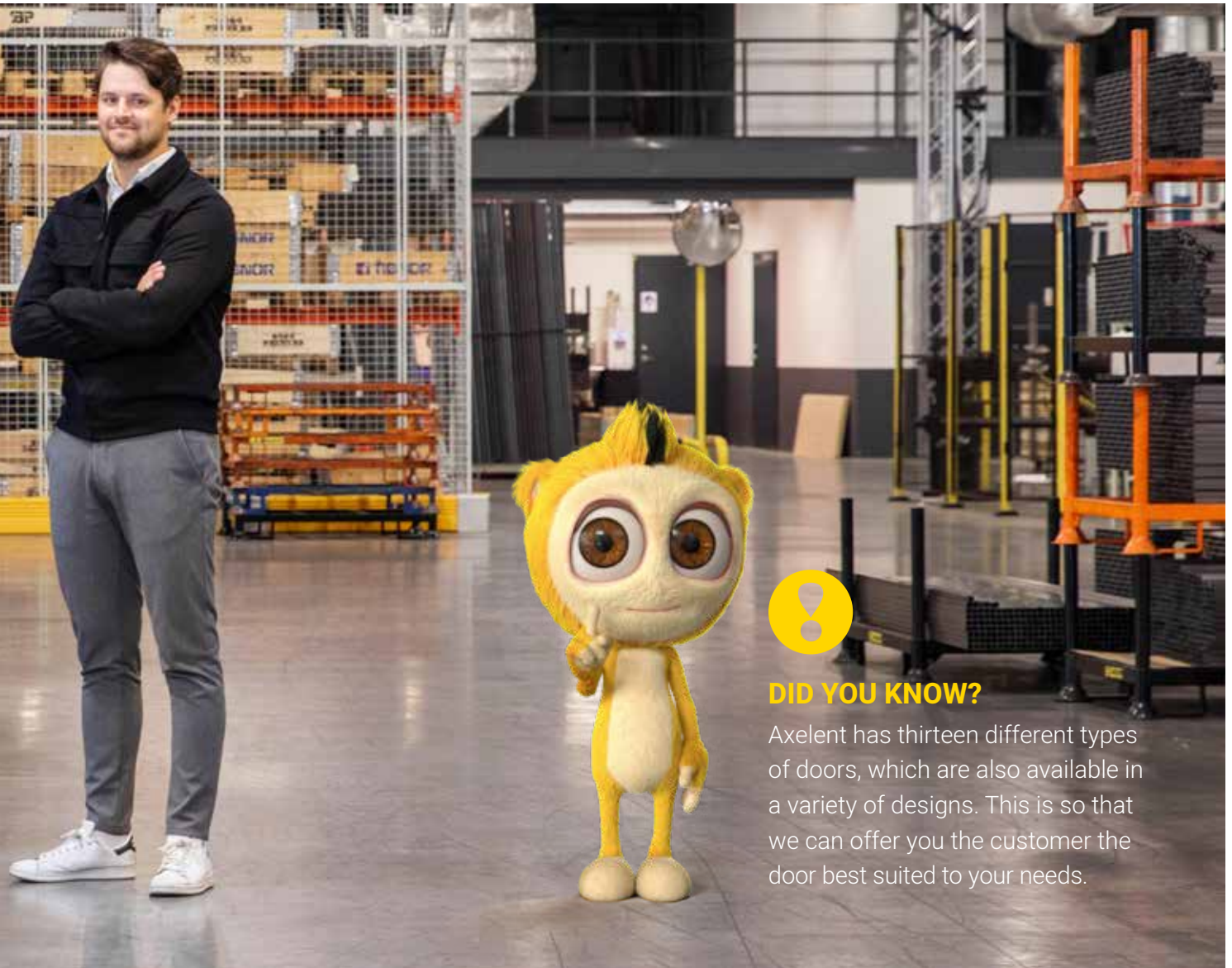
Visit our Safety Hub to get more knowledge about machine safety!





The people behind the door

Axelent's innovation is based on good ideas and simple thinking. Join the journey and see how a new door becomes reality and the people behind the door.



DID YOU KNOW?

Axelent has thirteen different types of doors, which are also available in a variety of designs. This is so that we can offer you the customer the door best suited to your needs.

Doors are very basic, really. There is a range of standard doors and they work according to different basic principles and you can modify and combine different components to solve the customer's problems.

When we receive an inquiry, this is the first thing we do - check what is in the product portfolio and see if we can adapt what we already have, says Sven Toftgård, Product Manager at Axelent in Sweden.

THE GOAL IS to be able to do as much as possible with as few parts as possible:

"Our mindset about doors - and everything we do - is that it should be module-based, a bit like Lego. The secret is to have few but good building blocks that we can then combine in different ways to

solve customers' problems and challenges", says Sven.

INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL IDEAS

How wishes and ideas are generated is a little different from case to case. Sometimes it comes from the sales person who have direct contact with the customers, sometimes through retailers or our subsidiaries worldwide, who then turn to the head office with their challenge.

"It varies a bit how deep knowledge the customers has about our products. Many machine suppliers deliver a complete solution including machine protection.

And sometimes you come out to a site with an old machine that now needs to be repaired, either if it has an older machine protection that needs to be updated or if it has no machine safety at all. They may not have enough knowledge and then we have

to take on a bigger role", says Simon Palm, salesman at Axelent.

AXELENT HAS A relatively new R&D department that processes and develops new product ideas, either according to customers' wishes or based on their own head - usually the former.

"Either we have a problem to solve or a need to fill. The first thing we ask ourselves is: which one is it?" says Emma Sundelius, Product Development Manager at Axelent HQ.

The ideas are further developed and taken to the test stage, where you look at prototypes or models to see if it works as intended. Then we do further design in CAD programs on a computer.

The actual testing can take place either in-house or at an external test lab when required. How much the customer ▶

is involved during the actual development and testing phase varies.

” We really like to have a dialogue and work with customers, and we see it as a great benefit. We have worked with some customers for a long time. They have the same drive and development passion as us, which makes everything much more fun and at the end, the result is better because they have experience from the reality”, says Emma Sundelius.

BEING CLOSE IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT

Somewhere in the process - sometimes early, sometimes late – our purchasing

department is also involved, to coordinate and plan how components should be purchased.

”We get involved in the components of a door, when it comes to the products that we ourselves can't manufacture. How we work differs and also when we get involved in the process. When developing simpler products, we become involved later in the process. For more complex products, we come in earlier in the process and then we choose a supplier at an early stage.

When we develop a product together with a supplier it's important for us to be involved, so that it will be optimally adapted to

” When we develop a product together with a supplier it's important for us to be involved, so that it will be optimally adapted to production and at the right costs.

JIM SUNDGREN, PURCHASING MANAGER



production and at the right costs”, says Jim Sundgren, Purchasing Manager at Axelent HQ.

ONE THING THAT has become even more obvious during the pandemic is how important it is for Axelent to have suppliers in the immediate area:

”Using national suppliers is a great advantage, not least with the current imbalance and lack of capacity that prevails in the transport industry. We have very short lead times with suppliers in Sweden and we cooperate largely with local suppliers. This gives us great flexibility and high delivery security. If we have quality problems or if we want to make a change of a product, we can fix this immediately. These are factors that we value very highly”, says Jim Sundgren.

SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT CAN BECOME PERMANENT

A new customer-unique solution meets that customer's needs and solves the

” You should not install a door with a larger opening than you need.

SIMON PALM, SALES



challenges and problems that have existed there and then. If it is really successful, it can then very well find its way into the range and become standard. A good example of this is the combined hinge and sliding door.

”A customer in the mechanical engineering industry came to us with a challenge. They had lack of space and needed a door solution that created a large opening. But it could not take up much space when it was open, which is a classic dilemma when installing doors. In this case, they could not have a top rail either. So the challenge became; large opening, no rail and no large door leaves that were in the way. There we managed to create a hybrid, a combination of hinge and sliding door so that they could push the door leaves together.

It became such a successful solution

” Either we have a problem to solve or a need to fill. The first thing we ask ourselves is: which one is it?

EMMA SUNDELIUS, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

that it is now available as a standard solution at Axelent”, says Sven Toftgård.

FROM THE CUSTOMER’S point of view, what are the most important parameters to consider before choosing a door?

”It is the area you have available and that the door won’t cause any risk, such as a collision when it’s opened. You should not install a door with a larger opening than you need. And last but not least, we

have the safety around the door: Which lock should be added to the door? Do you need a switch? And in that case, maybe even cable trays”, says Simon Palm.

TO HELP YOU choose the right door for the right occasion, we have produced some films and articles where we highlight the uniqueness of each door. All parts of this campaign will be published on our news page - Do not miss this in the future!

Yaskawa & WEMO Automation

To develop and grow together

Building long-term relationships with customers requires more than just a good product, it takes trust, compromising – and an important ingredient when doing business is that you are able to have fun together.

Axelent's customer base includes both the large multinational companies that do business on a global scale as well as the smaller family-run companies with a more local character. Even though the business areas may differ, there are a few common denominators. In addition to a fundamental interest in machine protection and safety, the personal touch and an understanding of the customers' unique needs and challenges play a crucial role. Many companies that decide to try Axelent's products once have also become repeat customers and good friends.

TWO OF THE companies that have been with Axelent for a long time are Yaskawa and WEMO Automation. They are global companies in the robotics and automation industry with registered offices in Sweden in Småland, not too far from Hillerstorp.

The Nordic branch of the global giant Yaskawa, whose Swedish branch originally went by the name Motoman, was founded in the 1970s and is based in Torsås, about 40 kilometres south of Kalmar. The company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots, electric servomotors and control systems, and builds turnkey solutions for its customers. This work requires the use of mesh panel sections, posts and cable trays, all of which



are purchased from Axelent.

"Our relationship has always been characterised by a healthy amount of give and take. I think, in many respects, we have grown together since we started our collaboration in 2004", says Anders Ullström, Strategic Sourcing Manager at Yaskawa Nordic.

IN VÄRNAMO, you will find the head office and main factory for the WEMO Group, a company that was founded in 1987 by brothers Sven, Bengt and Olof Ståhl and which is today regarded as one of the leading manufacturers of linear robots

and automation equipment for the plastics industry. Sven Ståhl holds a similar view of the company's collaboration with Axelent, which has been going on since 1992.

"The most important reason the relationship has worked so well for 28 years is that we have always had a mutual understanding for each other, which has allowed us to find a solution that is good for our customers. This has allowed us to grow together, even though their journey has a completely different dimension than ours", says Sven. He reflects that during the journey, they have had to overcome a lot of challenges, largely because WEMO is so



different from Axelent's 'regular' customers in the sense that they use Axelent's products in their own package solutions for end customers – but with customised measurements, custom colours and under their own brand. WEMO also buys items in bulk which they then warehouse themselves.

“We have not always been the easiest customer, since we have had so many requests and questions. But we have somehow been able to find a good compromise and managed to find that happy medium that has benefited us both and helped us grow. I think it's about being able to see things from each other's perspectives to see how the wishes of both parties can be harmonised”.

FOR YASKAWA'S PART, the collaboration started with the purchase of loose mesh sections and posts, something that soon led to orders for complete machinery protection systems. Given that each and every system is unique in its design, there are high demands placed on drawings that match different angles and outlets for tracks and doors.

“Here, we have always seen Axelent as a strong company. They are fast and service-oriented, and they have helped us with layout drawings when needed. They have also been responsive to our ideas and adapted to a large extent according to our

” Our relationship has always been characterised by a healthy amount of give and take.

ANDERS ULLSTRÖM, STRATEGIC SOURCING MANAGER, YASKAWA NORDIC

requests and requirements which, of course, we see as very positive”, says Anders.

And it is precisely this speed and the solution-oriented approach that Sven sees as two of Axelent's greatest strengths.

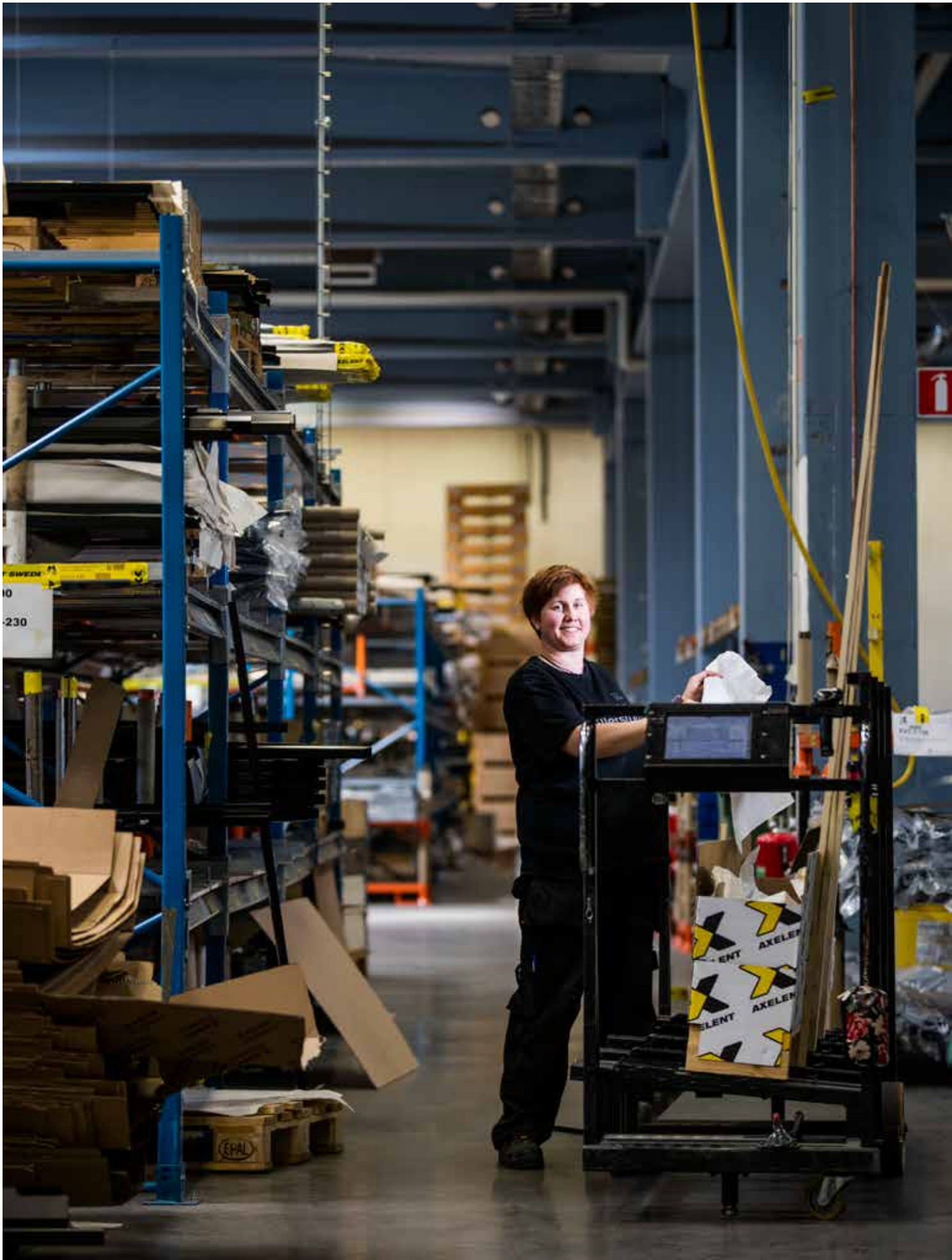
“Besides the fact that we like their products, it is probably their responsiveness and speed that we value most. Their speed is sort of their signature, both in terms of customer communication and delivery. Their other strengths are that they are strategically competent in their entire approach and they are able to read what the market is looking for”.

IN MANY CASES, Axelent's customer relationships have led to a mutual exchange that has opened the door to new business opportunities between the seller and the customer. One example is Yaskawa, who have performed a variety of tests on Axelent's products over the years. Axelent have purchased complementary products for their mesh partitions from WEMO, which are now part of the current range, as well as robots for Axelent Engineering.

“It's about showing that helping each other is a two-way street. They help us develop our products, and we help them refine theirs. And even though views on machinery protection vary around the world, I always promote Axelent so that more of our branches take a look at their products”, says Anders.

AXELENT'S ABILITY TO maintain long-term partnerships with their customers requires more than reliability and understanding. It is also about building good relationships on a more personal level.

“One extremely important ingredient when doing business is that you are able to have fun together – and we have always been able to do that with Axelent. This is when the smartest solutions come about and the end results are the best. I won't go into everything we have come up with together, but we have certainly had fun”, laughs Sven.



INVEST IN SAFETY THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS

For companies in the industrial sector, it is important to work continuously to improve safety for the employees. In this article, we give you some guidance on how to work with directives and standards in general and the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC in particular.

Elimination of hazards in a work environment is hard work, and it may be difficult due to human error and technical failures. Nonetheless, as a business leader you always have a responsibility for your employees' safety. One major factor in reducing personal injuries in workplaces is to actively ensure that work equipment meets the current machinery directive.

STAY INFORMED OF THE DIRECTIVES

The Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC concerns all new products on the EU market. The directive includes legal requirements to ensure safety, which means that machines and equipment must meet the essential requirements outlined in the directive to be placed on the market.

If machinery which does not meet the safety requirements is placed on the EU market it can:

- » Be withdrawn
- » Be prohibited on the market



For business leaders it is crucial to always be aware of the safety of their employees and equipment.

» The authorities may restrict the free circulation of that type of equipment in the market

THEREFORE, MANUFACTURERS must ensure that products meet the safety and health requirements of the directive, which can be done by applying European harmonized standards. These standards are tools which help to comply with the law when elaborating new products.

Harmonized standards listed in the EU's Official Journal are consistent with the directives. This simply implies that

if you follow the applicable standards, you have correctly applied the directive's respective requirements. Thus, you may safely CE mark the product.

For business leaders it is crucial to always be aware of the safety of their employees and equipment. It is essential to maintain a safe work environment, stay informed and updated on current legislation, EU directives, certifications, rules and requirements. An important information source is the official website of the EU. Axellent's Safety Hub will now help you to stay well updated and explains ►

many complex concepts in a down-to-earth approach.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MACHINERY DIRECTIVE 2006/42/EC?

- » To improve safety around machines with moving parts. The directive covers requirements for preventing accidents in industrial machinery.
- » It intends to harmonize the previously divergent requirements for achieving health and safety in the EU.
- » It intends to ensure the free circulation of machinery on the EU-market.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE DIRECTIVE?

Regulations and requirements of the directive apply to manufacturers of

machine and safety systems, machine distributors, importers, and users. It is applicable in the EU, the countries of the EEA and Turkey.

The machinery directive only applies to new products on the EU market and products that have been so substantially modified that they come under the requirements.

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT TO BE AWARE OF REGARDING THE DIRECTIVE?

Due to an ongoing revision process of the directive, it is crucial to constantly be updated. Particularly, the numerous standards used to detail the requirements of the directive are updated frequently.

Since 2009 the former directive

98/37/EC has been replaced by the current Machinery directive 2006/42/EC. Although the directive does not contain radical changes, it has refined some concepts and added more stringent requirements for instance concerning reliability of control systems.

In March 2021 the EU Commission published a proposal for a complete revision of the Machinery Directive, which will probably be turned into the new Machinery Regulation by 2023/2024.

ALL BUSINESSES HAVE the responsibility of creating a safe working environment for their employees, and the matter of safety should always permeate every company. Using safe machines results in a safe environment and reduces the social cost of injuries and accidents.

To us, as a manufacturer of machine protection systems, it is important to be able to offer products that meet the standards and requirements, while at the same time contributing to the growth of safety awareness and knowledge in the market. Active involvement in the development of directives and standards enable this.

WORKING WITH THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS (SIS)

SIS is part of a network that develops international standards. Here, stakeholders can take initiative in developing standardization. This increases knowledge, promotes competitiveness on the market and contributes to sustainable development of society.

SVEN TOFTGÅRD, responsible for the machine safety products at Axelent, is involved in Axelent's work with SIS.

” As a manufacturer of machinery and safety products, working with SIS gives us the possibility to constantly be one step ahead and receive information regarding new standards and possible changes at an early stage.

SVEN TOFTGÅRD,
PRODUCT MANAGER - MESH WALLS





Being a representative, you are given the opportunity to consistently take part in the development of machine safety and influence the contents of standards. Sven informs that the process of revision of the machinery directive is ongoing, which is mostly due to the rapid digital development and the challenges it raises.

”As a manufacturer of machinery and safety products, working with SIS gives us the possibility to constantly be one step ahead and receive information regarding new standards and possible changes at an early stage”, Sven says.

A GLIMPSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

What does it look like in the rest of Europe then? Julien Colson, working in Axelent’s technical department for the French market says:

”Most of the French companies I work with follow the laws and guidelines existing. European standards have many similarities with standards that apply in the rest of the world.”

THE AWARENESS CONCERNING the need to work actively toward safety work is growing. To improve safety in workplaces, Julien suggests Axelent’s Safety Book to be a rich source of information and advises companies on how to think concerning improving the safety of their employees:

“To be an entrepreneur today, it’s key to stay up to date with the latest standards and directives in order to succeed on the market”.

BY INVESTING IN MACHINE PROTECTION THAT MEETS THE DIRECTIVES YOU:

- » Protect your employees
- » Save money on injuries that can be prevented
- » Offer your employees a safe working environment
- » Optimize profitability of your company
- » Avoid unnecessary downtime in production, which can have devastating financial consequences

X NEWS

A MAGAZINE FROM THE AXELENT GROUP

Happy Holidays

FROM AXEL & ALL HIS COLLEAGUES
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