Fenner develops and manufactures a range of unique technical fabrics for use in performance-critical applications by industrial, aerospace and chemical equipment OEMs.

Secant Medical is a leader in the development and production of textile structures for the medical market. Typically, Secant’s products are critical components in devices which are used to treat cardiovascular and orthopedic conditions associated with ageing.

Prodesco and Secant will continue to operate under their current names and will become part of Fenner’s Precision Polymer Division. The businesses will continue to run in Perkasie, under the current strong management team led by Steve Chadwick.

Mark Abrahams said, “Prodesco is a great company which builds on Fenner’s core expertise in textile engineering while exemplifying our AEP Division’s over-arching focus on performance-critical, polymeric components. Secant Medical is a natural extension to Prodesco’s business and gives Fenner exposure to a segment of the medical market which has attractive growth and resilience characteristics”.

For more information about Prodesco or Secant Medical, please visit the following websites: www.prodesco.com and www.secantmedical.com
Continued from page 1

I am delighted to inform you that with effect from 14 March 2008, Fenner PLC has been admitted to the FTSE mid 250 index. This has been a target for a while and it is pleasing that we have entered this index as a result of our performance and not from the placing recently announced. It is clearly the performance of Fenner across all businesses that has enabled our share price to hold up better than most similar companies and indeed the out-performance over the last 6-12 months has been noticed and remarked upon by many of our investors. Now that we are in the index, the challenge is to grow within that index and to ensure that we only ever move out of it at the top end and not the bottom.

I would like to thank you all again for your support and now you can say with pride that you no longer work for a small company.

Mark Abrahams, CEO Fenner PLC

FENNER ENTERS FTSE MID-CAP 250

The annual event is organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain and sponsored by the Yorkshire Post and executive head-hunting firm Whitehead Mann. Attracting more than 500 business leaders to the audience including The Duchess of York and chief executive of Marks & Spencer Stuart Rose.

The event has raised millions of pounds for the Variety Club children’s charity over the two decades since its launch and has become one of the biggest events in the regional calendar.

The award was presented to Mark Abrahams by the chief executive of Whitehead Mann, Piers Marmion pictured left, together with the journalist and broadcaster Adrienne Lawler.

BOARD OF THE YEAR

The Fenner Group was awarded the Board of the Year accolade at the Yorkshire Post Business Awards ceremony held recently in Leeds, UK.

The annual event is organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain and sponsored by the Yorkshire Post and executive head-hunting firm Whitehead Mann. Attracting more than 500 business leaders to the audience including The Duchess of York and chief executive of Marks & Spencer Stuart Rose.

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The award was presented to Mark Abrahams by the chief executive of Whitehead Mann, Piers Marmion pictured left, together with the journalist and broadcaster Adrienne Lawler.

DUNLOP BELTING BRAND LAUNCHED IN CHINA

Another important development in Fenner’s conveyor belting business was the recent launch of the Dunlop brand in China. Based upon technology developed around the world, Dunlop brings to China a new type of conveyor belt, which represents quality and value in the medium tensile range.

This new Dunlop product compliments the premium Fenner products, which is highly recognised as the market leader in China.

The Dunlop brand will be focussing on the mass market of China’s coal mining industry. Now the Group offers two complete ranges, which together meet all customer needs.

Mark Abrahams hosted the Dunlop brand launching ceremony on board a luxury river cruiser in Shanghai and was joined by over a hundred honourable guests who represent all of the major coal producers in China.

This successful event concluded with the evening’s highlight of a firework extravaganza.

12TH COAL & MINING EXPO - BEIJING

Fenner China mining sales team, representing both Conveyor Belting and FAST Divisions, recently attended the twelfth China Coal & Mining Expo in Beijing. More than a thousand guests visited the stand coming from every coal producing region of China. The majority of the top coal producers in China are loyal Fenner conveyor belting customers.

Tremendous interests in Hallite mining seals far exceeded expectations. All major mining roof support producers dominated the exhibition area, led by Zhengzhou and Beijing Coal Mining Machinery Co. Hallite is successfully supplying to these leading machinery producers in China already.

The general outlook of the Chinese coal industry is still highly optimistic for the coming years. Chinese customers acknowledge the superior quality and customer services of Fenner belting and Hallite seals, which will enhance the future growth potential in the massive Chinese market.

WELCOME JACKY LI

Jacky Li has joined Fenner China working for Managing Director Cassandra Pan as the new Executive Service Supervisor; she will coordinate with all divisional and group departments on publicity, personnel as well as any intercompany administrative matters.

Pictured at the sales stand are Fenner China mining sales team, with representatives from both Conveyor Belting and FAST divisions.

From left to right, Mr. Sui of Hunchun Coal, Mr. Wang of Shenhua Energy, Mr. Jia of Luan Coal, Mark Abrahams, CEO of Fenner Plc
The Fenner Precision global sales and marketing team met for the second time recently at the Manheim, USA plant. The first meeting took place in April 2007 at the Lincoln UK plant. Each conference provided an opportunity to review the company’s performance and discuss new goals.

The team meets by telephone once a month but everyone agrees there is no substitute for being together to participate in joint activities and learn more about each others different cultures. By alternating the meetings between Europe, America and Asia the team is better able to understand these differences and those of its global customers.

The new and enlarged customer conference room in the newly expanded Fenner Precision building at Manheim was a good setting for this second conference and the room was filled to capacity.

Nick Hobson, President of the Precision Polymers Division of AEP opened the conference by welcoming all the overseas visitors and thanking everyone for helping to make 2007 a very successful first year for Fenner Precision and for contributing to the success of the AEP Division. Fenner Precision is one of three companies in the Precision Polymers Division.

Mike Thompson, Managing Director of Fenner Precision, thanked everyone for helping to make the transition to the new company seamless. The global sales and marketing team operated as one, selling products from the Lincoln and Manheim plants and increasing sales by 7.7%. Mike reiterated that the forward sales strategy is to increase sales by focusing on paper propulsion market segments and winning market share in Asia.

Reports and presentations came from all members of the Division from discussing a number of new projects and product development initiatives to customer driven quality projects, proactive marketing and reduced lead times due to increased capacity.

Pacific Design Show

Held in Anaheim, California, the Pacific Design Show is the West Coast’s largest Design & Engineering show and runs concurrently with seven other shows which feature, Medical Design & Engineering, Packaging, Automation Technology, Process Technology for Industry, Electronics, Plastics and Environmentally Friendly Manufacturing.

In addition to creating new leads the show also provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from existing and potential customers including IntelliSport a company that is working with Fenner Precision engineers to develop a belt for a new consumer application.

William Selka has joined Fenner Precision Europe as General Manager of Fenner Precision Lincoln.

After studying Engineering Science at University, William trained at a precision gear maker in Yorkshire. He has held a variety of positions in production, engineering and quality management, most recently being based in Germany driving the continuous improvement activities for several European sites.

“I am thrilled and honoured to be joining an agile organisation with such dynamic leadership. I am very much looking forward to adding my skills and experience to extending the flexibility, customer focus and success already apparent at Fenner Precision”, he said.

William is married with three children, lives near Lincoln and enjoys sailing bridge and live music.
**FOCUSsing on Safety**

**INTRODUCING PAUL SEXTON**

Paul joins Fenner as Group Health, Safety and Environmental Auditor based at Fenner Group headquarters, Hessle.

This is a new role which reflects both the priority we give to Health & Safety and the growth of the Group.

In addition to his audit responsibilities and developing Group level reporting, Paul will also be available to advise management on health, safety and environmental matters. Paul said "I am looking forward to visiting all our manufacturing locations and understanding the HSE issues faced by the Fenner Group."

Paul previously spent 27 years working for BP. During his career he worked in manufacturing, R&D and site support and development before spending the last nine years in Internal Audit as a Systems Auditor looking at Manufacturing and HSE management systems. He is a Chemical Engineer by trade and also a Chartered Engineer.

Married to Gillian, with one daughter Alexandra, currently at university, Paul enjoys hill walking and photography and lives near enough to head office to walk to work – very environmentally friendly indeed!

**CSC NEWS**

The Central Safety Champions continue to work together to develop systems, processes and tools to help ensure that all Fenner Dunlop America employees are provided with a healthy and safe working environment. The team recently established a priorities list to help focus on areas of concern, some of which include electrical safety, lockout tag out processes, knife injury elimination, PPE reflective garments, MSDS systems and plant safety talks.

Each plant has a representative on the CSC team. The team has weekly telephone conference calls to discuss ongoing projects and performs scheduled plant safety audits at each location.

**MARFLEET SAFETY POSTER CAMPAIGN**

After reviewing entrapment risks and looking at safe working procedures and machinery risk assessments it was decided that a poster campaign might be helpful in reminding employees of the potential dangers of the equipment which they work with every day and perhaps become complacent about as a result.

Being unable to source any commercially available posters which conveyed the message they were really looking for, Group Publicity was asked to design a series of posters which would put across a serious message in a lighthearted way and depict equipment which is recognisably of the type operated at Marfleet.

The first poster will be on display across the factory for about a month and will be rotating to the second and third over the coming two months for continued awareness.

**IN SAFE HANDS**

Nancy Green-Rowe of Fenner Drives, Manheim recently completed the “Executive Program in Safety Management.”

The training consisted of six different disciplines in safety. Each discipline was 16 hours long. She received a certificate from the American Society of Safety Engineers.

The training has added to Nancy’s already broad background in safety.

In addition, she attended the environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor training. The purpose was for her to explore the requirements of ISO 14001 (environmental) and ISO 18001 (safety) and become certified.

The training will allow Fenner Drives to better plan for implementation of both of these systems over the next one to two years.

**TISCO SEMINAR**

As part of the campaign to raise Fenner Conveyor Belting’s profile amongst the Indian coal mines, a seminar was held at the Tata Iron & Steel Co (TISCO) Club complex in Jamadoba, Dhanbad.

On the agenda was the history of Fenner; (reinforcing the fact that Fenner Conveyor Belting is a new company and now part of Fenner Plc., independent of the old Fenner India organisation) high tensile solid woven belting, belt maintenance and belt selection using Belt Wizard.

Attending were the Chief General Manager of Tisco and senior mine engineering managers.

From Fenner were key speaker, Gareth Griffiths, event organiser, Tommoy Banerjee and Richard Wilkinson. Gareth was also in India to attend a mining exhibition (IMME 2008) in Calcutta and to view a conveyor installation where Fenner Conveyor Belting are hopeful of replacing a steel cord belt with high tensile solid woven from the UK.
NEW RESEARCH FACILITY

Fenner Dunlop Conveyor Belting Americas is pleased to introduce a new line of plied rubber roghtop belting, especially designed for the needs of lightweight incline and decline conveying.

The Industry Standard (IS) series of roghtop belting is the perfect compliment to the highly acclaimed PHR™ roghtop line and is value engineered for economical performance in most lightweight belting applications.

Industry Standard (IS) products are produced from lighter weight synthetic fabrics that exhibit extreme flexibility over the small pulleys commonly found in lightweight applications.

The new venture will start out with about three employees and between eight to 10 students assisting with cooperative research. The company hopes to expand to between 10 to 20 employees in the near future and will be joining several other businesses already located at the technology Centre, including Blue Wolf Sales and Service, Appalachian Coal Services Inc., Appalachian Coal Construction Inc. and Gress Engineering.

During a press conference that included an official lease signing by the company at the technology centre, County Administrator Jim Spencer said: “To have the largest international manufacturer of conveyer systems right here in Tazewell County is something major.”

David Hurd, president of Fenner Dunlop Americas, said: “Obviously being in the conveyer belt business, one of our largest markets is coal mining and if you are going to do research on your product, why not have something in the heart of the coal mining industry.”

The company will lease about 7,000 square feet at the technology Centre, which is located adjacent to the 680 acre Bluestone Regional Business and Technology Centre and will focus on research and development of conveyer belt monitoring systems.

A portion of the company’s research and development will involve a collaboration with the Centre for Applied Research and Development at Bluefield State College.

Bruce Mutter, vice president of the Centre said, “The college is looking forward to collaborative efforts involving engineering students and we will have to solve problems that make an immediate impact on the economic engine.”

Fenner Dunlop Americas President Dave Hurd signs the lease with Jim Spencer, Tazewell County Administrator.

Photo Courtesy of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

LEAN TRAINING FOR FAST

Now that the relocation of EGC Plastics to the new facility is complete, this will finalise the merger of the FAST Houston team. This relocation means that there is a lot of work to be done and lots of goals to achieve. To help achieve these goals continuous improvement terms like, Lean Manufacturing, 5-S, Kaizen, Kanban, TPM and many others will begin to be used.

In order to continue competing in today’s global market, the team must all work together to remain one of the leaders in our industry. As a tool to help achieve the goals for 2008 and the future, Lean Manufacturing classes were given to several FAST Houston Managers and Supervisors last December. Plans are being made to continue these and other classes for the entire facility now that the relocation is complete.

JUVENAL RETIRES

After more than 27 years of service with EGC Plastics, Juvenal Elizando retired recently. Juvenal worked in the EGC Plastics Assembly area based in Houston, Texas.

Dan McGinnis, Manufacturing Manager congratulates Juvenal.
EXPANDING OUR BELT SERVICES

Fenner has recently acquired two Australian belt servicing businesses, Northern Belting Specialists Pty Ltd based in Whyalla, South Australia and Spliceline, based in Darwin, Northern Territory.

These companies specialise in belt splicing, rubber lining works, mechanical servicing and belting sales.

Mark Abrahams said: “These acquisitions represent a further strategic piece of the Australian service network that will enable our value added service model to offer an even greater selection of safe conveyor solutions to the growing resource market in Australia.”

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

Diane Knowles, Quality Systems Officer at the West Footscray manufacturing plant of Fenner Dunlop-Australia has given her brother the ultimate gift.

Desperate to save her brother Bill from a death sentence, Diane donated her kidney to him last December, in a gesture which has secured a unique bond for the siblings.

On the waiting list for five years, Bill was told not to expect miracles because the list was so long. The type of dialysis he was on would have seen him through for a few more months, but beyond that the doctors didn’t know. Watching her brother endure countless hours on a dialysis machine up to four times a week, while he waited for donor kidney that may have never come, she decided to give him one of her healthy kidneys.

Diane is now fighting to increase awareness of the organ donor register in a campaign she has called the “Circle of Life”, which came from her grandchildren who innocently offered their kidneys if something went wrong with hers, completing a circle of donation within the family.

Bill is now feeling better than he has for many years and Diane is back to full strength and she has encouraged around 100 people to enroll on the Donor Register.

Fenner Dunlop-Australia is donating $10 for each employee that registers as a donor to the Rainbow Foundation. This foundation helps raise awareness and funds for children suffering organ failure.

FLOODS HIT QUEENSLAND

The township of Emerald in North Queensland had barely recovered from the severe storms that battered the town in October last year, when it was hit by major floods in January this year.

Homes and businesses were inundated with the deluge, these being the biggest floods on record. The Apex Fenner Conveyor Services branch in Emerald had to be evacuated after the staff had ensured all of the equipment was elevated onto pallet racks out of reach of the rising water. Unfortunately one employee had his home flooded, but once staff made their homes and the Fenner offices secure they continued to work, some being flown by helicopters to the Crinum East site to carry out splicing work.

Two thirds of the Australian state of Queensland was flood declared - while having been drought declared only two months earlier. This is an area as big as England and Wales. Almost every river in western Queensland had flood warnings in place.

BHP billiton, one of Apex Fenner’s largest customers has been affected on all sites. The worst hit being the above ground pits, heavy equipment can not access the roads or the site, whilst the ground is so wet.

The dragline at Ensham resources was swamped by water. While trying to move it to higher ground it was caught in the rising flood waters.

CQPA PROJECT

The Gladstone office of Apex Fenner has recently completed a major project at the Central Queensland Port Authority for John Holland Construction, Berth No. 4 Expansion Project.

The project was completed over a 12 month period with various stages beginning with the upgrade of Shiploaders No. 1 & No. 2, then the installation of the out feed conveyors CC5B, CC5BX and CC6B and finally the installation of Shiploader No. 4.

The Berth 4 Out-feed conveyors took the 12 man crew seven separate site shutdowns to complete the work.

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The dragline at Ensham resources was swamped by water. While trying to move it to higher ground it was caught in the rising flood waters.
MIDDLE EASTERN MARKETS

Continuing its strategy of going where the action is in developing markets around the world, Harbinder Singh has recently joined the Fenner Drives UK sales team as Regional Sales Manager for Middle Eastern markets.

Harbinder has a strong track record with power transmission components and is based in Dubai. It is anticipated regional market interest in our HPC V-belts (NuTLink, SuperTLink and PowerTwist Plus) and Eagle Polyurethane Belting will lead the way initially with B-LOC keyless bushings waiting in the wings.

B-LOC IN PERSPECTIVE

Ian Smith, Global Sales and Marketing Director reports, over the last couple of years, Fenner Drives has missed being a part of that exclusive “Energy Club” membership roster which includes such illuminaries as FAST and Fenner Dunlop. All that talk of mega orders made Drives quite envious, as it seemed a decent order for conveyor belting was equivalent in value to about 1,000 boxes of PowerTwist Plus V-belts! Well, the arrival of B-LOC and its top flight customers in the engineered and mining class pulley business has changed all that. Drives has at last joined their illustrious peers as major players in the energy and materials extraction sectors where B-LOC bushings are the brand of choice in North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA).

Up until a few months ago Fenner Drives were quite impressed with their largest Trantorque with a 3” bore: B-LOC has shown what “heavy metal” really means in the world of max. rated keyless bushings!

QUALITY REWARDED

James Dawson have been presented with the Automotive Suppliers Quality Management System Certificate ISO/TS 16949.

This award was granted following an extensive and rigorous 11 day external audit across all three manufacturing sites - Lincoln and Poynton in the UK, Shanghai in China - and the James Dawson warehousing facility in Wilmington USA. This award was the result of a great team effort across all the businesses during 2007.

John Cliffe retired at 39 years and 51 weeks service, but if you included all his overtime it would amount to over 50 years.

John started working for James Dawson in February 1968 at the Moorland factory in the silicone section, he transferred to the stretch band pressing and cutting section and moved to the Tritton Road plant in 1985.

He was hardworking with very high standards who was never too busy to help out a colleague. He was instrumental in training all of the new starters within his section.

Friends and colleagues will miss John but wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mike Thompson congratulates John

Chris Blackford - Managing Director and Barry Wood - Quality Manager celebrating with some of the James Dawson management team
Starting in 1973 as a Textile Technologist and Personal Assistant to the Managing Director of Fenner in Hull, UK and then moving to the USA in 1980, Tony’s Yorkshire beginnings have served him well. In 1991 he was awarded the Fellowship of the Textile Institute of Manchester England for his work in developing a range of Industrial Textile products for use in self-lubricating bearings.

Mike Thompson President & Managing Director of Fenner Precision said:

“Tony’s successful development of the Friction business is well known and with the need to find new business for Fenner Precision polyurethane Timing Belts – new customers, in new markets and more often than not overseas outside the US, Tony accepted a new additional role as Global Marketing Manager.

In the last year Tony has implemented an industry acclaimed Fenner Precision new website, got an industry press release and exhibition promotion program up and running and has been at the forefront of setting up the Shanghai sales office. But Tony’s patience, tenacity and can do style as usual just got the job done.

A great first 35 years for Tony with Fenner, and here’s to a few more yet”

Having just received their Long Service awards, Dipper Operator, Dave Sawdon on the left and Loom Tuner, John Thompson on the right can be seen here celebrating with Managing Director, John Pratt.

They have served 25 and 15 years respectively at the Marfleet, Hull plant.

Wilson Crawford, pictured second from left, celebrated 30 years of service at the end of last year. Wilson works for Fenner Dunlop in the Charlotte, North Carolina facility as a coating machine operator. Not only is he congratulated for his service, but he has done this with 20 years of perfect attendance.

At a recent dinner by “Messages On Hold”, a service provider for Fenner Australia, Vilma Santoro, PA to the Managing Director, got the chance to meet their star spokesperson, cricketer Shane Warne.

Vilma said “He was very friendly and made us all feel like we’d known him for years. He signed a cricket ball for each of us, which I later had to fight to get back from my two sons. It was a great night and one I won’t forget in a hurry!”

Wilson joins the other 30 year members, Travis Keeter, Jane Tallon, and Donna Craven.