

# New Thames bridge is made from Fibre Reinforced Polymer

**ECS was recently commissioned by the Environment Agency to design, supply and install a new bridge at their site at Mapledurham on the river Thames. The project was to replace an existing aging bridge structure that was also strategically hampering other important upgrade and maintenance work required by the Environment Agency. Unlike traditional bridge structures however, this one is made from an innovative, maintenance free composite material with a 50 year guarantee.**

This bridge replacement contract had to achieve a number of objectives; to improve the capacity of the local access routes to the Mapledurham weir and lock complex which is part of a much larger refurbishment project taking place across a number of sites on the River Thames and to upgrade the size and strength of the existing bridge structure, which had insufficient capacity for modern vehicles.

To achieve all this the project required an innovative solution that would also take account of the many challenges involved in replacing the bridge; such as the remote site location, limited vehicle access and short time frames required for installation.

To meet these challenges ECS turned to a highly innovative bridge construction technology invented by Fibrecore Europe. Fibrecore uses Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) to build complete bridge structures at its plant in Holland. The bridge deck is moulded in a single piece, with an integrated bonded anti slip wearing surface. The FRP deck is custom manufactured to have the most efficient combination of strength and stiffness for the particular bridge span and loading required (in this case 13m span and 60t loading) and this results in FRP bridge decks that are around 1/3 the weight of steel or concrete equivalents, offering savings on civils and installation costs. Infracore bridge deck sections up to 48m long can be manufactured in a single moulded piece. With no physical joints, and no exterior paint finish required, the bridge decks are



maintenance free and are expected to have a service life in excess of 100 years.

Use of the FRP technology and off-site manufacture approach meant that the composite bridge deck could be constructed and delivered in a very short period of time. Fibrecore Europe has built over 450 bridges installed across mainland Europe, this approach to bridge building however is relatively new to the UK. After several successful projects, ECS is now the nominated agent and supplier for Fibrecore products to the UK.

Due to the nature of the bridge location, access to the Mapledurham site was very restricted and meant that getting a large structure such as a bridge to the site via lorry wasn't feasible. It also meant that getting access for large vehicles such as the lifting cranes to place the bridge into position needed their own separate set of considerations. As part of the overall turnkey solution, ECS had to create a 350 metre temporary road to allow access for heavy cranes of up to 90 tonnes capacity to facilitate the final stages of the bridge installation.

The use of a lightweight Infracore FRP deck meant that ECS was able to deliver the bridge to site by floating it on a barge down the Thames.

The installation itself was relatively straightforward, with site preparation taking up a large proportion of the build time; the old bridge had to be demolished, new foundations piled and finally casting the new concrete caps around them. Once the foundation preparation was completed and the new Infracore Bridge was craned off the water, the actual installation was completed within a day – a key advantage in utilising a pre-built bridge solution.

ECS's installation of this new bridge provided the Environment Agency with greatly improved access to the weir and lock complex, which in turn allowed additional vital maintenance work in the area to be completed. It also provided a new structure that will last for the next century with little or no maintenance, giving the Environment Agency a rapid solution with very long term benefits.

# MD's comments

Welcome, The most significant thing to report about ECS as a business is that we are growing and doing well; this includes winning larger contracts for the Steel Fabrication shop, our Electrical and Mechanical service teams and our turnkey Engineering Projects. As a company we are extremely proud of the recent framework awards, including two major MEICA contracts covering large scale works for the Environment Agency in the South East and the Midlands, one minor works contract, and a major new contract win for Scottish Canals for replacement lock gates on the Caledonian Canal.

There are many reasons for this success, but the fundamental drivers behind it are the hard work and talent of our personnel. It is all about going the extra mile to make sure a job is done properly, to do everything we can to deliver on-time, regardless of the circumstances, and a willingness to shoulder the responsibility for project completion.

The next 12 months will see us focusing on the ECS brand, further strengthening our position in the marketplace, enabling us to drive the business forward within the sectors that continue to realise growth in the UK. A significant driver over the coming months will be the introduction of lean manufacturing processes together with departmental champions that will allow us to realise this goal.

Thanks to everyone for putting the hard work in, for raising the profile of the business - and to our customers reading this, thanks for your business and your trust in ECS !

Included within this newsletter are some great examples of the work that we have been doing so read on and enjoy, and thanks again for all the hard work that makes this happen.

## Bob Nix

Bob Nix, Managing Director

PS. As always, if you have an item that you would like to see reported in these pages, don't hesitate to send it in.



# ECS apprentice wins top award for education and training



An ambitious apprentice at ECS Engineering Services has won one of the top awards at Chesterfield College in North Derbyshire. Dave Whyatt (21) was declared Learner of the Year in Higher Education Electrical Engineering by the Directorate of Electrical, Engineering and Automotive at the college.

Dave has been with ECS for about three years, joining them straight from school. He has already completed

an NVQ level 2 (National Vocational Qualification), NVQ level 3 and an HNC (Higher National Certificate) with ECS. He has now progressed to working on an HND (Higher National Diploma).

ECS Engineering Services delivers engineering solutions, specialising in bespoke design and construction of water, energy and environmental processing and management projects. As such it needs a high level of in-house electrical expertise, which it develops in part by offering structured long term training and education programmes to its own personnel.

ECS apprentices like Dave Whyatt can learn both practical and theoretical skills because the training scheme combines working on real jobs with college based study.

Dave's success has created quite a stir among his colleagues back at ECS. "All of us here are proud of his achievements – and I'm sure his friends and family are delighted too", says Director and Company Secretary Karen Robinson. "The Award should fill Dave and the other apprentices with the confidence to aim high in their chosen career in engineering, and we at ECS will certainly do all we can to encourage them."

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## Top 8 contract wins

### Mansfield

Screw pump station refurb. Value > £305,000

### Keadby

Environment Agency station refurb. Value > £650,000

### Kennett Pumping Station

Emergency pump station works. Value > £500,000

### Peakirk Pumping Station

Pumping station refurb. Value > £700,000

### Jackson Civils

Weir gate replacements. Value > £1,900,000

### Lynemouth Power Station

Fabrication works. Value > £3,500,000

### South East EA, MEICA & Minor Works

Term Framework Agreements

### Midlands & Anglian EA, MEICA

Term Framework Agreements

# ECS manages Environment Agency borehole maintenance in Shropshire



**The Shropshire Groundwater Scheme (SGS) has been developed to maintain the water levels in the River Severn by pumping water from surface and groundwater storage either directly into the Severn or one of its major tributaries. The contract for maintaining the pumping stations and the equipment within them has been awarded to ECS Engineering Services on a rolling 5 year contract.**

The Environment Agency has a responsibility to maintain water levels within the River Severn and to balance the demands of abstractors with the ecological needs of the river. This task is accomplished by the largest groundwater regulation scheme in the UK and consists of groups of interconnected pumping stations that discharge water through a network of buried pipelines.

SGS is specifically designed for short term, intermittent pumping of between two and fifteen weeks per season, averaging two years out of every five. This operational model means that although the pumping stations are called in to action infrequently, when the call comes the station must perform reliably.

In order to achieve this constant state of readiness, the Environment Agency has employed one of its long-standing contractors, ECS Engineering Services, to carry out regular mechanical and electrical inspections and tests as well as the necessary remedial work. Working to a planned schedule, the engineers visit each site in turn and compile a maintenance report that goes to build a profile for each station.

Steve Crapper, Business Development Manager at ECS, comments: "The Shropshire Groundwater Scheme comprises 45 borehole sites which contain 75 pumps and associated control equipment that require regular maintenance checks and remedial work. We work very closely with the Environment Agency providing regular updates as well as responding to call outs for faults that may occur at the live stations."

Each maintenance team comprises one electrical and one mechanical engineer, both of whom are trained for confined space entry procedures as well as being fully qualified within their own disciplines. Safety while working is always a top priority and ECS ensures that all the necessary safety equipment is available and that training is kept up to date.

The pumps are run for 20 minutes every three months to check pumping efficiency and the proper operation of the non-return valves (NRVs). Electrical checks for insulation resistance and continuity are made every 6 months to assess the condition of the pump supply cable and motor windings. If these readings are approaching a predefined level, then the pump will be identified for lifting and any necessary remedial work.

As part of the regular inspections, the electrical engineer will also carry out a full inspection and test of the domestic circuits within the pumping station and issue a certificate which is valid for the next five years. Occasionally these tests will identify a fault that requires immediate attention and the engineers are equipped to remedy these situations. Any minor issues are recorded and scheduled for remedial action during the next visit.

Steve concludes: "Through this coordinated approach, ECS is able to deliver a comprehensive service that provides a regular maintenance programme as well as immediate operational support on site. In this way the Environment Agency is able to rely on the performance of the pumping stations and maintain the necessary water levels within the River Severn."

# New screw pumps improve efficiency and reliability for treatment works



**As part of a continuous improvement programme, Severn Trent Water identifies and replaces equipment that has reached the end of its service life. A recent project in South Yorkshire involved the replacement of four Archimedes screw pumps that had achieved over 30 years in service. The contract was delivered by ECS Engineering Services as a turnkey solution for the tier 1 contractor, NMCNomenca.**

ECS won the competitive tender to complete the refurbishment of four Archimedes screw pumps at the Severn Trent Water sewage treatment works in Warmsworth near Doncaster. The original screws were manufactured by Landustrie over 30 years ago and had exceeded their service life.

Screw pumps are often used in the wastewater industry, especially when dealing with water that may be contaminated with debris that would otherwise cause severe damage to a centrifugal pump. Essentially, they are a very efficient pumping method for low head applications and are used to move water over a short distance on a continuous basis.

The Warmsworth site has two pumping stations that use Archimedes screws, which operate on a duty / standby basis. The inlet screws lift unscreened, raw sewage and the humus screws pump the treated liquor to the

filter beds. Each station has two screws measuring 800mm in diameter, 12 metres in length and weighing approximately 1,500 kg.

ECS site engineers have many years' experience in maintaining and replacing screw pumps and the company is also the sole UK distributor for Landustrie screw pump products. These two attributes combined to produce a very efficient solution that could be delivered with minimal disruption to the site.

The works involved the removal of the old screws, motors and gearboxes to allow new equipment to be installed. This included higher efficiency motors, gearboxes and bearings, including the sealed-for-life bottom bearings. The stainless steel bottom bearing is manufactured and supplied by Landustrie, which also provides a three year warranty as standard.

In this case the project was tackled in four stages, removing and replacing one screw pump at a time so as to maintain functional operation of the works. Once the flow to the screw pump had been isolated so that it did not pose a hazard to the engineers involved in the project, the task of disconnecting and removing the screw could begin.

In order to maintain operation during periods of high flow it was necessary to install over-pumping facilities to provide additional capacity that would normally have been accommodated by the screw pump being replaced.

Once the screw had been removed the screed was broken out and removed. Following that, each new screw pump was installed with new bearings and drive system. While the latter will have a significant improvement on the energy consumption of the new screw pump, the bearings can also reduce maintenance costs.

The Landustrie stainless steel, eco bearing is sealed for life and requires no annual maintenance. The design of the bearing allows for 3-dimensional self alignment, which absorbs the expansion and contraction of the screw in changing temperatures.

With the screw correctly positioned, the new screed was installed by hand, which is labour intensive but the only way of ensuring optimum efficiency. The new screw pumps have a temporary screed bar attached to the flights that ensures the gap between the concrete and the screw flights is maintained at 5mm. Once the screed has been completed, the screw is turned slowly to create the ideal gap along the complete length of the screw.

Dave Bennion, Project Manager for ECS, commented: "Since the original screws had been manufactured by Landustrie, the basic design could be obtained from the original drawings and this would be developed further using more modern engineering design techniques, such as finite element analysis. This numerical analysis is especially important for longer screws to ensure that there is sufficient strength in the main body of the screw."

"Once the screws were delivered to site, the actual installation process has been relatively straightforward, with the exception of the weather, which has caused a few minor delays. We need a few days with low wind speeds while we remove and install the screws with the mobile crane and a few days without rain to allow the new screed to be installed."

With over 20 years of experience working with utilities and the Environment Agency, ECS has a proven track record of delivering engineering solutions to a very high standard, with the capability and resources to design and install bespoke equipment anywhere in the UK. The ECS Water Control Division and its team of field service engineers can offer a full turn-key installation, through to maintenance and repair services to all Archimedes screw pump installations from any manufacturer across the UK.



## ECS wins Scottish Water Price and Supply Agreement for the supply, installation and repair of Screw Pumps

As the latest round of contract awards is completed, ECS Engineering Services has secured a one year Price and Supply Agreement with Scottish Water for the supply, installation and repair of Screw Pumps. The award endorses the quality and value of ECS's services, as well as its manufacture capability and excellent site health and safety record.

The agreement requires a complete service to be provided for screw pump maintenance, refurbishment and provision; Scottish Water is one of the largest operators of this type of equipment in the UK. ECS has been recognised for its specialist expertise in this area, in particular the full support services available, having previously supplied Water Utilities with new screw pumps and refurbishment services via existing Tier 1 Framework Contractors. Specialist services include; complete hand re-screeding of concrete troughs, replacing lower bearings for upgraded, fully stainless steel units and full drive train refurbishments. ECS has the skilled workforce required for completing projects to the highest standard as well as an extensive in house fabrication capability to support this.

Based in Huthwaite, Notts., ECS provides engineering expertise and delivers turnkey projects to maintain and improve wastewater facilities throughout the country. In demonstrating this capability, ECS has been awarded the RoSPA Gold Award for Occupational Health & Safety, on multiple consecutive occasions, proving its commitment to maintaining excellent standards within the workforce.

In addition to repair and refurbishment services, ECS supplies new screw pumps through its relationship with Landustrie, a leading Dutch manufacturer of Archimedes screw pumps.

Landustrie, a leading innovator in this field, continues to develop the basic screw pump principle with new drive techniques and improved moulding of the concrete troughs as well as producing the most reliable lower bearing available. When combined with ECS's professional installation and maintenance team, the improvements in overall running efficiency and maintenance costs can be easily demonstrated. The capability to supply a complete service in relation to screw pump installation and operation was a key factor in enabling ECS to win the framework contract.

Jamie Wesley, Operations Manager at ECS, comments: "This is another great opportunity for our company which has shown that engineering quality and excellent service always pays."



# New Lift Bridge extends Stroud water navigation

**ECS Engineering Services has completed a complex, turnkey project to install a new lifting road bridge over the waterway that will increase the navigable length of the Stroud water navigation and improve heavy goods access to the local businesses. Stroud District Council awarded the entire project to ECS, with a tight deadline for the removal of the original bridge as well as fabrication, installation and commissioning of the new replacement bridge.**

Replacing a road bridge over a water course is a complex task at the best of times, but in this case there were additional factors, such as a very restricted space in which to work and the narrow access routes that had to be used by the large equipment required for the project. In addition, this bridge does not cross the waterway at right angles, rather the road approaches at an angle that must be considered in the final design.

The original crossing was a swing bridge of wooden construction and this was replaced in the 1920s by a metal swing bridge. When the navigation was closed the bridge was fixed in the closed position and has remained limited to 8 tons capacity. The local council and the Cotswold Canal Trust have worked with a local engineer to design a new bridge that would provide improved access as well as better load capacity for the local businesses.

One of the major considerations in this project was the potential to pollute the local water course. Demolition of the existing structure and the construction of the new bridge required careful planning and special measures to ensure the waterway remained pristine throughout the project. In this case ECS protected it by ensuring that a special pontoon was constructed below the original bridge and lined with an impermeable membrane to capture all of the debris.

Once the original bridge had been removed it was necessary to install a series of reinforced concrete piles on both sides of the waterway to create the base for the new bridge. However, unexpected ground conditions and the discovery of a large amount of rotten timber, led to a change in design for the bridge foundations.

Andy Swindells, Project Manager for ECS, explains: "Normally we would have brought in a larger piling machine, but due to the limited space that wasn't possible. In this case, the design engineers reviewed the situation and recalculated the size and distribution of the piles before work restarted. In all, 10 piles were installed, each 450mm in diameter, which formed the base for the concrete abutments on which the new bridge would stand."

In the meantime the steel bridge deck, balance beam, support pylon and hand-rails were fabricated by ECS in its Huthwaite facility. The deck itself weighs 6 tonnes and is designed to have a safe working limit of 30 tonnes. The balance beam is designed so that the counterbalance can be fine-tuned on site by adding or removing weights. The entire construction is CE marked and classified as Execution class 3 under BS EN 1090-2.

The completed installation also incorporates road barriers, which are lowered to close off access for road vehicles while the bridge is raised, allowing the water-borne traffic to pass through.

Installation of the new bridge has removed another one of the obstacles that are gradually being cleared as part of the renovation of the waterways through Stroud. The additional benefit in this case is the increased weight capacity and improved access for local businesses.

# ECS upgrades Broxbourne flood gate lifting equipment for the Environment Agency

As part of an upgrade programme on the local water control structures, the Environment Agency contracted ECS Engineering Services to replace the overhead lifting gantries used to insert maintenance stoplogs that form part of a set of radial flood gates near Harlow, Essex.

Located at Broxbourne, the Kiora radial gates form part of the extensive flood prevention equipment on and around the River Lee. Originally built as part of a flood alleviation scheme, the two Kiora radial gates are part of a network of sluices and weirs designed to maintain the water level in the flood relief channel and associated lakes, but also allow flood water to be discharged towards the Thames when necessary.

A radial gate is used to automatically control water levels within a channel. When they are closed the gates allow no flow to pass. As the upstream water level rises, the gates automatically open allowing water to pass through.

The site is owned and operated by the Environment Agency which is required, from time to time, to carry out maintenance work on the radial gates. To enable this to be completed safely, the site is equipped with two overhead gantries that are used to lower steel stoplogs into the water channel either side of the radial gate. This can effectively create a 'dry-dock' by preventing the water from reaching the radial gate under maintenance.

As designated lifting equipment, the gantries are governed by Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER), which require the Environment Agency to ensure that the equipment is fit for purpose and subject to regular, thorough examinations.

The existing lifting structures span the river to allow the electric hoist to position the stoplogs in either of the radial gate channels. One of the issues was the existing height of the gantry as it could pose a hazard to personnel walking under it. Part of the contract design was to increase the overall height of the gantry as well as ensuring that it was designed to lift the steel stoplogs, with a suitable safety margin, in this case a Safe Working Load (SWL) of 2,200kg was requested. To carry out such work ECS is accredited under BS EN 9010-2 to level EXC3 which includes buildings and bridges. This means that the quality processes and manufacturing expertise is appropriate for EXC3 projects and all ECS work has the CE mark for its steel fabrications.

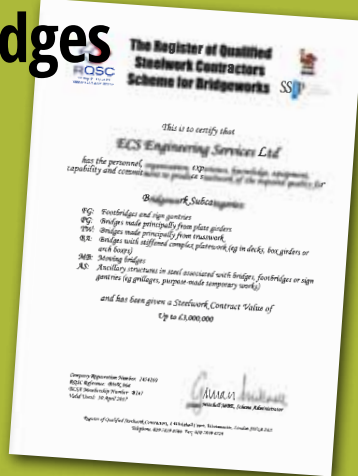


Improving the design height of the lifting beams also had a knock-on effect on the electrical system, as well as the control building itself. Given the weight of the stoplogs and the hoists, the designers had to ensure that there was no vibration or deflection in the vertical plane when the system is in use.

Jamie Wesley, Commercial Manager, Water Control Division, explains: "This contract forms part of our on-going commitment to delivering projects for the Environment Agency across the UK. Although it appears relatively simple, in fact a great deal of design work had to be completed to ensure that the entire structure supported the stoplog operations even before we started work on site."

"We have a group of very experienced design engineers that can draw up and specify these designs, to enable our in-house fabrication department to complete the manufacture of the beams. Our team of on-site engineers were responsible for the installation, testing and commissioning of the project. In order to deliver the requirements of the project, we had to make some substantial changes to the control building before installing the new electrical system to run the hoists; as well as designing and installing the completely new overhead gantry. The entire installation was tested and certified to the relevant standards before we handed the site back to the Environment Agency and completed the operator training."

# ECS gains BCSA registration for structural steel bridges



ECS Engineering Services has now been registered by the British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) on 'The Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors Scheme (RQSC)' as a professional and competent steel fabricator capable of delivering structural steel bridge projects with a value up to £3 million.

The BCSA is the national organisation for the steel construction industry. It aims to promote the use of structural steelwork and ensure that all of its members have the required technical expertise and facilities to deliver a professional service. It has assessed the personnel, knowledge, equipment and capability to produce steelwork of the required quality and concluded that ECS Engineering Services had achieved all of the required standards.

The conclusion of the assessment has resulted in ECS being added to The Register of Qualified Steelwork Contractors Scheme for Bridgeworks (RQSC), which identifies the company as being qualified to deliver a variety of bridge designs including those made from plate girders and trusswork as well as moving bridges. This registration is in addition to ECS's current registration with the BCSA for low and medium rise buildings, large span trusswork and tubular steelwork up to a value of £3 million.

Steve Crapper, Business Development Manager for ECS comments: "This is a great achievement for ECS that endorses the investment that the company has made in both its staff and facilities as well as the high standards maintained throughout. The BCSA scheme provides specifiers and customers with the peace of mind that certified members have the capability to deliver projects professionally and safely."



## ECS to build 8 radial weir gates for Environment Agency refurbishment of Thames structure

ECS Engineering Services has recently secured a deal to supply eight radial weir gates to the Environment Agency as part of a project to improve the Old Windsor Weir on the River Thames. Using the latest 3D survey equipment, ECS has been able to develop precision drawings for the fabrication team in record time, ensuring the contract will be delivered on time.

As a framework contractor for the Environment Agency, ECS has considerable experience in refurbishing large water control structures and is often called upon to deliver turnkey projects. ECS also has a distinguished history of steel fabrication and is certified to fabricate and install structures classed up to execution class 3 (EXC3), buildings and bridges, under the CE marking legislation.

In this case, as soon as the go-ahead was given, ECS was able to survey the site in detail using its advanced surveying equipment, which enabled the design teams to start work almost immediately. Although the site appears to use eight identical radial weir gates, the RTS survey equipment can soon determine any differences, which will ensure that every new gate will fit perfectly.

A Robotic Total Station (RTS) is an extremely accurate survey instrument that provides a sub-millimetre level of accuracy and can be used to collect sufficient data to create a 3D model as well as fabrication drawings. Using this advanced equipment has allowed ECS to minimise any delays at the beginning of the project and also develop a full set of 3D visuals for the client as well as any other interested parties.

Steve Crapper, Business Development Manager, commented: "In projects such as this, it is essential to get the initial data collected quickly and accurately. By using our RTS equipment and the data it collects, the design engineers are able to create the fabrication drawings more efficiently which helps to streamline the project as a whole."

# ECS receives RoSPA Gold for 8th year running



In the year that RoSPA celebrates its 60th anniversary, ECS Engineering Services has once again been presented with the RoSPA Gold Award for Occupational Health and Safety, the eighth consecutive year that the company has achieved this accolade. Recognised for setting the standards in safety at work, RoSPA continues to work with all industries to reduce the number of accidents in the workplace through the implementation of better working practices.

Jamie Wesley, Contracts Manager for ECS, comments: "RoSPA is recognised internationally for its efforts to improve health and safety at work. Receiving an award such as this is a great endorsement of our commitment to health and safety, which is driven by our management and implemented by every single employee."

"The great majority of our resources are in-house, from the design engineers, fabricators, installation engineers and support staff, which allows us to maintain our high standards."

ECS works directly with the majority of UK Water Utilities and government agencies, such as The Coal Authority, the Environment Agency and numerous Internal Drainage Boards, demonstrating its ability to work to the highest health & safety standards on a daily basis. This forms a crucial part of the company's offering that enables its clients to be certain that every project will be completed to the highest standard.

## ECS goes pink to fight cancer

**Pink wigs and fuchsia tutus were the order of the day when staff at ECS Engineering Services took part in the Wear It Pink event in aid of the charity Breast Cancer Now.**

As well as encouraging her colleagues to dress up, Administrator Elouise Morley also organised a cake sale to add an extra dimension to the day. "There were some incredible sights to be seen, and everyone seemed to wear big happy smiles all day long," says Elouise.

Long term, Breast Cancer Now hopes to ensure that by 2050, no one who develops breast cancer will die from it. It asks its supporters to organise Wear It Pink events up and down the country and these collectively raise about £2 million each year.

A huge amount of research goes into advancing cancer treatment in the UK and around the world. Tremendous progress has been made over the last 40 years, with more and more people surviving to live long and fulfilling lives. However, much work remains to be done and continued fundraising to pay for research, support and treatment is essential. "We made £140 for the campaign," says Elouise, "and it is a great feeling to know that similar events were going on in so many other offices, factories, schools and homes in aid of such a worthwhile cause."



Engineering Services ■■

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