

Celebrating 30 Years of Achievement: Technical Absorbents Limited (TAL)

Emerging in 1993 as a UK business collaboration between Allied Colloids, a superabsorbent manufacturer, and Courtaulds, a spinning expert, Technical Absorbents Limited (TAL) was formed. Their partnership bore fruit in the form of Superabsorbent Fibre (SAF™), an inherently superabsorbent fibre, and this innovation continues to be produced at their inaugural Grimsby site, nestled on the Humber Estuary's banks on the East Coast of England.

Their robust team of approximately 50 diverse and dynamic individuals operates a 24/7 manufacturing facility. The loyalty and expansion of their global customer base, coupled with the continued involvement of their technology's original founders in daily operations, speak volumes about their enduring success.

As they celebrate their 30th anniversary, they are excited to share a glimpse of their local community, their achievements over the past three decades, and their continued growth and product innovation.

Nurtured by the Humber

Their technology's early development and initial innovation trials for SAF™ were conducted in Coventry and Bradford at the facilities of Courtaulds and Allied Colloids, respectively. The relatively unpopulated Moody Lane (now known as Energy Park Way) in Grimsby, boasting numerous world-class manufacturing facilities, soon became their technology's permanent residence.

Though primarily known for its historic fishing industry, today Grimsby is a hub for the UK's leading automotive ports and a significant contributor to the offshore wind industry. Despite the mid-twentieth-century Cod Wars impacting the local economy, Grimsby, along with ABP's other Humber ports, has evolved into a vital gateway for business across the UK, Europe, and beyond.

People: The Pillars of their Success

Ther success and growth stem from their people, whose individual contributions are recognized and valued. They prioritize a safe, sustainable, and rewarding work environment. As an active sponsor of various initiatives, they encourage their people to support local and global communities.

Over the years, they have engaged in various sponsorship/funding projects and collaborated with local education providers and universities. Their team raises funds for several charities, including McMillan Cancer Support, The Mental Health Foundation, Comic Relief & Mind. We have also begun supporting a UK charity that organizes menstrual hygiene workshops for young girls in Tanzania, as part of a wider outreach project.

The Journey of Innovation and Success

Over the last 30 years, they have pioneered the development of Superabsorbent Fibre, Fabrics and Yarns, designing a variety of products to absorb aqueous fluids. Their Product Developers' dedicated team continually innovates to meet customers' absorbent needs.

Their achievements include recognition as a "Millenium Product" by the UK Design Council, approval for the use of SAF™ as an absorbent in food packaging by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and increasing our SAF™ capacity to ~1200tpa.

In the years to follow, they introduced the manufacture of their first SAF™ fabrics, doubled their polymer capacity, became part of China National Bluestar (Group) Corporation, and established a SAF™ fabric-focused Product Development team. They made strategic investments in needlefelt nonwoven lines, developed SAF™ thermo-carded fabric range, and launched a new SAF™ branding along with the initial washable fabric range. More recently, they focused on developing a new medical SAF™ grade and have established a dedicated ESG steering committee to guide their sustainability journey and reporting.