

## STOBBARTS UNVEILS RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO BUSINESS

**West Cumbrian based construction firm Stobarts has launched its first Corporate Responsibility Review, putting on record its performance in relation to its wider social, ethical and environmental responsibilities.**



Left to Right: (Christopher Rogan, Business Improvement Manager, Stobarts Ltd; Mark Dixon, Regional Director, NDA; John Stobart, Managing Director, Stobarts Ltd)



**August 2006, Cumbria, UK** – In a first for a local firm, Stobarts has published information on a range of issues that go beyond the bottom line, such as its relationship with its employees, safety record and approach to the environment. The review also sets out how Stobarts will be taking its commitment forward in the future by integrating corporate responsibility into its business.

The review highlights that Stobarts continues to enjoy an excellent health and safety record, with no reportable accidents in 2005. Rapid expansion of the business has also seen its contribution to the local economy grow and is now worth around £9.5 million<sup>1</sup>. The company continues to be an active corporate citizen and employees regularly visit local schools as part of the 'Stob the Builder Says' campaign that highlights the dangers of playing on building sites.

As part of the company's open approach, the report also sets out a number of areas for improvement. In particular, while Stobarts has a strong commitment to the environment, which was recently recognised by achieving ISO14001 accreditation, more needs to be done to monitor and minimise vehicle usage to help fight global warming.

Launching the Review, John Stobart, Managing Director of Stobarts Ltd, commented: "We have a strong commitment to act with integrity and I am delighted that this review demonstrates that we are a responsible business. While we have developed many areas of good practice, I am particularly proud that we have managed to share our commercial success with the people of West Cumbria by offering significant employment and training opportunities."

Steve Morgan, Commercial Director of British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd, remarked: "British Nuclear Group welcomes the launch of Stobarts' Corporate Responsibility Review, as it complements our own business principles and commitment to accountability. We encourage all organisations that work with us to act in a responsible manner and are particularly pleased that one of our local partners has produced such a report. This initiative demonstrates the forward looking approach being taken by innovative West Cumbrian businesses such as Stobarts helping them compete both locally and nationally."

Christopher Rogan, Business Improvement, commented during the launch event: "This review marks another innovation and first for Stobarts, developing a professional view to Corporate Responsibility and sustainability we have placed ourselves once again ahead of our peers and even multinational competitors in our industry. We are pleased to now formally recognise the principles and ethics that guide our business through the Corporate Responsibility programme and in our new Code of Business Conduct also launched today. These documents are intended to give all Stobarts' stakeholders a guide of what they can expect our impact upon them will be, including our ethical commitments to them."

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Note 1: Stobarts contributes approximately £9.5 million to the local economy. This is primarily derived from employee wages £5.6 million and payments to local suppliers £3.9 million.

Copies of the Corporate Responsibility Review and Code of Business Conduct are available from the press contact.

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Stobarts:**

Stobarts Ltd is a multidiscipline contractor working in the construction, nuclear, decommissioning and facilities management industries.

Based in West Cumbria, Stobarts was established over 20 years ago by John Stobart supplying joinery services. Today, the company leads as a major contractor on many projects throughout Cumbria, North Lancashire, South Scotland and Northumbria, with high profile clients such as British Nuclear Group, NHS, Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency. Services provided include building, civil engineering, demolition, decommissioning, ground works, term contracts, nuclear works, formwork, joinery, responsive repairs and maintenance.

Stobarts Ltd's commitment to providing high quality services has seen the company grow rapidly over the past five years to employ 250 people across a number of sites in construction and facilities management roles. This growth was recognised by inclusion in the 2005 Sunday Times Fast Track 100, which identifies the UK's most rapidly growing businesses, following average sales increases of 66% per year, from an annualised £2.2m in 2001 to £9.8m in 2004. Turnover has also seen similar growth in 2005 to £12.8m and £16.6m in 2006. Stobarts Ltd also holds Investors in People accreditation and was recognised as Business of the Year 2004/2005 by the North West Accountants Society. [www.stobarts.com](http://www.stobarts.com)

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