



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF ALTRAD RMD KWIKFORM:



A TRIBUTE TO OUR LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES – DARREN CARELESS

Altrad RMD Kwikform is proud to be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year - a milestone that offers a moment to reflect on the people who have driven the company's growth and evolution over the past nine decades.

Behind every successful project, every innovative solution, and every satisfied customer stands a dedicated team whose talent, passion, and hard work have shaped Altrad RMD Kwikform into the company it is today.

Darren Careless, Global Product Innovation Manager, has been at the company for 38 years, helping to bring new ideas to life. He recalls his journey to where he is today...

Darren's journey

"My journey at RMD Kwikform began in 1987, when I came in for a one week work experience placement while finishing school. After this I received a letter inviting me to apply for an apprenticeship as part of the Youth Training Scheme (YTS), which I was successfully accepted into.

"After a year, I was officially taken on as a trainee formwork designer, and back then everything was done on the drawing board, but RMD was starting to expand its CAD team. I was selected to transition to this new technology.

"As I developed my skills, I progressed from trainee to formwork designer, then to senior formwork designer and eventually an engineering manager, leading a team focused on safety screen systems. I stayed in that role for seven years before moving into product innovation where I could focus on new products and solutions for our customers.

"As Global Product Innovation Manager, I work closely with the Global Product Innovation Director, reviewing new ideas and ensuring that our technical data stays up to date. It's a role that allows me to combine my technical expertise with creativity, something I enjoy."

Moments to remember

"Throughout my 38 years, I have had the privilege of working on major projects all around the world. One of my earliest and most significant was the Manchester Metrolink in the late eighties. I contributed to the Bhirab Bridge in Bangladesh, and more recently I've worked on HS2.

"One of my proudest achievements was helping to develop our Ascent system, working alongside the Global Product Innovation Director when he

was Engineering Director. Seeing that system become a key part of our profile has been highly rewarding.

"Beyond the large-scale projects, I've also contributed to the company's continuous innovation in other ways. Back in 2003, RMD ran a competition to name a new panel system, and I came up with the name Minima, which is still used today. I've also designed custom components to enhance existing solutions, making them more adaptable."

The evolution of the business

"The company has changed over the years since I first joined, as when I started there were only two CAD computers and most work was done by hand on the drawing boards. We didn't have email, or the internet and designs were physically posted to customers, who would then mark them and send them back for revisions. The process was slow, but it was all we knew at the time.

"Then as CAD became more advanced, we could design faster and more accurately. The arrival of email and the internet really did revolutionise communication, allowing us to send drawings instantly instead of waiting days for a response. Over time our product range expanded, moving from simple scaffold and panel systems to advanced aluminium and formwork solutions tailored to different markets around the world."

Why long service?

"I think if you asked anyone why they have stayed here for so long they'd all say the people. From the very beginning, the company has had a family-like culture, where colleagues quickly become friends. The support within the team has been a huge part of what has made my time so enjoyable. The company supports career development, encourages innovation and offers real opportunities to progress.

"RMD has also given me the opportunity to grow, as I started as an apprentice and worked my way up through different roles, learning from experienced colleagues along the way. One piece of advice I'd give to my younger self, or anyone starting their career, would be learn as much as you can from those around you, because one day you'll be the person that people turn to for guidance."