



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF ALTRAD RMD KWIKFORM:



A TRIBUTE TO OUR LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES – MARK PICKARD

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 has shaped Altrad RMD Kwikform into the company it is today.

UK Managing Director, Mark Pickard, recalls his early days within the business, discussing his finance-based background and how it contributed to his development and led to the position he holds today. He highlights the various opportunities Altrad RMD Kwikform has provided and how the company has grown since first joining 38 years ago.

Mark's journey

"I left school aged 17, I didn't go to university and joined the company about 12 months later as an Accounts Clerk. At the time, I had no grand plan or clear path, like most 18-year-olds, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. RMD gave me a chance, and the business was able to sponsor me through my accountancy qualifications through day release - one day a week at college, the rest working on the job.

"Over the years I progressed into roles like Management Accountant and Senior Accountant, then eventually I became Finance Director. At that stage, I felt like I'd reached the pinnacle of the finance ladder, but another door opened, and I was able to broaden my horizons working closely with the operations side of the business. That cross-functional experience was invaluable, and it provided me with a broader understanding of how the business worked and prepared me to step into the role of Managing Director seven years ago.

"It's a strong foundation, but being MD isn't about sticking to one function, it's about everything from strategy, people, compliance and culture. You are responsible for keeping the business moving in the right direction and making sure that it's a place where people can grow and thrive."

Moments to remember

"Some of my proudest memories are those that have pushed me, taught me something or opened new doors. One of the most impactful was when I got the chance to manage the Finance team of the previous Irish part of the business. Yes, it was small, but it gave me my first taste of management and leading people.

"I've had the opportunity to work across different regions, travel to places like South Africa and the Middle East, meeting colleagues from around the world. Those experiences have broadened my understanding of business, leadership and the value of diverse thinking. Training, leadership development and exposure to new challenges are the memories that stand out the most."

The evolution of the business

"It's amazing to think how much has changed since I joined almost 38 years ago. Mobile phones barely existed, and we were buried in paper. Technology has transformed how we operate, from communication to engineering to how we deliver for customers.

While the tools have changed, our culture hasn't. We have always been about quality of product, engineering and our people and this is still true today. What excites me as MD is making sure that this culture continues to thrive. This means building an environment where people feel supported and empowered, allowing them to develop, take risks and be proud of the work they do."

Why long service?

"Spending nearly four decades at RMD has been a natural journey for me and the reason that I've stayed for so long isn't down to one single thing, it's because of timing, opportunity and most importantly, the people. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the business has always had a strong culture - it's supportive, it's collaborative and it's built on mutual respect. We've always had the sense of pride in what we do and the willingness to help the person next to you.

"If I could go back and give 18-year-old me some advice, it would be to be resilient, be bold and take every opportunity you're given, don't sit back and wait for anything to come to you. And to anyone looking to build a career at RMD, this is a place to grow. You'll be part of a team that still feels like a family, but with the strength and backing of a large group behind it, that balance is what makes it so special."