

Press Pack

Evac+Chair

IOSH Conference and Exhibition

24 – 25 March 2010





Beckham proves you can't take mobility for granted say Evac+Chair International
Visit Evac+Chair International on stand E29 to find out more about our market-leading products and meet our experienced team who can provide expert advice on access and egress solutions.

Evac+Chair International is the UK's leading provider of specialist evacuation chair systems providing a universal evacuation solution in an emergency for a wide variety of businesses and organisations.

Despite the challenging economic backdrop, the company has seen a combined growth, along with sister company ParAid, in exports and recruitment levels of 20 and 27 per cent respectively in the last two years.

Evac+Chair International's profile of major-name clients both at home and abroad include the Yas Marina motorsport circuit in Abu Dhabi, Odeon Cinemas, Cotwolds Outdoor and the Birmingham Royal Ballet.



Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi

On show will be a number products from the Evac+Chair International range including the flagship Evac+Chair 300H and the Ibex Transeat, which will be available for a demonstration. Other items will include the Mini Stretcher and Patient Carrier Seat highlighting the range of products available from Evac+Chair International to a meet a variety of needs.



Evac+Chair 300H model

As David Beckham's recent achilles injury goes to show, you can never take your mobility for granted and representatives from Evac+Chair International will be on hand to discuss the importance of taking proactive steps to ensure an emergency evacuation plan is in place but also to explain the term 'mobility impaired' and all the relevant legislation and how they impact on your health and safety programme.

Find out more

This press pack details the latest news and case studies from Evac+Chair International. If you would like more information, please visit us on stand **E29** on the 24 or 25 March. To arrange a

Press Pack: IOSH, 24 – 25 March 2010



briefing with head of marketing, Paul Colder, to discuss any of the above in more detail please call Smarts on 0121 456 3199 or e-mail hannah.pries@smarts.co.uk.

Contact details:

Paul Colder

Evac+Chair International

0121 706 6744

pcolder@evacchair.co.uk

www.evacchair.net

Hannah Pries or Bailey Lamburn

Smarts

0121 456 3199

hannah.pries@smarts.co.uk



NEWS

Evac+Chair International reports strong exports despite tough economic climate

Evac+Chair International, the UK's leading supplier of emergency escape equipment, and its sister company ParAid, which manufactures bespoke medical handling and transportation solutions, have seen success despite challenging economic conditions as new annual figures show a strong growth in exports.

Despite the recession affecting sales in the US, Evac+Chair International and ParAid have seen a combined growth in exports of 20 per cent and recruitment levels have risen by 27 per cent in the last two years.

Mark Wallace, Managing Director of Evac+Chair International, said: "In the last year, we secured a number of significant contracts which helped us ride out the recession. One of the most exciting contracts outside of the UK has been to supply Evac+Chairs to the Yas Marina motorsport circuit in Abu Dhabi in time for its first F1 grand prix last year. The chairs are also in some well known retail stores and leisure outlets including Gap stores, Cotswold Outdoor and Odeon Cinemas."

Evac+Chair International, based in Birmingham, has also recently acquired the assets and staff of another Midlands-based company which produces straps, harnesses and load restraints.

Mark Wallace added: "This acquisition will mean that every element of our innovative products will be produced in-house, helping us to ensure the highest standard of quality control."

The news of the acquisition coincided with a visit from Midlands MEP, Malcolm Harbour, to Evac+Chair International's head office. During his visit he raised important issues for manufacturing commenting that businesses in the UK have a strong future but that the industry needs more practical measures to safeguard the sector.

Malcolm Harbour, MEP, said: "Historically, the manufacturing sector has not been good at taking products to market. Evac+Chair International is a key example of where a product has been marketed on its strengths – combining strong innovation with quality manufacture. We need more pioneering businesses like this."



CASE STUDY

Safe escape for Royal Latin School pupils

The Royal Latin School in Buckinghamshire is to install hi-tech evacuation chairs after reviewing its safety policies and identifying the need for additional emergency aid for mobility-impaired students and visitors.

The chairs will be supplied and maintained by Evac+Chair International, the country's leading provider of specialist evacuation chair systems, and are specially designed to provide assistance to people who have difficulty or are incapable of independently descending staircases. Individuals with physical disabilities, pregnant women or the elderly are amongst those who will benefit.

Debbie Donoghue, premises manager at the Royal Latin School, said: "The safety of our pupils, staff and visitors is paramount and having the confidence that we have the highest-quality safety apparatus in the event of an emergency is crucial. Lifts should not be used in the event of a fire or other emergencies and, for some, this could cut off exits from our building. The school's investment in installing 15 evacuation chairs will ensure a safe escape route for everyone."

Staff at the school will also undertake Evac+Chair International's 'Key Trainer Masterclass' programme. The masterclass provides full training on how to assist someone in using the equipment in an urgent situation and, in accordance with Evac+Chair International's approved code of practice, enables trained staff to instruct other colleagues in a flexible and cost-effective way.

Debbie Donoghue added: "The more people who are trained in using the Evac+Chair the better as this will minimise risk and improve accessibility. Regular servicing and ongoing maintenance provided by Evac+Chair International ensures compliance with key legislation, and will also ensure that the apparatus is kept in good working order. It is extremely reassuring to know that, should we require it, we have the necessary equipment and skills to potentially save lives."



CASE STUDY

Birmingham Royal Ballet turns to Evac+Chair International

Evac+Chair International, the country's leading provider of specialist evacuation chair systems, has been chosen by the prestigious Birmingham Royal Ballet to provide additional support for employees and visitors in the event of an emergency and evacuation.

In particular, an evacuation chair has been installed at the Birmingham Royal Ballet's Jerwood Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Dance Injuries, to assist injured dancers ascend and descend staircases in the event of an emergency.

The ballet company is based on a complex site which has numerous floors and the evacuation chair system has been installed to ensure people who have difficulty or are unable to independently ascend or descend staircases, can do so safely in the event of an emergency evacuation.

The chairs were installed following a comprehensive fire and health and safety risk assessment was carried out by the organisation, as Lynn Colledge, human resources director at the Birmingham Royal Ballet, explains:

"In order to ensure the safety of all our staff and visitors, we installed Evac+Chairs throughout the premises to make sure we are providing a safe escape route for everyone in the case of an emergency. We have also trained a number of staff in using the evacuation chairs and regularly carry out refresher courses so we can be confident that, should the need arise, we have the skills and the equipment available to assist in an emergency."

Paul Colder, head of marketing at Evac+Chair International, comments: "Evac+Chair International is delighted that such a prestigious and unique venue has chosen to install our evacuation chairs. This ensures that systems are in place to provide the safe evacuation of everyone using the facilities, from mobility impaired staff and visitors, to injured dancers at the Jerwood Centre.

"The service does not end once the chairs have been installed - we will continue to work closely with the Birmingham Royal Ballet to maintain equipment and train staff."



NOTES TO EDITORS FOR PRESS RELEASES AND CASE STUDIES

For more information about Evac+Chair, please contact Hannah Pries or Bailey Lamburn on 0121 456 3199 or email: hannah.pries@smarts.co.uk

For colour separation requests, please contact Paul Colder on fax: 0121 706 6746 or email: pcolder@evacchair.co.uk

- Evac+Chair has over 25 years experience in the design and manufacture of emergency evacuation chairs for the mobility impaired.
- Evac+Chair International's "ServiCare[®]" maintenance service ensure Evac+Chairs are fully operational, and meet legal obligations in accordance with PUWER regulations.