

PARTNER CASE STUDY: MATHIAS AND SONS

BACKGROUND

Established in 1952 by George Mathias and his two sons, the company has gained a strong reputation for its supply of corporate uniform, workwear and PPE, sourced specifically for the needs of customers.

Over the last ten years Mathias has invested considerable capital into the company's development and the reins of the business have been handed down to George's great grandchildren. Current turnover is around £7,000,000 and employ 50 members of staff.

CHALLENGES

Continuing to ensure that Mathias's products are manufactured ethically is the biggest challenge they face. Mathias ensures all core suppliers sign up to the Supplier Code of Conduct and they audit high risk factories against the ETI Base Code. As an SME, Jason Mathias is ultimately responsible for Sustainability and delegates ethical issues to the Procurement Manager and environmental issues to the Environmental Lead.



ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL

As a result of using the Supply Chain School, Mathias has been reporting environmental KPIs and targets more consistently, and this helped them receive their ISO14001 accreditation in October 2016.

Mathias used the SCS initially as a learning tool to make management more aware of key issues regarding waste and other environmental considerations. As the company moves up through the levels of recognition in the School, the 'badge' will be displayed on marketing materials as it shows that a company is willing to be transparent on key issues. Most of the resources in the Mathias

Action Plan was tailored for Small to Medium Enterprises, which was ideal for Mathias' organisational improvement without an expensive, multiple-site awareness campaign. Mathias are now a gold member of the School.

BENEFITS

The future benefits of membership are threefold. Firstly, the school demonstrates how to improve environmental reporting initiatives, which can help companies (SMEs especially) achieve various accreditations. It also puts like-minded organisations in touch and can provide key networking opportunities. Lastly, displaying the School badge on the company website and marketing materials builds trust with potential customers.

THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL

The School provides an excellent opportunity for companies of all sizes to find others who are committed to transparency and reducing their environmental impacts. The School also offers a route to market by encouraging local businesses to get in touch.