

'No compromise' solutions for passive fire protection— that's Interact's mission

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From the day over 3 years ago when Tony Tiernan first started Interact Fire Solutions, he was determined to offer the highest level of advice and the best possible products to the construction industry.

This ethos was based on his understanding of how the particular medium of epoxy intumescent could be utilised to provide the perfect insulation answer for a range of applications in a number of specific environments. Originally developed for offshore oil rigs, epoxy intumescent had proved its worth in being able to withstand the whole battery of forces that could possibly be thrown at this kind of installation. These included chemical attack, corrosion, extreme weather conditions—and jet fire blowouts and explosions.

The breakthrough Interact made was in engineering a process whereby epoxy intumescent could be moulded and cast to a particular shape with a high degree of accuracy. Tony Tiernan seized on this to produce a superior form of fire protection for circular hollow sections. This culminated in the development of the company's flagship product, *Interactive Columns*, now frequently specified for feature columns in building environments like shopping malls, atriums and prestige office complexes.

When exposed to a high increase in temperature, the epoxy intumescent expands slowly and evenly to prevent the columns from collapsing under the stress of extreme heat. It does this by introducing sufficient thermal insulation to extend the time it takes for the steelwork to reach its critical failure temperature. In this way, *Interactive Columns* can provide up to 3 hours fire protection, while enjoying significant appearance and maintenance advantages over thin-film intumescent and other alternatives such as concrete-filled columns and secondary cladding.

Reflecting on the impact his company has made in the market place, Tony Tiernan commented, *"What architects and structural engineers are looking for more and more is a solution that does not compromise fire protection at the cost of aesthetic appeal in order to comply to the requirements of legislation. The beauty of our products is that they will always enhance the original design concept, never adulterate it."*

Perfectionists in Passive Fire Protection

Interact's product solutions are not limited just to circular hollow sections. With its cast epoxy intumescent being so versatile, rectangular hollow sections can also be protected—as can suspension rods and hangers—and architectural details such as nodes and abutments. With all these features, the application of cast epoxy can be aesthetically pleasing without any undermining of the fire protection integrity.

The company's business approach is best summed up by two words—professionalism and innovation. Working in partnership with architects and structural engineers during the design stages of a new building or refurbishment, Interact then teams up with the appointed contractors (and sub-contractors) providing them not only with technical assistance, but also with overall quality management as part of its standard product support.

Interact is also busy undertaking research and development projects designed to create new methods of production and application for the construction industry that can provide optimum solutions at the most competitive costs possible.

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For further information, please contact **Tony Tiernan** directly on **01694 751394**

High resolution photos are available at www.interactfire.co.uk/press