

# Mark of the trade



Systems company Exlabesa has been accepted into the Made in Britain group of UK-based manufacturers. This fast-growing community was established to celebrate and raise awareness of quality British manufacturing businesses.

To be eligible, companies have to agree to the organisation's stringent code of conduct, which commits firms to providing quality products, treating employees well, and generally conducting themselves as ethically as possible.

As a member of the network, Exlabesa is now entitled to display the *Made in Britain* mark on its website, brochures and other sales material.



“Exlabesa have had a major presence in the UK for nearly 20 years,” says sales director Kevin Warner.

“We don't just have a token satellite office in the UK – the vast majority of the products we sell in Britain have been made in Britain, and many have been developed over years of close consultation with British fabricators.

“Exlabesa UK would not have grown into the successful business it is today without the hard work and ingenuity of our experienced British-based employees, and the support of fantastic fabricators all across the country.

“We want to take this opportunity to thank them all, and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the months and years to come.” □

[www.exlabesa.co.uk](http://www.exlabesa.co.uk)

**Aluminium systems company Exlabesa has added Xlaslide sliding door to its range.**

The new door has been designed to tap into soaring demand for luxury home improvement products that blur the lines between home and garden according to an Exlabesa spokesman.

The company claims that the door is easy to manufacture and install, and feedback has already been extremely positive from both fabricators and end users.

With slim sightlines the twin or triple-tracked Xlaslide door can support panes up to 200kg in weight, and offers a smooth action thanks to its heavy-duty adjustable rollers. Exlabesa also claims typical U-values of 1.5 with a 1.0 centre pane value. □

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**From slimline curtain walls to robust commercial doors and thermally-efficient windows, the flexibility offered by aluminium systems makes them a popular choice with fabricators, installers and main contractors alike. Now with the need to make all facilities COVID-secure presenting numerous challenges, Senior Architectural Systems' sales director James Keeling-Heane explains how aluminium systems can help create safer spaces and healthier interiors**

**I**n the wake of the recent Covid-19 outbreak, building owners are re-evaluating how people enter and use their facilities and in high-traffic areas, the choice of door system can make a big difference.

High-traffic touch points like door handles can become a breeding ground for bacteria and viruses and as a result, require regular cleaning. Automatic doors can therefore provide a safe and secure solution and can be used both as main entrance doors and internally to help further limit the risk of contamination within a building.

If automatic doors are not appropriate, many existing aluminium doors systems can be fabricated to utilise innovative hardware such as wave-activated touchless entry and exit pads. Other entrance system options that can be offered to help building owners navigate the new COVID-19 regulations include the use of facial and thermal recognition cameras, and people-counting monitors to help manage occupancy levels.

### Fresh thinking

Ensuring adequate ventilation, particularly in small and enclosed spaces, has long been recognised as an important way to maintain a healthy internal environment. Safety must always be a key consideration when specifying windows and different opening styles offer different solutions. Tilt and turn aluminium windows are a popular choice as they combine the look of a traditional casement window with a modern opening style that can be operated in two ways – they can be used in the tilt position for ventilation, with the turn function used for ease of cleaning from the inside.

Not only easy to clean, the tilt feature also provides ventilation with restricted access to prevent people, children in particular, from climbing out – making this style of window particularly useful for high-rise residential schemes.

To meet the specific challenges of the commercial sector, especially education and healthcare projects, parallel push style windows are also a great solution. With hinges on all sides of the frame, this type of window can be easily pushed open and yet will remain parallel to the wall. This enables rooms to be safely ventilated, with the

limited opening helping to reduce the risk of falls from the window or trapped fingers. Aesthetically, the use of push parallel style windows can also help to create a more uniform façade.

### Lighten up

With so much focus rightly being placed on physical safety and the need to reduce the risk of infection, it's important to also consider the emotional and mental impact of a building's design. As well as providing practical benefits, aluminium fenestration systems also offer exceptional aesthetic appeal and can help maximise the use of natural light – which in turn can influence the wellbeing of the building's users. Owing to the inherent strength of aluminium, larger expanses of glazing can be safely supported within much narrower frames to provide slim sightlines, wider views and a greater link between internal and external areas.

### Built to last

Another important attribute of aluminium is the fact that it is incredibly durable and requires very little maintenance. At a time when cleaning regimes have had to be increased but costs must be restricted, this can make a huge difference to overall maintenance budgets. The use of a powder coating can further boost the durability of aluminium and many new innovations are now available which include bespoke decorative and textured finishes, as well as specialist coatings such as those that offer anti-bacterial properties or higher resistance to exposure to UV light and humidity.

Early engagement with the systems manufacturer is an important part of the specification process and in these uncertain times, can help identify the most appropriate and most cost-effective options for fenestration packages. □

*To discuss your next project, please contact Senior Architectural Systems on 01709 772600 or [info@sasmail.co.uk](mailto:info@sasmail.co.uk). Further information and regional contact details can be found on the website – [www.seniorarchitecturalsystems.co.uk](http://www.seniorarchitecturalsystems.co.uk)*