

SUMO UK LTD wins RASE'S 2011 Sir Roland Burke Machinery Trophy Award



SUMO UK, manufacturers of a highly rated, robust and innovative range of cultivation equipment at their factory near York, have been awarded the prestigious Sir Roland Burke Machinery Trophy for 2011.

The 'Burke' Trophy is presented to a company with manufacturing facilities within the United Kingdom which has distinguished itself by making significant contributions over a number of years to the development of mechanisation in specific fields or by supplying a substantial range of products.

SUMO UK Ltd's Chief Executive Shaun Wealleans, son of a farm manager, founded SW Agriservices in 1991. He rented a farm shed to repair tractors and started fabricating Front Linkages.

The first truck-tired press (and the first piece of kit to carry the Sumo name, which happens to be Shaun's nickname) soon followed. During this time SW also made parts for Grimme UK and further developments led to the Front Mounted Sumo.

As the production of the Front Sumo continued, a couple of factory moves saw the company rent premises at Full Sutton on the outskirts of York. Soon, SW was designing and building machines for Lynx Engineering, KRM, Kverneland and Vaderstad, as well as producing single and 3 bed Shapeformas for Grimme UK.

However, when the Sumo Trio minimum tillage cultivator was launched the company really established itself in the cultivator market. The success of the kit led to a trailed version and the Trio has become the UK's best selling one pass cultivator whilst also winning Gold medal awards in Serbia and Lithuania and a silver medal in the RASE

Machinery Awards.

The company soon expanded further with the production of new machines including the Quatro, Subsoiler and Rippa and continual expansion and establishment of a wide network of dealers both in the UK and Europe and even as far as New Zealand.

Sumo continues to invest in R&D and expand its product range, in 2008 the first prototype and testing of the Versadrill began, which was successfully launched in 2009 and more recently they have brought their grassland subsoiler to market.

Now known as Sumo UK Ltd, the company has a new factory in Melbourne, Yorkshire with 100,00sq/ft of production space - doubling the size of their previous facilities. It employs 50 full time members of staff and has over 2500 machines working in the field.

The Judges selected SUMO UK Ltd as they not only met all of the criteria, but demonstrated themselves to be a forward-thinking innovative company who identify the demands of British agriculture and effectively deliver solutions thereby providing a valuable and long lasting contribution to the agricultural sector.

Shaun received the Award at RASE's 'Grassland and Muck' Event on 18 May 2011 from RASE Chairman, Henry Cator.

Mr Cator said: "We are delighted to make this award to SUMO UK Ltd. The company has set a fine example of innovation and quality over the past couple of decades - producing the robust and well designed equipment so essential to the success of our agricultural industry."

Ends

Notes to Editors:-

1. Press release issued by Katie Boon - Royal Agricultural Society of England
Tel No: 02476 858 252 Email: katieb@rase.org.uk

-
2. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, play a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science, the promotion of best practice. www.rase.org.uk