

Confident in new roads to growth

As the Managing Director of Gordon Leslie Group, Craig Leslie believes transport and logistics can be the lifeblood of Scotland's economy. He says: "Scotland has significant geographic challenges and therefore the transport infrastructure is essential. A substantial amount of what we produce is exported all over the world and, in turn, we are a large importer of goods that rely on an efficient and versatile transport system."

Gordon Leslie Group itself has a long and proven track record in this sector, having been founded in 1970 and now enjoying its second-generation of family management.

As a major provider of total logistics solutions throughout the UK and far beyond, it has grown from a full load haulier to become a leading provider of worldwide freight, UK distribution, bonded warehousing and order fulfilment.

Craig's direct role in all of this is to ensure everyone is playing their part in the operation and that all of the services are running as



Gordon Leslie Group monitors both driving performance and CO2 output

volume in certain areas makes running efficient and profitable services very difficult. That's when service providers really need to look hard at their operations and be innovative."

For Gordon Leslie Group, being innovative also means continually finding new ways to be more eco-friendly. "Vehicles clearly are significant contributors to pollution," says Craig, "and therefore we have to be more aware than many other industries of our environmental responsibilities. Our vehicle replacement programme ensures we operate the most fuel-efficient vehicles as possible and we are having a major fleet replacement this year.

"We use the Volvo vehicle telematics programme, which, as well as driving behaviour, monitors CO2 output – giving us important information and allowing us to set criteria to enable us to monitor progress in reduction of CO2 emissions."

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smoothly as possible. From the company's bespoke headquarters in Hillington Park, Glasgow, he says: "I spend a lot of time in the operational environment, which I think is essential in order to know just what is going on. My other main function is to look ahead and try to guide the growth of the business in the right direction.

"We specialise more and more in

supply chain management and our customers can effectively outsource their entire warehousing function to us. We offer a wide range of services, from worldwide freight management to specialised warehouse functions such as export crating. This, along with our UK transport infrastructure, means we can offer customers every service they could need."

The continued growth of the business must be achieved in a climate that sees many new obstacles for the industry, but Craig is confident of clear and steady progress on the road ahead.

"There are many challenges," he says, "not least of all the unpredictable fluctuation in fuel costs. The imbalance of freight is also very challenging and the lack of

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