

# Olympic year ahead for kitchen firm

Leading portable kitchen and catering equipment hire specialist **PKL** has had a busy start to 2012.

As well as serving many public and private sector markets on a daily basis throughout the UK, PKL is vastly experienced in delivering solutions for global projects such as the Commonwealth and Olympic Games and rapid response camp kitchens for military, mining and NGO organisations.

With a turnover of around £18 million, the company brings global business to Gloucestershire and from its base in Bishops Cleeve has supplied high profile events around the World, From the Olympics and Glastonbury to the Asian Games and Harrods.

Managing Director Chris Irving said: "As a company we've worked in all areas of the world and across all areas and levels of business. Wherever you would find catering facilities, chances are we've supplied them.

"From feeding thousands of athletes at major sporting events and soldiers in Afghanistan down to hospitals, schools, prisons and care homes, our portable kitchens are suitable for food preparation at every level. We've been working in this business now for nearly 30 years and know our area of expertise inside out."

In those 30 years PKL has completed over 10,000 temporary kitchen hires all over the world. To supply its worldwide customer base PKL has over 900 portable kitchen units, available for short or long-term rental, that provide catering facilities during refurbishments, events and emergencies.

The company also supplies permanent kitchen solutions, through both the contract rental of catering equipment and the rental or sale of modular kitchen buildings. PKL



also has a team of designers who can create bespoke facilities, like the one being built in Gloucestershire this year to travel with Cirque de Soleil.

Mr Irving said: "All our contracts are important to us and this is reflected in the service we offer. Each hire comes with the support of our dedicated engineers and technical support team who will ensure the kitchen unit is fully functional throughout the hire period and can be called out to repair any problems if they should arise.

"Our units are suitable for so many purposes – for PR and marketing companies hosting events or pop-up restaurants to care homes or pubs that need to have their existing facilities refurbished without losing revenue. In the last few years we have broadened our scope to supply permanent modular kitchen facilities as well."

Whilst working on a national and international scale has its challenges, PKL ensures it works within its local community. "As a proud Gloucestershire business we're

always keen to get involved with local initiatives, whether that's visiting Cleeve School, as we did recently to talk to A Level students about running an international business, or supporting our local business award, the community we live and work in is important to us."

The company also invests heavily in its staff of 80 offering diplomas and training courses relevant to their positions. Currently 29 key members of staff from across the business are studying for NVQ Level 2 diplomas in Waste Management, in a bid to reduce the amount of waste the company sends to landfill.

It's this investment in people that makes PKL a company with a real family feel. "All our staff are vital to the success of the business", said Mr Irving. "We recognise how important it is to provide them with interesting and relevant training, not just for the business but to help them develop their own careers."

With the renewal of their ISO14001 accreditation in December last year PKL is hoping to show just how seriously it takes its environmental responsibilities.

PKL looks set to go from strength to strength over the next 12 months with some exciting initiatives in the pipeline. Mr Irving said: "We're looking forward to launching some new products into the care home sector, re-launching our free contingency planning service for existing and new customers and finalising plans for some exciting events over the coming months."

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