

# The Switchgear Times

Manchester // Aberdeen // Glasgow // Sunderland // Southampton // Singapore // Florida



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*Spilling all the electrici-tea*

2025

## BREAKING NEWS



**R&B SWITCHGEAR  
GROUP CELEBRATES  
40 YEARS: PLANS FOR  
2025 ANNOUNCED**



# SPECIALIST MARINE DIVISION SETS SAIL IN SOUTHAMPTON



***R&B Switchgear Group opens new hub in Southampton, enhancing marine industry support with Oliver Batt, Southampton Division Operations Director, leading the expansion.***

R&B Switchgear Group, is pleased to announce the successful launch of its new office and workshop facility in Southampton. Since it's opening in 2024 the new southern hub represents the company's fifth office in the UK, now covering all key regions: North, Midlands, and South. The new Southampton facility, strategically located at the heart of the UK's marine industry, has now been fully furnished and

equipped to serve our clients with enhanced efficiency. This new hub houses our specialist marine division, enabling us to deliver superior support and rapid response to our prestigious clients, including P&O Cruises, Carnival, and Norwegian Cruise Line. The post-COVID expansion of the marine industry has increased the demand for advanced power systems. Our new Southampton office features a

well-equipped workshop for in-house manufacturing, repair, and servicing of switchgear and other critical systems. "This facility is a significant milestone for us," said Oliver Batt, Operations Director - Southampton. "The Southampton location completes our national coverage, allowing us to effectively serve clients across the North, Midlands, and South of the UK."



*Oliver Batt, Operations Director - Southampton, opens the doors to new hub.*

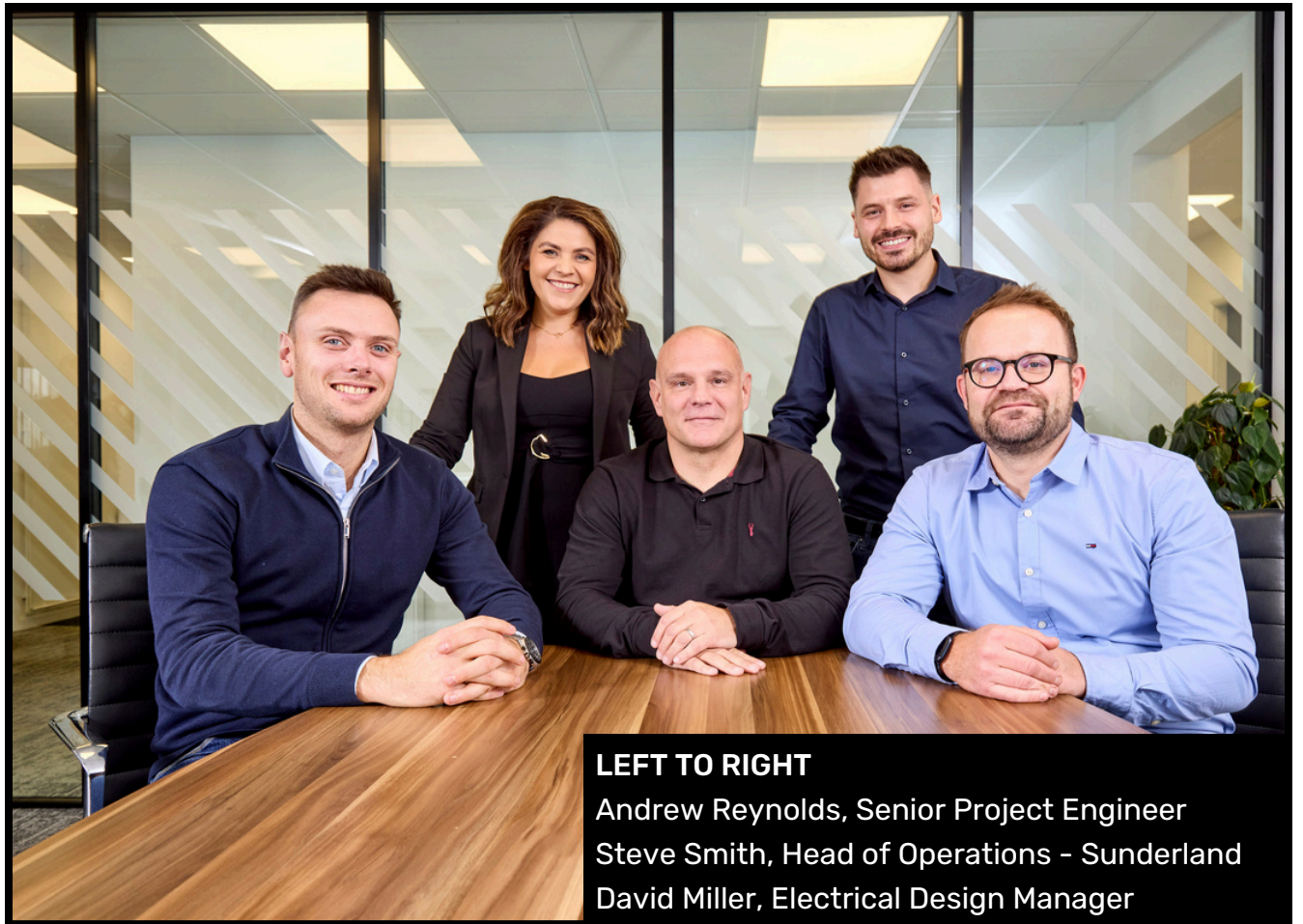


# NORTH EAST, YOUR NEW SERVICE HUB IS HERE

*This strategic expansion is set to enhance the Group's service capabilities across the North East region, providing comprehensive electrical switchgear maintenance and support.*

Leader in electrical switchgear solutions, R&B Switchgear Group, is delighted to announce the official launch of its Sunderland branch, R&B Switchgear Services (Sunderland) Ltd. Specialising in the service and maintenance of low and high-voltage switchgear, the new hub will strengthen the Group's presence and capabilities across the North East, delivering exceptional support to regional clients in industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and renewables.

Following a successful operational period, the Sunderland branch is officially launching to meet the growing demand for high-quality switchgear services, ensuring businesses in the region benefit from fast, reliable support. This expansion reinforces the Group's national presence, marking its fourth strategic location in the UK and underscoring its commitment to driving innovation across the country.



**LEFT TO RIGHT**  
 Andrew Reynolds, Senior Project Engineer  
 Steve Smith, Head of Operations - Sunderland  
 David Miller, Electrical Design Manager

*"Providing a top-quality service is at the heart of our Sunderland office, and having already gained momentum, we're excited to bring a new level of innovation to the competitive North East market."*

*Steve Smith, the new Head of Operations for the Sunderland branch,*

After a long and successful career in the region, Steve Smith, Head of Operations - Sunderland, brings invaluable expertise from his previous roles at ABB, Industrial Switchgear Services (ISS), and Durham Switchgear. His reputation for maintaining the highest standards makes him ideally suited to deliver innovation and growth in the region.





R&B SWITCHGEAR GROUP

Delivering world-class  
power engineering solutions  
to a global client base  
since 1985

Leading provider of electrical switchgear and power  
engineering services for the marine, oil & gas, healthcare,  
transport, defence and energy sectors, we combine  
expertise with cutting-edge technology to provide  
reliable solutions for critical power applications.

# A FAMILY LEGACY: NEW LEADERSHIP TO DRIVE THE NEXT CHAPTER

R&B Switchgear Group are proudly celebrating their 40th anniversary with the announcement of a newly appointed leadership team. As a family-founded and family-led business, they are excited to enter this next chapter under the leadership of their newly appointed **Group Managing Director, Max Beswick**, and **Group Operations Director, Sophie Gudgeon**. The new leadership team has been pivotal in shaping the company's strategic direction, accelerating growth in key sectors, and securing landmark contracts with some of the UK's most notable household names, including United Utilities, TESCO, Carnival, and Tata Steel.



**EXCLUSIVE**

## WORK SMARTER, LIVE BETTER: THE 9-DAY FORTNIGHT IS HERE TO STAY

R&B Switchgear Group has permanently introduced a 9-day fortnight following a successful trial. This flexible schedule allows employees to work their hours over nine days, gaining an extra day off every two weeks. The initiative promotes work-life balance, boosts productivity, and reflects R&B's commitment to employee wellbeing while maintaining excellent service. By prioritising modern working practices, the company fosters a positive workplace culture and demonstrates its dedication to innovation in both engineering and employee support.