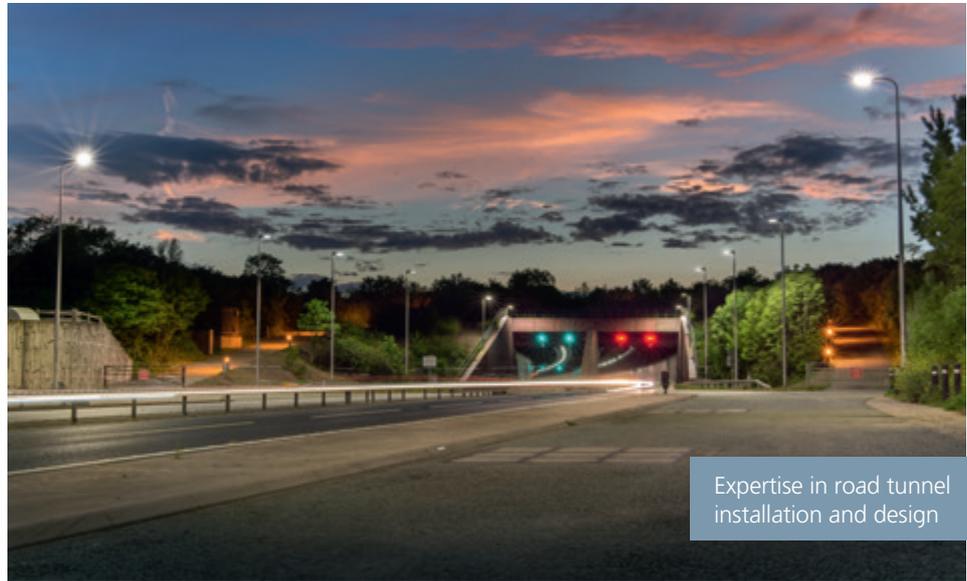


GAP Electrical & Mechanical Services Ltd



Paul McBreeze (Managing Director) and Wyn Roberts (Director/Consulting Engineer)



Expertise in road tunnel installation and design

GAP Electrical & Mechanical Services Limited is a company based in Conwy, North Wales operated by a senior management team of highly-skilled professionals who possess the technical abilities and experience to provide professional consultancy and a wide range of engineering services, project management and design. They pride themselves on being client focused and have developed a reputation for being a one stop company that will provide the whole package from assisting clients in creating the right specifications to design, planning and executing the required works.

FACTS ABOUT GAP ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL SERVICES LTD

- » Formed in 2003
- » Turnover £1.2 million per year
- » Company based in North Wales
- » Business specialises in design, consultancy and installation of mechanical and electrical systems

The company was formed by Paul McBreeze in 2003 with an aim to redress the balance, by sighting local companies to provide the main works in the area rather than large external firms. The company's first line of works included mobile telephone infrastructure across the UK which still continues to this day. Geraint Wyn Roberts, a chartered engineer, joined the company as a Co-Director in October 2004 bringing a great deal of skill and experience in the field. His engineering background enabled the company to expand to offer consultancy and design services.

In 2006 the company achieved a range of routine maintenance works on local roads and highway tunnels infrastructure along the A55, also known as the North Wales Expressway (Welsh: *Gwibffordd Gogledd Cymru*) and the Chester to Bangor Trunk Road, which is a major road in Britain.

In 2008 GAP quoted for a four-year contract for a large facilities provider to carry out electrical and mechanical maintenance on the highways tunnel infrastructure.

Through the relative security of this contract they were able to expand the business into design and consultancy allowing clients a whole package which provides all of the required work from the planning stage through to the final completion. The company now employs a range of staff from apprentices to high-calibre graduate and chartered design engineers and project managers. GAP offers a 24 hour, 7 days a week emergency call out responding to customer needs and requirements.

GAP have also been engaged overseas with international works and gained experience in asset and condition recording projects in the Maldives and the Caribbean allowing GAP to adapt their working practices to a different culture and working environment.

Gap is determined to meet and exceed clients' expectations to deliver sustainable repeat business and continuous improvement across the company, in line with their accreditations which include BS ISO 9001:2008 – quality being achieved through best business processes and practice throughout the company. BS ISO 14001:2004 – GAP's environmental objectives and responsibilities are set to reduce the

impact of our activities which have an impact on the environment and OHSAS 18001:2007 – our commitment to health and safety is demonstrated through our safety documentation and risk assessments leading to zero incidents, which is our key health and safety objective.

GAP hope to achieve transition to the new ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 standards and NHSS Sector 8 registration/accreditation in December 2017 which far bigger companies providing similar services do not normally achieve.

Recently GAP have expanded into trunk road infrastructure, design project management and installation. GAP have employed a range of staff and expanded their business premises. The main basis of GAP's work is on a subcontracting arrangement, however a company the size of GAP faces daily challenges whereby contract demands can change rapidly which can affect a small company and the ability to invest in equipment and personnel.

GAP would like to see themselves in a more stable position which would reduce risk and enable the company to invest more confidently in the future.

“The company now employs a range of staff from apprentices to high-calibre graduates, chartered design engineers and project managers”

Apprenticeships should be promoted more widely to young people



Road tunnel infrastructure maintenance





Tunnel maintenance

» EXAMPLE PROJECTS

- » M4 Brynglas Tunnel mechanical and electrical (M&E) refurbishment design
- » Conwy Tunnel Major M&E design and refurbishment works
- » Penmaenbach Tunnel major M&E design and refurbishment works
- » Pen-y-Clip Tunnel major M&E design and refurbishment works
- » A55 street lighting M&E design and refurbishment works
- » Blackwall Tunnel lighting/fire detection design
- » Crooked Billet (London) Tunnel lighting and power distribution design
- » Leeds Woodhouse Tunnel lighting and power design
- » Kingsway Tunnel high voltage (HV) transformer replacement design
- » Various tunnel technical reports and technical feasibility studies on behalf of the Welsh Government.

“Apprenticeships should be promoted to develop the necessary skills on the job and engage with education whilst getting paid at the same time”

Paul McBreeze, Managing Director, is also concerned about the shortfall of skills and lack of talent in the industry and feels that companies should have more input into training providers. ‘Training providers need to be sighted on employer expectations, and training courses should be adapted to reflect the needs of the industry,’ he said. ‘Young people should be encouraged to learn trades and get involved in the engineering industry and should appreciate that, often, there is a requirement to have a good technical ability. Apprenticeships should be promoted more widely to young people so that they can develop the necessary skills on the job, and engage with education whilst getting paid at the same time.’

The company has grown year-on-year as far as employees and knowledge is concerned and projects carried out over the last several years have

primarily focused on road tunnel refurbishment and upgrade works. GAP started with a turnover of £120,000 and is now turning over around £1.2 million a year. GAP has provided a quality service working to very tight schedules which has obviously been recognised by clients as it has resulted in significant return business. The type of work carried out is within a niche market working to recognised European Tunnel Safety Standards with the safety of motorist’s paramount within the M&E designs that are produced.

GAP have supported four engineers through local apprentice training schemes and believe that, due to a shortage of good skilled candidates in the local area, it is important to try and retain a skilled workforce for a strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the future.