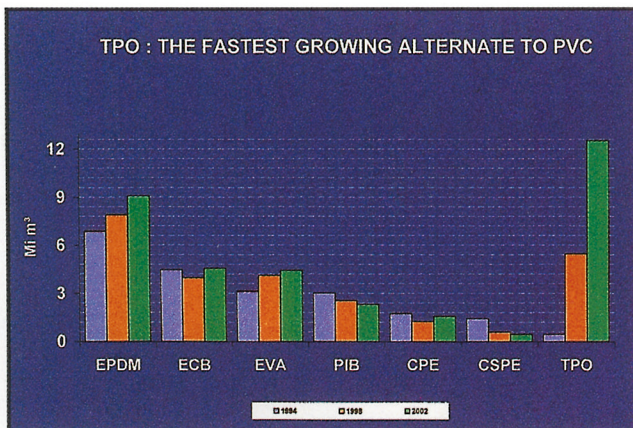


## Editorial

The development of the polyolefins technology has resulted in the introduction of a new type of single-ply membranes, made of either polyethylene or polypropylene based compounds and generally known as TPO (Thermoplastic Poly Olefins). These materials combine the advantages of both elastomeric and plastomeric membranes while being environmentally friendly, which explains their significant growth. A recent survey carried out by CDC indicates that TPO is the fastest growing type of single ply membranes, which confirms the current market: a major concern toward environment-related issues.



Launched in 1995, Rubberfuse was amongst the first product lines to offer complete "green" systems using FPA membranes.

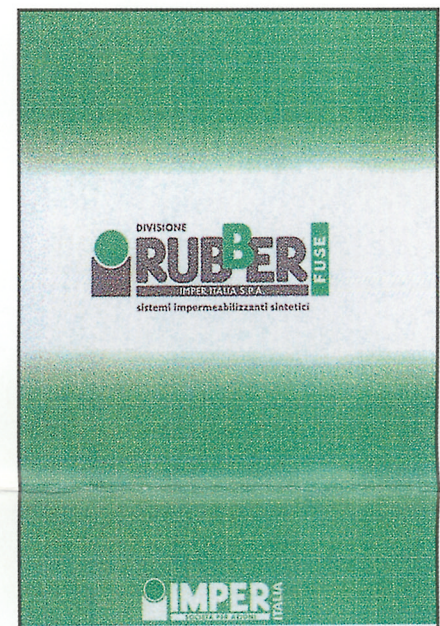
Today, Rubberfuse is the single-ply division of Imper Italia and has established an image of a leading pioneer, as its main component, Sintofol FPA (Flexible Polypropylene Alloy), is a significant player in the development of TPO membranes.

Source: CDC Ltd, 3 The Plain Thornbury, Bristol BS1 2AG, U.K.

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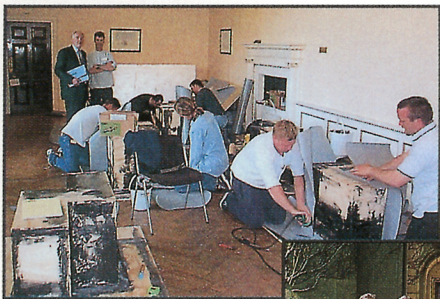
## New Rubberfuse A/E Manual

The new version of the Architect/Engineer manual is now available. It is divided in six sections: product data sheets (Sintofol membranes and accessories), systems specifications, welded field seam technology, quality control/certification program, references and samples. The main change is the section 2: the concept is to have one-page specifications, each supported by a typical cross-section. The section includes seven ea roofing specifications and six ea waterproofing specifications. It also includes twenty-two ea typical details. The document is currently available in English, Italian and French. A German version is being prepared.



## Training at the Castle

A country mansion, dating back to 1665, is the new Rubberfuse training centre for Integrated Polymer Systems (UK) Ltd. Swinton Castle is set in 20 acres of beautiful countryside in the heart of north Yorkshire. Since January this year, over ninety delegates from fifty companies in England, Scotland, Wales and Eire have undergone training there.



The two day "workshops" were designed by IPS with the help of a consultant. No matter what the skill level is amongst those who attend, the training programme has been designed to meet everyone's needs: from those who are experienced in fitting single-ply systems to those who are seeing it for the first time. Whilst installers work on models, in a specially designed and equipped workshop under the direction of IPS's training manager, the technical/sales staff are receiving tuition from senior members of the IPS team and visiting speakers.

A dedicated course manager takes care of all administration of the workshops from sending out the invitations to delegates receiving their certificates of attendance and corporate gifts. As well as gaining understanding of the technical data associated with Rubberfuse and its application, they leave Swinton Castle in a relaxed mood having spent two days in surroundings which are comfortable and easily lend themselves to learning.



## Rubberfuse at the Centre of the Earth

An area of outstanding beauty in the north of England, but subsequently damaged during the industrial revolution by coal mining and other industries, is now returning to its former glory with a little help from Integrated Polymer Systems (UK) Ltd and Rubberfuse. The Earth Centre in the valleys of the rivers Don and Dearne in the Doncaster area of South Yorkshire, covers over 400 acres and is now designated as a site of special scientific interest. Ecologically diverse habitats embracing, woodlands, rivers, wetlands and magnesium limestone outcrops now thrive where there was once coal tips and slurry ponds.



The regeneration of the site was achieved by UK government funding and contributions by organisations concerned with the future of environment. Rubberfuse, being a completely green product, was the natural choice of roofing material for the Earth Centre's restaurant and impressive entrance area. Building materials had to be recyclable, aesthetically pleasing and competitively priced. The Earth Centre was opened over the Easter Holiday and thousands flocked through its doors. Peter Bowers, the managing director of IPS says: "When public money is being spent a great emphasis is placed on green issues, in fact some grants will not be given unless it can be shown that the planners have taken this into account; this is especially so on environmentally sensitive projects such as the Earth Centre. I am confident that Rubberfuse will win every time as the main choice roofing material in these circumstances".

If further endorsement is needed of the environmentally friendly properties of Rubberfuse then one need look no further than this project - a centre which has the future of the environment at its heart.

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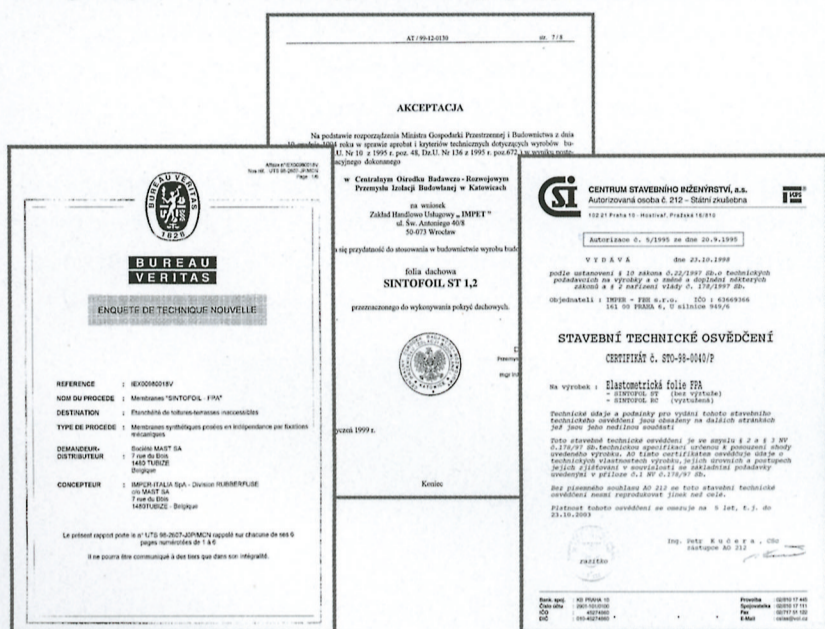
## New Certifications

The European certification program keeps going on: Approval has now been obtained from the following Authorities:

Bureau Veritas	France	Rubberfuse roofing systems*
COBR	Poland	Sintofoil ST membrane
CSI	Czech Republic	Sintofoil ST and RC membranes

\* Renewal of former approval expiring April '99

This reflects Imper Italia's marketing strategy to meet the local requirements in countries where Rubberfuse Division is active. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Rubberflex, Impet and I-FBH, the Rubberfuse distributors in France, Poland and in the Czech Republic respectively. Their commitment and continuous support provided during the process of these Approvals is highly appreciated.

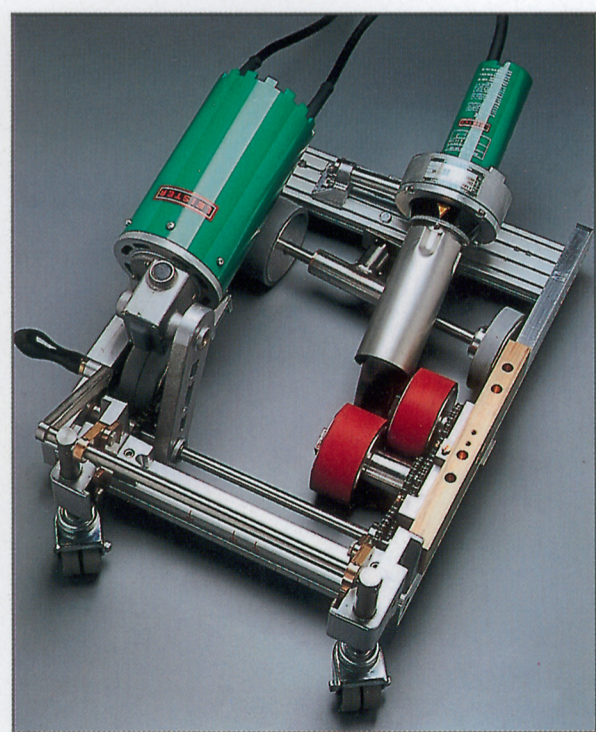


## BAS: easy welding for homogeneous sheets

A totally inert material, FPA does not require a reinforcement to perform. Consequently, homogeneous membranes are now frequently used for loose-laid/ballasted, mechanically attached or adhered roofing systems.

Automatic seam welding of unsupported, hence more flexible membranes however proves often to be a demanding operation: whilst field assembly of this type of sheet is no problem for top level operatives some applicators do experience "wrinkling" problems.

With the BAS kit as developed by Verder, wrinkled joints has become a thing of



the past. The BAS concept is quite ingenious: a set of propelled silicone wheels is incorporated to a Leister Variant 4R5. These wheels keep the sheets under controlled pressure before hot air welding, resulting in a perfectly flat seam. A BAS modified machine is part of the equipment used at the Rubberfuse Mappano, (I) Training Centre.

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## Launch in the Netherlands

Altena Dak en Gevelmaterialen nv, a leading distribution firm with offices in 't Harde and Zwijndrecht, has added Rubberfuse to its line of specialised roofing/waterproofing materials. The International Exhibition held in Utrecht last February provided an excellent opportunity to formally launch Rubberfuse in The Netherlands. The Altena booth was covered by Sintofoil ST grey 1.2mm membrane mechanically attached to Ultragard insulation boards which, together with the deck, also distributed by Altena. The Rubberfuse "green" offer was felt quite attractive by many visitors, as Dutch are known to be highly concerned by the environment. And results are quick to show up: amongst the first references in the country: Hornbach, a well known German distribution company active in The Netherlands, selected Rubberfuse (13.000m<sup>2</sup> Sintofoil ST mechanically attached system) for its new supermarket currently under construction in Kerkrade.



## ROCA Poland

The challenge for Acieroid Spain: to complete, in a record time, in Gliwice (Poland) i.e. some 1.700 km away from its home base, a new manufacturing plant for Roca, the reputable sanitary ware company. As part of the Bouygues Group, a vast experience has led Acieroid to know what it takes for such operation - a 20.000m<sup>2</sup> turnkey project- to succeed. A key to success is selecting the most appropriate materials/systems for the job. So when it came to the roofing system, Acieroid took no chance: Rubberfuse mechanically attached system, using Sintofoil ST (non reinforced) 1.2mm was the obvious choice. The combination of the performing, competitive FPA membrane with a fast, easy to install system, resulted in a trouble-free, on-time installation. Notes for the record: Acieroid are pioneers, as they completed, in 1994, one of the first FPA projects in Europe and Acieroid's prestigious references list includes the 60.000m<sup>2</sup> Coca Cola bottling plant located in Seville.



## Sintofoil FR - Fire ratings

In order to meet specific fire requirements, Imper Italia's Rubberfuse Division has taken the necessary steps to offer a range of fire rated Sintofoil membranes. So far, Testing Certification has been obtained from the following Authorities:

WFRC	United Kingdom	BS 476:Part 3	EXT. FAA
IHUM	Germany	DIN 4102, Teil 1	B 2
LCPPP	France	NF P 92-503	M 3

Further programs are underway, namely:

FMPA	Germany	DIN 4102, Teil 7
SINTEF	Norway	NT Fire 006
WFRC	United Kingdom	BS 476:Part 7

