

The best night of the year!

David Moore takes reins as 95th EDA President and training pioneers are rewarded in front of 550 guests at the Association's Annual Dinner

More than 550 guests, a new EDA President, nine Investor in Training Awards, and an entertaining and energetic host in the form of TV and Radio presenter Colin Murray were the magic ingredients for the best night of the year.

A new President

At the EDA's AGM on the afternoon of 6 March, David Moore, Director of Medlock Electrical Distributors, officially became the Association's 95th President as he took over from Chris Ashworth of CEF, the longest-serving President in the EDA's history. The handover of the Presidential chain was part of the Dinner's formal proceedings.

Countdown compère

TV and Radio presenter Colin Murray was a popular host. Both EDA CEO Margaret Fitzsimons and Colin hail from the island of Ireland, and there was craic in the air.

As host of TV's *Countdown*, Colin brought his own Countdown Conundrum, with the winning 'victims' invited to the stage to deliver their karaoke version of Sweet Caroline – fortunately the room of 500+ voices helped them out with the chorus.

Kew Electrical's MD, Nik Mulcahy, won the raffle prize – a £400 Dyson Hairwrap Multistylar. Guests raised £8,730 for the Electrical Industries Charity. ■



Forums in action

New EDA President David Moore receives the chain of office from CEO Margaret Fitzsimons (turn to page 2 for more)



Not so sweet? Colin Murray leads the winners of his Countdown Conundrum in a 'unique' interpretation of Sweet Caroline, aided by the 500-strong audience



Charity cheque

Kate Adamczyk, Director of Marketing & Business Development at the Electrical Industries Charity, accepts a cheque for £8,730 raised by dinner guests



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Charting the future for the EDATA data pool



EDATA Steering Group meets to review progress on the data pool and to shape its strategic direction

DIARY DATES

Events are subject to change, so visit www.eda.org.uk for the latest details, or call the EDA on 020 3141 7350.

Friday 9 May 2025

Talking Shop Teams Dialogue

Virtual event for EDA businesses. Held quarterly in 2025:
 ■ Friday 8 August
 ■ Friday 7 November
 Register at www.eda.org.uk

Thursday 15 May 2025

EDA Regional Business Forum, Glasgow

Free for EDA wholesalers, manufacturers, solution providers and service providers.
 Register at www.eda.org.uk

Thursday 15 May 2025

EDA Scottish Section Sportsman's Dinner

Call Maeve O'Dea on 0117 909 9550

Wednesday 4-Friday 6 June 2025



EUEW 2025 Business Convention

Next European Union of Electrical Wholesalers convention, in Helsinki, Finland.

For more details, contact Margaret Fitzsimons, CEO at the EDA, on 020 3141 7350.

Thursday 3 July 2025

EDA Manufacturers' and Wholesalers' Summer Event

An invitation-only event. For more information, visit www.eda.org.uk

Wednesday, 24 September 2025

EDA Regional Business Forum, Birmingham

Free for EDA wholesalers, manufacturers, solution providers and service providers.
 Register at www.eda.org.uk

Tuesday 7-Friday 10 October 2025

EDA Scottish Function

A senior networking event at The Balmoral, the five-star hotel in Edinburgh.

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Medlock's Moore is EDA's 95th President

The Association has appointed David Moore, Director at Medlock Electrical Distributors, as its 95th President. He takes over from CEF's Chris Ashworth and will lead the Association until March 2027.

David joined the EDA Board in March 2022 to represent the ANEW buying group, and has served as Vice President since March 2023.

CEF's Chris Ashworth, the Associations' longest-serving President, has stepped down from the EDA Board of Management after 10 years and is replaced by Andrew Moseley, CEF's Commercial Director. ■



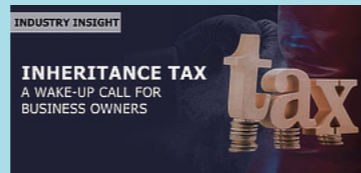
On the board New President David Moore and new board member Andrew Moseley (inset)

Inheritance Tax – a wake up call for businesses

Big changes are coming to Inheritance Tax, pensions and Business Property Relief.

Join us for a free webinar for EDA businesses, in which expert Peter Hill (right) will break down the new rules, including: how unspent pension pots will be taxed at up to 70%, the new restrictions on Business Property Relief and next steps. ■

The webinar is on Wednesday 9 April from 2-3pm. It is free to anyone from an EDA business.



EDA team scoops top award



The EDA Leadership Team has picked up the award for Association Team of the Year at the Trade Association Awards. The team is led by CEO Margaret Fitzsimons, with Tracy Hewett, Head of Education and Training; Richard Appleton, Head of Digitalisation; and Anne Vessey, Head of Marketing, Communications and Industry Insight. The EDA was also Highly Commended in the Skills Development category for its 30 Minute Masterclasses. The picture shows (l-r) host and magician Ben Hanlin; Tracy Hewett; Richard Appleton; Margaret Fitzsimons; Glyn Prestwood, MD Stearn Electric Co Ltd and EDA Board of Management; and Ben Thomas, Director of award sponsor MiVoice.



CEO verview

EDA Chief Executive **Margaret Fitzsimons** rounds up events in the sector over the past three months.

We are seeing real concern in the electrotechnical sector about the economic environment surrounding us. On top of difficult UK government decisions about National Insurance increases, business inheritance taxes and now packaging reporting requirements, we are faced with major global uncertainties relating to wars, tariffs and trade wars. What is a business leader to do in the face of this uncertainty?

While ignoring these issues is not an option, leaders can focus on factors within their control. The EDA is actively working to provide practical support. We encourage businesses to explore apprenticeship opportunities for individuals under 25, which can reduce National Insurance liabilities. Additionally, we urge you to join our webinar on 9 April to better understand the implications of the updated inheritance tax framework. To address new packaging regulations, wholesalers should begin collecting relevant data – we are striving to facilitate this process through EDATA.

Further, we invite you to participate in our 'Talking Shop on Teams' session in May. This event will provide valuable insights into evolving market trends, identifying which product groups are experiencing growth or decline.

It is vital to remember that collective resilience will strengthen our sector. By working together, we can better navigate both domestic pressures and global uncertainties. The spirit of unity witnessed during the rousing rendition of Sweet Caroline at our recent Annual Awards Dinner exemplifies the camaraderie that defines our sector. After all, a sector that sings together thrives together! ■

DASHBOARD: A SUMMARY OF Q1 BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN NUMBERS



Demand for EDA's Renewables training modules rockets



Interest in renewables training has surged, with an increase of 266% in demand from EDA businesses for our *Renewables including EV Charging* module between 2021 and 2024 – a sign of a shift towards sustainability in the electrotechnical sector.

Third edition now available

To keep pace with advances in technology, the EDA started work on a major update of its renewables Product Knowledge Module in 2024. EV charging, solar energy, battery storage and other renewable technologies are evolving rapidly, so staying up to date is essential.

A working group of wholesalers, manufacturers and a

renewables training organisation ensured the module's content remained accurate, relevant and industry-leading. After a year of updates, the third edition – which now includes EV charging – is available.

Digital course upgrade

The corresponding digital course has also been updated with newly filmed video content. Assessment questions have been revised to be consistent with the rest of the updated material.

The EDA is committed to delivering cutting-edge training to equip professionals with the expertise they need to navigate the rapidly changing renewables industry. ■

Trailblazer group gets green light to develop sales apprenticeship

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) has approved, in principle, the creation of a Level 3 Sales Professional Apprenticeship to bridge the gap between the Level 2 Trade Supplier apprenticeship and Level 4 Sales Executive.

It will also offer an apprenticeship route into the sector for those in sales roles.

The same trailblazer group will also work on the refresh of the Level 4 Sales Executive apprenticeship. The EDA's Tracy Hewett, who is a member of the



group, says: 'This is good news from IfATE, giving us clear direction for our activities in the coming months.'

The trailblazer group has the green light to start developing the Level 3 Sales Professional proposal to update the IT Technical Salesperson Level 3 standard and to review and revise the Level 4 Sales Executive standard. ■

Master essential management skills in just two hours

Help to Grow: Management Essentials is a free online course designed to improve business growth by teaching a number of essential management ideas.



The government-funded course was created by SME experts and consists of three modules with a total of 17 short videos (5-7 minutes each) and other resources.

In Module 1, you consider the position of your business now and what success would look like. Module 2 explores strategies for growth and covers marketing, operations and HR. The final module helps you put your ideas into action.

It can be completed in about two hours, and participants receive a certificate. ■ Register for the course using the QR code.



Experts unite to refresh lighting modules

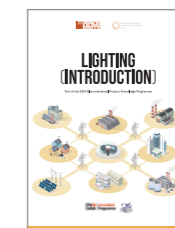


An EDA working group of lighting manufacturers and industry specialists is collaborating to update the Association's Lighting Introduction and Lighting Systems and Controls modules, ensuring they reflect the latest advances in technology and standards.

Alan Reynolds, CEO of Fegime UK, chairs the group, which is focusing on delivering high-quality, up-to-date training materials. 'It's an honour to work with such a skilled team to keep training relevant for the evolving lighting sector,' says Reynolds.

The working group's first

meeting was on 5 February at the EDA's offices in London. The participants were: Paul Davidson, Ansell Lighting; Anthony Parkinson, Ansell Lighting; Adam Wims, Aurora Lighting UK Ltd; Paul Jones, B.E.G. (UK) Ltd; Alan Reynolds, Fegime UK; Margaret Fitzsimons, EDA; Tracy Hewett, EDA; Ian Lawson, Hispec Electrical Products Ltd; Claire Sears-Lynskey, JCC; James Wallace, Legrand Electric Ltd; James Miles, Kingfisher Lighting Ltd (Luceco Group); Graham Lewis, Red Arrow Electrical Limited; John Ford, Robus; and Bren Lumsden, Signify (Philips Lighting). ■



First Workplace Essentials online course aims to cut manual handling injuries

In every industry, there are fundamental training courses that employees must complete regularly to ensure they are working safely, securely and complying with the law. Topics include manual handling, cybersecurity, and health and safety.

These courses can be expensive. So we have launched the first of a series of online Workplace Essentials Training courses, which covers manual handling, at the EDA Academy.

Injuries from lifting and carrying are among the most common. Regular training helps employees understand safe techniques, reducing the risk of injury and ensuring a

healthier workforce.

The manual handling course – developed with the help of EDA Wholesaler and AWEBB Member G&R Electrical Wholesalers Ltd in Plymouth – is available now.

G&R helped make the course engaging, sector-specific, relevant and visually engaging. It features apprentices James and Harry. ■



Sign up The course is in The EDA Academy. If you are studying modules, use your login. Otherwise, contact the Education and Training team, details below, for access.

Handle with care G&R apprentices James and Harry demonstrate safe handling

NEWS IN BRIEF

More flexibility for learners

Individuals over the age of 19 will no longer have to study and pass separate English and maths qualifications to start an apprenticeship. They will only need to complete the components relevant to their specific apprenticeship occupation. This change is expected to help an extra 10,000 learners a year to complete apprenticeships. Also, from August, the minimum length of an apprenticeship will be reduced provided all required training has been successfully completed.

Hire an apprentice and save on NI

National Insurance contributions are increasing to 15%, but under the revised guidelines, employers do not pay National Insurance on annual earnings up to £50,270 for apprentices under 25. Therefore, hiring an apprentice with a salary of £25,000 could save businesses about £3,000 a year – a significant incentive to invest in young talent while cutting costs.

Take note of minimum wage rates

From 1 April, new National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates will come into effect. The National Living Wage for those 21 and over will rise to £12.21 an hour, and the 18-20 year-old rate increases to £10.00 per hour. Both the 16-17 year-old rate and the apprentice rate will be set at £7.55 an hour. Employers should ensure they still comply with the latest wage requirements.



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Proof that it pays to invest in training



Manager winners (from left to right) **John Henry**, Managing Director at EDA Apprenticeships Plus; **Oliver Nicolas**, Lightsave Ltd; **Peter Jenkins**, Swanson Mackay & Co. Ltd; **Phil O'Nions**, CEF Ltd; **David Moore** EDA President, Director at Medlock Electrical Distributors; **Darren Coppola**, Scott Coppola, part of Edmundson Electrical Ltd; **Colin Murray**, host; **Ian Day**, Stearn Electric Co Ltd; **Ben Young**, Rexel UK Ltd; **Alan Reynolds**, CEO at Fegime UK (collecting the Award on behalf of **Liane Packer**, Templegate Electrical Supplies Ltd, Fegime UK buying group); **Rob McKenzie**, BED (Kettering) Ltd, ANEW buying group; **Tracy Hewett** (collecting the Award on behalf of **Paul Gordon**, Olympic Fixing Products Ltd).

The nine winners of this year's 2025 EDA Investor in Training Awards demonstrated outstanding commitment to workforce development in the UK's electrical wholesale and manufacturing sector using the Association's modules and apprenticeships.

They received their trophies in front of 570 guests at the Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday 6 March at the InterContinental Hotel in Park Lane, London.

Radio presenter and host of *Countdown*, Colin Murray, presented the trophies. The Awards are sponsored by EDA Apprenticeships Plus, the partner provider for the EDA Apprenticeship Service for wholesalers.

David Moore, President of the Association and Director at Medlock Electrical Distributors, said: 'Their success is evidence of a sector that invests in the professional development of its people, and that's a strong message that will help us attract the next generation of talent.'

Margaret Fitzsimons, CEO at the EDA, added 'Since launch in 2015, the EDA's Investor in Training Awards have demonstrated this sector's commitment to fostering talent and driving professional growth. Shaping careers and driving business performance is at the heart of the training service the EDA offers to Members and Affiliates.' ■



Talking training The EDA's Head of Education & Training, Tracy Hewett, addresses dinner guests

"In every industry, the pursuit of dedicated and motivated individuals is a shared ambition"

Tracy Hewett
Head of Education & Training, EDA

The sky's the limit for these 22 learners



Learner winners (left to right, from top to bottom) **Joshua Smith**, Western Automation; **Charlie Cooper**, AIB Electrical Wholesale (Glasgow) Ltd; **Darren House**, MD at Grant & Stone (collecting the Award on behalf of **Devon Greening**, Devondale Electrical Distributors Ltd (part of Grant & Stone)); **Bradley Howard**, Medlock Electrical Distributors; **Luke Miller**, 7 Core Electrical Wholesale Ltd; **Callum Ford**, CEF Ltd; **Joshua Hobbs**, LH Electrical Ltd; **Steven Bridges**, Edmundson Electrical Ltd; **Max Jones**, Edmundson Electrical Ltd; **Dusan Balog**, Edmundson Electrical Ltd; **Jacques Eyre**, Eyre & Elliston Holdings Ltd; **Rodney Richardson**, Rexel UK Ltd; **Jack Butler**, Lockwell Electrical Industrial; **James Bonser**, Electric Center; **Cameron Moss**, Stearn Electric Co Ltd; EDA President **David Moore**; **Leila Gab**, Rexel UK Ltd; **John Henry**, Managing Director at EDA Apprenticeships Plus; **Abbie Bayley**, Edmundson Electrical Ltd; **Savana Benecke**, AT&T (GB) Ltd; **Taylor Rees**, CEF Ltd; **Emma McCorkindale**, Deta Electrical Company Ltd; **Andrew Campion**, Kingfisher Lighting Ltd (Luceco Group); **Diana Gaina** (collecting the Award on behalf of **Paul Wogden**, Olympic Fixing Products Ltd).

A record number of trophies were presented at the 11th Learning Achievement Awards at The Shard in London. Twenty-two individuals working in the UK's electro-technical sector were recognised for excellence in their Apprenticeships or EDA Product Knowledge studies.

The trophies were presented by EDA President David Moore and John Henry, Managing Director at EDA Apprenticeships Plus, the organisation that operates the Association's Apprenticeship Service for wholesalers and sponsors the Awards.

EDA CEO Margaret Fitzsimons said: 'Representing both wholesaler and manufacturer businesses the

length and breadth of the UK, these winners are selected based on their exemplary results. It was a pleasure to meet and chat with them and an honour to celebrate them as shining examples of success in the UK's electro-technical sector.

'The EDA's Education and Training mission is to encourage recruitment into the sector and provide opportunities for individuals to upskill and develop professionally from the moment they join until they retire.'

'We choose to host our awards at The Shard to symbolise the ideals of aiming high and reaching for the sky.'

'The sky is the limit!' ■

"The EDA's Education and Training mission is to provide opportunities for individuals to upskill and develop professionally"

Margaret Fitzsimons
EDA CEO



Sky high dining All the award winners enjoyed lunch at the Shangri-La hotel in The Shard

Steering group charts the future for EDATA

The EDATA Steering Group has met to review progress on the data pool and shape its strategic direction.

The Steering Group includes representatives from 28 EDA wholesalers and manufacturers, and plays a pivotal role in guiding the initiative forward. The support of these sponsors ensures that EDATA remains free to every EDA wholesaler and branch.

Richard Appleton, Head of Digitalisation at the EDA, said: 'We've built firm foundations for EDATA over the past five years. With the level of commitment shown in the room yesterday, I'm confident it will continue to grow and serve the industry for many years to come.'

Thanks to the Chair of EDA Data Service, Richard Baxter, and to representatives of EDA Manufacturer Affiliates and EDATA sponsors: ABB, Aico, Ansell Lighting, Cembre Group, Collingwood Lighting, Deta Electrical, Dimplex UK, Eaton, Electrium Sales Limited –



Siemens, Hager UK, Thorn Lighting, Vent-Axia, Marshall-Tufflex Ltd, LEDVANCE, Legrand UK & Ireland, Luceco Group, Prysmian and Schneider Electric.

Thanks also to those from these EDA Wholesalers and EDATA Sponsors: The British Electrical & Manufacturing Company Ltd (BEMCO), BED Electrical Distributors, CEF Ltd, Edmundson Electrical Ltd, FEGIME UK, The IBA Buying Group Ltd, LEW Electrical Distributors, R&M Electrical Group Ltd, Rexel UK Ltd and Stearn Electric Co Ltd. ■

Pivotal role
EDATA Steering Group members shape the data pool's future

Luceco becomes the latest EDATA data pool sponsor



Luceco PLC (BG Electrical) is the 18th manufacturer to announce its sponsorship of EDATA. The 28 sponsors – manufacturers and wholesalers – support the data pool, which gives EDA wholesalers free access to information on 285,000+ products.

Ian Hunter, Trade Sales Director at Luceco PLC, said: 'It is through the EDATA data pool that Luceco gives EDA wholesalers easy access to rich, accurate product data that helps them deliver exemplary customer

service and increased sales.

'Luceco has been part of EDATA since 2020. Becoming an EDATA sponsor is an important strategic decision for us.'

The picture shows Ian Hunter (3rd from left) receiving the EDATA Sponsor Certificate from Richard Baxter of Edmundson Electrical Ltd, Chair of the EDA Data Services Board (3rd from right). Also shown are Javier Garcia, Richard Appleton, Margaret Fitzsimons and Brigette Evans of the EDA. ■



Back on Board
Luceco's Ian Hunter has returned to the EDA Data Services Board after a vote by the EDATA Steering Group. Also, Andrew Pegrum of Deta Electrical Company and Mark Ashworth of ABM Electrical Wholesale Ltd, part of The IBA Buying Group, will serve further two-year terms.

Save the date

The **Digitalisation Forum & Data Quality Awards 2026** will take place on Thursday 25 February 2026 at the America Square Conference Centre in London.
All the latest information at www.eda.org.uk



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Eight EDA businesses at first sustainability and packaging data training workshop

Manufacturers are increasingly asked for information about the embodied carbon in their products, and what packaging materials are used. This is becoming an important factor in product and supplier selection.

The EDA recognises that businesses need help navigating this complex data, so it has created a series of Sustainability and Packaging Data Training Workshops.

Once created, manufacturers will be able to share their sustainability and packaging data with EDA wholesalers through the EDATA data pool.

Leading the workshop was the Association's Head of Digitalisation Richard Appleton with support from the EDATA team Javier Garcia and Brigette Evans, with attendees from ABB, Aico, Airflow



Developments Ltd, Aurora Lighting, Cembre Group, CEF Ltd, Prysmian and Super Rod. ■

Plugged in LR and front to back: Javier Garcia; Richard Appleton; Muskaan Bhatia, Airflow Developments Limited; Ben Lacey, Prysmian Cables & Systems Ltd; Danielle Allen, Cembre Ltd; Hamza Alali, ABB Ltd – Electrification; Ross Hayward, Aico Ltd; Ian Parmenter, ABB Ltd – Electrification; Brigette Evans; Paul Thomas, CEF Ltd; Dean Richmond, Aurora Lighting UK Ltd; Sam Horseman Super Rod Ltd.



Don't miss our Sustainability and Packaging Data Training Workshops. More dates will be announced soon. For more information, visit the EDA website or contact Brigette Evans at brigitte.evans@eda.org.uk

Out and about with the EDATA team



The EDATA team met members of Kempston Controls (Midland Automation Ltd) management in Northampton to discuss all things EDATA. The team would like to thank Tom Jones, Channel Partner Director at Kempston Controls, for organising the meeting.

Also, the team visited Lutron EA Ltd at its headquarters in London to present the



company's Gold Data Quality Certificate. The teams discussed emerging opportunities for manufacturers and collaboration with EDA wholesalers. Brigette and Javier (on the left) met Tony Biggs, National Sales Manager – UK & Ireland; Himani Gupta, National Sales Manager – UK & Ireland; Matthew Jacks, Channel Manager; and Amelia Walker, Marketing Leader. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sustainability and packaging data fields in EDATA

New data fields have been added to the EDATA data pool covering sustainability and packaging, including embodied carbon, recycled content, WEEE/RoHS/REACH, energy efficiency as well as packaging volumetrics and material breakdown, plus other data. As manufacturers make this data available, we'll publish it in EDATA.

285,959 reasons to log in to EDATA

By the start of March, the volume of products in the EDATA data pool had grown to nearly 286,000 from 90+ brands. EDA wholesalers can call Diana on 020 3141 7350 or visit www.eda.org.uk/edata to get started.

ETIM UK is now ETIM UK and Ireland Ltd

From 1 January this year, manufacturers, wholesalers and merchants operating in the Republic of Ireland in the electrotechnical, building materials, HVAC and plumbing sectors will be supported by the ETIM data standard as Ireland becomes a member of ETIM International. ETIM UK has changed its name to ETIM UK and Ireland Limited. Visit www.etim-uk-and-ie.org for more on ETIM.



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February's Talking Shop Teams Dialogue offered delegates some hope that an improvement in business is coming...

Survey shows signs of a slow construction recovery

'We're all being beaten over the head with negative news,' says Professor Noble Francis of the Construction Products Association (CPA).

But there is hope. Construction output is expected to improve in 2025 and 2026, driven by growth in private housing and infrastructure projects. However, the recovery is expected to be slow because of sluggish economic growth and continuing high interest rates.

Overall, the fundamentals of the UK economy are sound. Prof Francis says it's a matter of the sector or sub-sector your company operates in, and finding niche opportunities. (Read more about the CPA's quarterly report on page 12. EDA businesses can request a free copy, saving £250.)

Survey results

The EDA's Q1 2025 survey results reveal how the economy is affecting the electrotechnical sector. Comparing the last quarter of 2024 with the same quarter a year before, 17.5% of wholesalers said turnover was up 11% or more, higher than in the previous survey. Nearly 37% said turnover was down, last quarter the figure was 39%.

When it came to consecutive quarters, it was a different picture. Those saying turnover had dropped was just over 13% – 18% last time – but 35.5% said turnover was down, up from 29% last time.

Things were better for manufacturers. One said that December was an 'all-time record month for the business'. Overall, 26% reported turnover up 11% or more compared with only 10% in the same quarter a year ago. Thirty percent said turnover was down –

39% said it was down in Q3 2024 compared with Q3 2023.

As in the past, the most important construction sectors were commercial, infrastructure, industrial, new public housing and new private housing. However, as Professor Francis mentioned in his presentation, data centres and gigafactories are becoming more important, and represent one of the niche opportunities.

Change in turnover

We asked wholesalers which sectors had experienced a change in turnover in Q4 2024 versus Q3 2024. The biggest growth was in the commercial sector, then industrial, new private housing, and new housing repairs, maintenance and improvements (RM&I).

That last sub-sector was at the bottom of the table in the last survey. Conversely, turnover in infrastructure projects has fallen. One wholesaler said: 'Infrastructure has slowed and so has new public housing. I am sure these are both a knock-on from the election.'

For manufacturers, commercial is out in front, but new

private housing is in second place, followed by private housing RM&I and infrastructure.

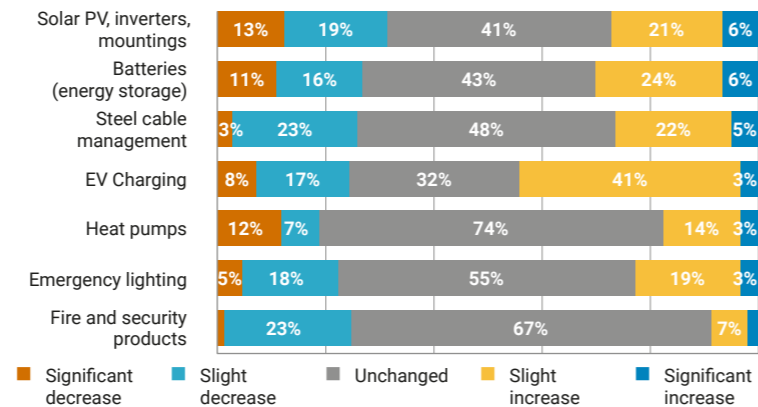
Biggest bugbears

Top of both wholesalers and manufacturers list of gripes was inflation in business overheads. Also, wholesalers were plagued by online sellers putting pressure on margins. Manufacturers singled out increases in the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage.

A concern that cropped up repeatedly in this survey was the weakness of sterling. A lot of products in the sector come from China. They're bought in US dollars, and the dollar is strong at times of geopolitical unrest.

There is better news for wholesalers with increasing demand for solar PV systems and batteries for energy storage. Six per cent of respondents to the survey said demand for these product had increased significantly in the past year. ■

Hear the results of the next survey: Talking Shop, 11am, Friday 9 May 2025. Register at www.eda.org.uk



Changing demand How demand for different products has shifted between Q4 2024 and Q4 2023, showing strengthening demand for renewables equipment

EDA COMMUNITY

Charity celebrates 120 years of support for the industry

The Electrical Industries Charity (EIC) is celebrating 120 years of providing support to the electrical and energy industries.



Since its inception in 1905 as the Electrical Trades Benevolent Institution, the charity has expanded its services to assist workers and their families, from apprentices to retirees in need of a helping hand.

The charity provides vital services, including mental health support, legal advice and bereavement counselling.

As the EIC marks its 120-year anniversary, it is launching campaigns and events across the UK to encourage individuals to take part in fundraising

efforts. These initiatives encourage individuals to raise £120 each. An example is Jail or Bail, a zip line adventure in Wales.

These initiatives join the charity's Challenge for a Cause events, such as Sea to Summit and the Death Valley Cycle. ■

Visit www.electricalcharity.org for more information.



Principal guest stresses role of recruitment Steve Kirby, Managing Director at JCC and principal guest at the Annual Dinner, proposed the Toast to the Association. He stressed the importance of members supporting the EDA's imminent Power It Up recruitment and retention initiative. Phase one involves getting the foundation support materials in place for members and phase two will be promoting the sector to new audiences.



Here comes the sun Draper Tools has unveiled a solar installation at its North Baddesley warehouse. It comprises more than 900 solar panels and generates 73% of the site's power. Local MP Caroline Nokes unveiled the live energy monitor for the site (inset). Matt Sheen, Draper's CEO, said: 'This has been a significant investment... but one that we hope represents our commitment to the future.' The project was designed and delivered by solar experts Absolar.

New member round-up

Four new Wholesaler Members have joined the Association.

■ **Electrical 4 Less Ltd**, part of The IBA Buying Group, joined the EDA on 1 January.



Three other wholesalers, also from The IBA Buying Group, are joining on 1 April. They are:

- **Electrical Installation Supplies Ltd**,
- **GTS Central Ltd** and
- **WRM Electrical Wholesale Ltd**. ■



WISKA UK celebrates 25 years with party at the Eden Project



WISKA UK Ltd marked its 25th anniversary with a gathering at the Eden Project in Cornwall, which brought together staff, partners and customers.

The event began in the Mediterranean Biome with drinks and canapés, setting an enchanting tone. Attendees then enjoyed a dinner in the Gallery Room, with its breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Entertainment for the evening was

provided by The Fisherman's Friends, a Cornish group that sang sea shanties. The attendees included Ronald Hoppmann, owner of WISKA Hoppmann GmbH in Germany, and representatives from other global subsidiaries. Hoppmann praised WISKA UK's achievements, and Managing Director Will Rich expressed his gratitude to everyone at the company. The gala was part of a week-long celebration. ■



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SECTOR INSIGHTS:

UPDATES, PERSPECTIVES, AND RECOMMENDED READING



Construction Products Reform Green Paper

The Government has responded to the Grenfell Inquiry's Phase 2 report, covering the key topic of 'construction product system reform' with a consultative Green Paper. The Green Paper refers to distributors as integral to supply chain delivery of the Government's proposals, which include freely accessible manufacturers' test and other safety information to support customer choices.

The Green Paper says that various organisations influence the safety of construction products and their safe use. This includes 'manufacturers, distributors, importers [and] off-and online marketplaces' along with others such as specifiers, designers and contractors/installers. It adds: 'Government expects manufacturers and distributors to take appropriate steps to avoid the use of misleading information, particularly in relation to the suitability of a product for a particular use'.

Manufacturers will be responsible for assessing safety risks for 'reasonably foreseeable conditions of use', before products are marketed, while additional regulatory measures will be required for 'products critical to safe construction'.

The EDA will be responding to the Green Paper before the 21 May consultation deadline. ■



Heat Pump Association statistics

Recent sales data from the Heat Pump Association suggests that nearly 100,000 hydronic (air/water) heat pumps were sold in the UK in 2024, a 63% increase on 2023. This follows only 4% sales growth between 2022 and 2023.

Recent uptake was supported by Government schemes such as the Boiler Upgrade Scheme and the Energy Company Obligation, with MCS heat pump notifications accounting for 60% of sales.

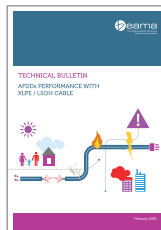
The figures were compiled by HPA combining data provided by HPA manufacturer members with market estimations to extrapolate the data to represent the full UK Heat Pump market. ■



AFDDs performance with XLPE cable

A new BEAMA Technical Bulletin addresses what it describes as 'false assertions' that have led to questions about the use of arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) with cross-linked polyethylene insulated (XLPE) cable. BEAMA's bulletin presents independent test evidence to clarify that, in series arc fault situations, XLPE cables 'are suitable for use with AFDDs'.

BEAMA adds that while PVC remains popular for cable insulation, reasons for using XLPE insulation include better fire performance and a greater barrier to abrasion, moisture, and mechanical stress. ■

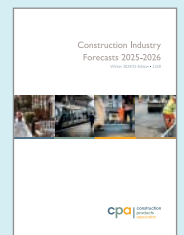


Construction Industry Forecasts 2025-2026

The winter 2024/25 edition of the Construction Products Association's authoritative industry forecasts up to 2026 is available, and it is free to EDA Member businesses.

EDA businesses can request a copy of the CPA's industry forecasts free – the cover price is £250. ■

To request a copy, email margaret.fitzsimons@eda.org.uk



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