



## On the ball

**With UK car sales recently reaching a six-year high, DP Seals can confirm the resurgence of this particular market sector with the unprecedented success of one of its automotive products.**

The component in question is a high-spec natural rubber ball, which we produce for the hydraulic engine mounts made by DTR VMS Ltd. In the past year alone, well over five million have been supplied – an increase of more than 300% since the depths of the recession in 2009.



Chippenham based DTR VMS is a first-tier supplier to the likes of Audi, VW, BMW and Mercedes, with its advanced technology products helping to reduce noise, vibration and harshness in a wide range of vehicles.



The company first joined forces with us in 2002, making their choice on the basis of outstanding QCD performance indicators, and since then, we've consistently been recognised as one of their most reliable and trusted suppliers.

Although a seemingly simple product, every single ball we produce has to meet exceptionally stringent standards of size, sphericity and quality, since it is instrumental in preventing leakage from the engine mount to ensure the desired characteristics are maintained throughout its lifetime.

This production increase reflects the stability and growth we're seeing in more and more of our customers' activities, and with continuing investment in our people, resources and facilities, we're now looking to the future with renewed optimism and confidence.



Welcome to the new edition of DP Update, giving you the inside story on just a few of the latest developments here at DP Seals.

As usual, we hope you find something of interest among the features, and if you've any suggestions on future content or you'd like us to cover one of your own particular projects, then please contact me at [andrew@dpseals.com](mailto:andrew@dpseals.com) or the editorial team at [dmc@dpseals.com](mailto:dmc@dpseals.com)

**Andrew Piper**  
Managing Director



## dpseals

**DP Seals Ltd**

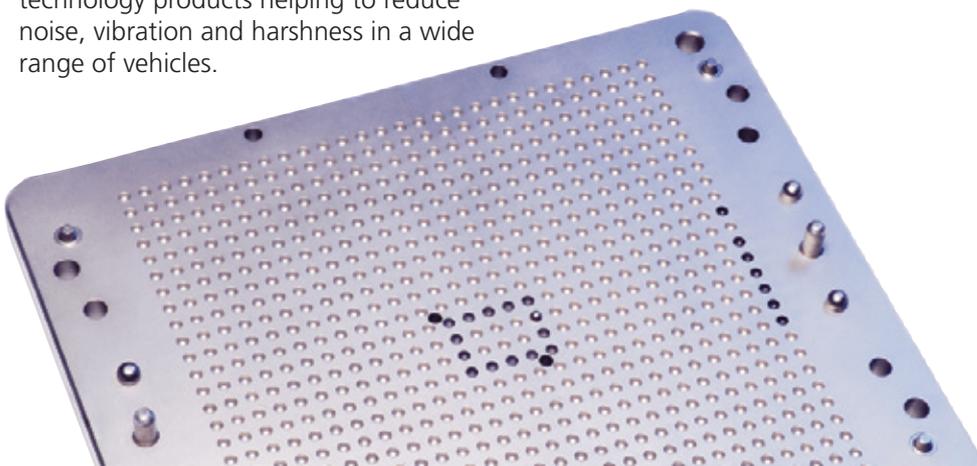
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# Breaking the mould

While the outstanding performance characteristics of FFKM perfluoroelastomers have been widely recognised for some time, there is a lingering perception among many that the inherent difficulties of moulding and the consequent higher cost of production mitigate against their use in all but the most exceptional of cases.

However, we're demonstrating that with an innovative approach and imaginative solutions, such constraints can be overcome, and FFKM components can be designed and manufactured to meet stringent criteria at optimum cost.

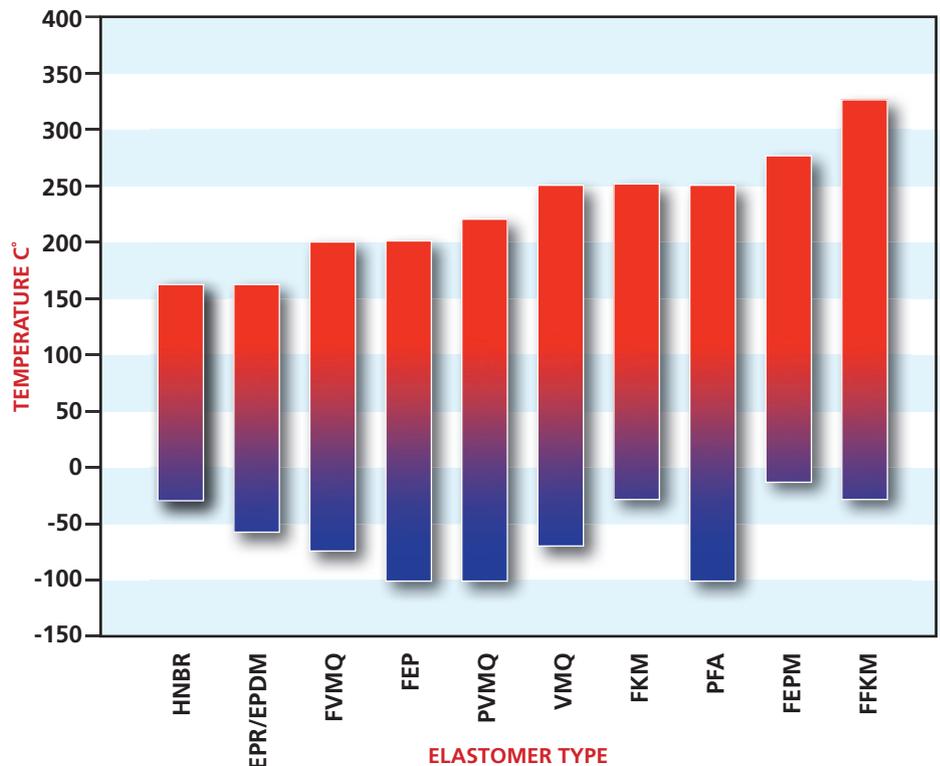
With its fully fluorinated monomers, FFKM has a chemical structure that's virtually unbreakable and impervious to attack by oxygen, ozone, UV light and harsh chemicals. The material's high level of fluorine also makes it more stable and less reactive, while its assured performance at high temperatures means it can be used in situations at least 50° above the operational limit of any other elastomer, with new grades offering similar capabilities at -40° C and below.

We've now accumulated extensive expertise in the field and have pioneered the use of innovative production techniques to address the issues of complexity and cost. Specially designed tools, produced by our own in-house engineers, have enabled us to formulate FFKM for an increasingly diverse range of applications – a prime example of this being the unique vacuum system we've developed to draw the material into tubes up to 300 mm in length for use in extreme environments. We have since expanded further on this process and 450mm lengths will be in production soon.



## TYPICAL TEMPERATURE CAPABILITY OF ELASTOMERS

Graph shows the typical useful operating temperature range of each elastomer type



Our FFKM components are now used in petrochemicals, semiconductors, automotive, energy and aerospace – with the range of functions now spanning mechanical seals and pumps, process instrumentation, car engine gas sensors, fibre optical cable connectors and much more.

In essence, we're ushering in a new era where FFKM is concerned – transforming production, reducing costs and delivering major benefits for blue-chip companies across the world.



## Our new MD seems familiar

*David Piper, Chairman and DP Seals founder with Andrew Piper, Managing Director and chip off the old block!*

To ensure we maintain our momentum and continue developing our management and leadership, we're delighted to confirm that Andrew Piper has been formally appointed as Managing Director.

Having joined the business in 1987, Andrew has progressively taken on increasing levels of responsibility – and his move from Technical Director now

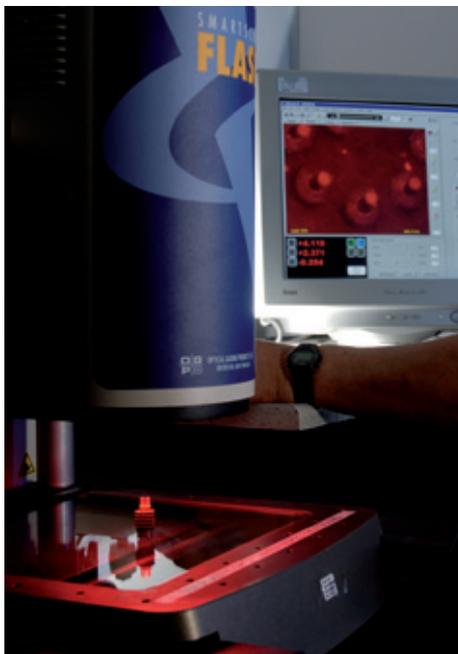
confirms the day-to-day organisation of management roles, with our founder, David Piper, taking up the new role of Chairman.

"This is a natural development for us," said David. "Andrew is already established as our de facto head and it's time to recognise the formal structure of responsibilities we both have. Andrew is ideally qualified and

experienced to take the company forward and has some very exciting ideas about how the business can benefit both our clients and staff."

Both David and Andrew agree, "we've got a great team at DP Seals and are both looking forward to building on the success we've already achieved."

## 5 Years continued quality in aerospace



**DP Seals has just been successfully audited for the fifth year in a row for AS 9100 accreditation.**

AS 9100, developed by the International Aerospace Quality Group, is the internationally recognised, quality standard specific to the aeronautics industry. Based on ISO 9000, AS 9100 contains over 80 additional requirements and focuses particular on quality, safety and technology across all industry disciplines - civil and military - and throughout the entire supply chain.

Known as EN 9100 in Europe, AS 9100 in North America and JISQ 9100 in Japan, the standard is strongly supported and adhered to by major manufacturers including Airbus,

Boeing, General Electric Aircraft Engines, NASA and Rolls Royce, and has become the basic requirement demanded by all these companies of their suppliers.

"The continued dedication, hard work and attention to detail of DP Seals' staff is one of the key reasons that we are able to pass the stringent audit set out by the inspectors. And of course our clients in other industry areas also benefit from these quality procedures" *Andrew Piper, Managing Director.*



CERTIFICATE NO. 25108

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In over 30 years manufacturing custom precision rubber seals and mouldings our philosophy has always been about developing strong relationships built on good communication. We pride ourselves on working hand in hand with clients to develop the most effective solutions for your needs.

As times change we recognise that you will want to communicate with us in different ways. That's why at DP Seals on top of offering our e-news and newsletter you can also talk, email, browse, tweet, post, update and view with us in the following ways:

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Of course, most importantly, we're available face to face so feel free to call on **01202 674 671** and we'll be pleased to arrange a time to meet up with you to discuss requirements.



## Win a Kindle Fire

A smart new Kindle Fire tablet with 7" HD screen is the great free prize in our current prize draw. And all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is fill in our marketing questionnaire as soon as you can.

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