



## Troldtekt A/S Corporate Social Responsibility

Report on Social Responsibility for the UN 2010

#### Management

responsibility as an integral part of our managerial system.

#### The Environment

Look into our environmental performance.
6-8

#### Staff

Find out about our staff initiatives.

9-1:

#### Fellow Citizens

No company is an island. Meet the students and the hard-of-hearing for whom the subject of acoustics is particularly interesting.



Troldtekt A/S has now joined the UN Global Compact and this report is a first attempt at progress reporting. In future, the CSR-report will appear annually. Seemingly far from our provincial roots, we are convinced that the UN principles are significant for our business method and our success. This report should be seen as a step towards an increasingly systematic, strategic and active CSReffort. We understand Corporate Social Responsibility to be Troldtekt A/S' social responsibility manifested in our voluntary work with social, ethical and environmental issues. We believe that companies will do well by doing good. To us, it seems perfectly natural that the ever-increasing ethical demands of the outside world should go hand in hand with our wish to act decently - locally as well as globally.

#### Sound traditions

Responsibility is not a new concept in our corporate history. In 1936, Louis

Hammerich, then owner and Director, started a foundation which is still active today, providing economic assistance to needy members of staff. Our acoustic panels are produced to the same wholesome recipe as they were 75 years ago: Danish wood and cement join forces in our Troldtekt factory in West Denmark. Our present-day acoustic ceilings are PEFC-certified and the wood originates from sustainable Danish forestry operations. They carry indoor climate labelling and the production process is environmentally sound. In March 2010, Troldtekt A/S was awarded Byggeriets Miljøpris (The Danish Building Industry Environment Award) at the biggest building trade fair in the Nordic countries, TUN BYG.

#### Strong commitment

We are humbly aware that a long journey starts with one small step, and as a medium-sized company, we do not have the resources to undertake certification processes which involve considerable administrative burdens. However, that need not stop us from shouldering responsibility.

Yours faithfully
Peer Leth
Managing Director, Troldtekt A/S

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#### ABOUT TROLDTEKT

Troldtekt acoustic solutions for ceilings and walls are among the leading products providing good acoustics, effective fire proofing and a healthy indoor climate. Our main product is the acoustic panel produced from the natural materials: wood and cement. Troldtekt acoustic panels are used everywhere from office and industrial buildings to schools, institutions, sports centres and private homes. Troldtekt A/S started in 1855 as a trading company, located in Aarhus, and the company has produced Troldtekt cement-bonded wood wool panels at Troldhede in West Denmark since 1935.

# Global Principles – Local Responsibility

WE SUPPORT

The UN Global Compact is the world's biggest, voluntary initiative for corporate social responsibility with 7300 unionised enterprises and organisations from more than 130 countries. They have now been joined by Troldtekt A/S.

The aim of the UN Global Compact is a worldwide strengthening of corporate CSR initiatives – also called social responsibility. By joining the UN Global Compact, member organisations commit themselves to 10 principles within the fields of human rights, labour rights, the environment, and anti-corruption. These principles must be reflected in the individual organisation as well as its activities, and an annual progress report must be submitted to the UN.

– Our active and solid strong points are the environment and labour rights. Because the UN principles are integrated into Danish legislation and because our main suppliers are Danish, human rights and anti-corruption are not issues that we have had any active dealings in, so far. In future, these issues will be on the agenda by virtue of our new Code of Conduct, says Peer Leth, Managing Director of Troldtekt A/S (see p. 4).

#### **Useful management tool**

 We believe that Global Compact contains significant principles, and by signing up we will have a set of useful guidelines which, on one hand, demand our commitment and, on the other, provide both fuel and direction to our company's CSR-initiatives, says Peer Leth.

This and future CSR-reports will be available on troldtekt.dk. An English version will be available on troldtekt.com. To begin with, Troldtekt staff will receive their information in weekly info mails, but these will be replaced by intranet, in the near future. Certain close associates will receive a printed version as well.

## THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT:

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- 2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses

#### LABOUR

- Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
- 4. the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour
- 5. the effective abolition of child labour; and
- 6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

#### THE ENVIRONMENT

- 7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges
- 8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- 9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

#### ANTI-CORRUPTION

 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery



## Responsibility in Several Tiers

With the new Code of Conduct, we want to ensure that our suppliers subscribe to environmental, ethical and social concerns at a similar level to ourselves.

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TROLDTEKT A/S

Troldtekt A/S asks suppliers to sign a Code of Conduct, thereby committing themselves to observe the internationally recognised standards with regard to:

- Compulsory labour
- Child labour
- Non-discrimination
- Freedom of association
- The working environment
- Terms of employmentHealth and safety
- Products of the company
- Environmental protection

With a Code of Conduct, Troldtekt A/S will have an efficient tool to ensure commitment from suppliers.

- Our acoustic panels are made of sustainable wood and cement and are produced in accordance with strict environmental requirements. This has been the centre of our attention, and our remaining suppliers have not received the same degree of focus. We intend to shift focus to achieve a general and systematic purchasing policy characterised by a high degree of sustainability, says Per Byskov, Quality Manager.

#### **Practical Aspects**

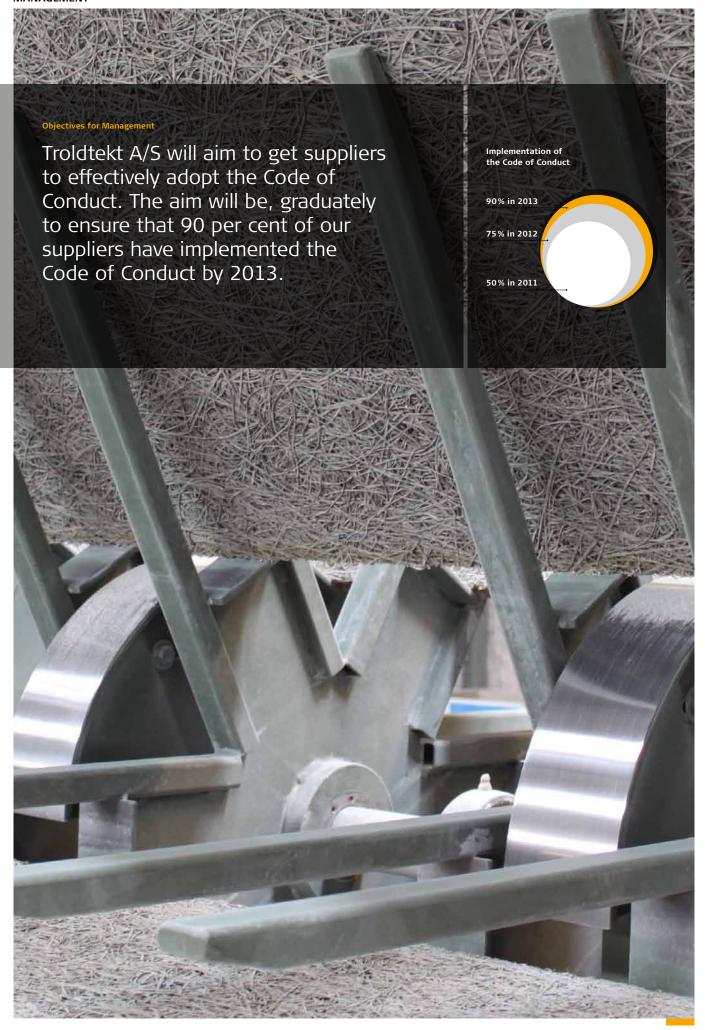
To work in a structured manner with supplier management, Troldtekt A/S will now centralise various purchasing functions.

 In practice, we have divided our 100 largest suppliers into groups and categorised them according to volume of turnover. Our ambition is to make an individual assessment of them over a three-year period, explains Per Byskov.

#### **Dialogue is Crucial**

Troldtekt A/S categorises suppliers in risk groups according to their strategic importance, and the degree of risk of them contravening the guidelines. Those in the low-risk group will be asked to sign our Code of Conduct. Those in the medium-risk group will furthermore be asked to complete a self evaluation form, while those in the high-risk group will receive a visit from Troldtekt A/S in addition to the above.

- As our point of departure, we want to maintain our cooperation with all existing suppliers. In the event that the on-going supplier assessment should turn up a few in the high-risk group, our stance will be that we continue our cooperation and, through dialogue, attempt to sway them towards a heightening of standards, says the Troldtekt Quality Manager.





## **Humus and Greenery**

Materials, manufacture, production, transport, usage and disposal.

During its entire product life cycle – from cradle to grave – Troldtekt A/S attaches great importance to minimising environmental impact.

This is the core reasoning behind the product life cycle, which forms a sustainable basis for our green vision.

Troldtekt acoustic panels are a natural product made of wood from Danish forests and cement from the Danish subsoil. PEFC-certification ensures traceability to sustainable forestry operations. The trees are grown in Danish forests where they have grown for at least 50 years without the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides or other chemical substances. The cement comes from Aalborg Portland, which is governed by strict environmental requirements.

#### **Green Heating**

The production of Troldtekt panels takes place at Troldhede in West Denmark and is carried out in a closed process without the discharge of waste water. 95% of the energy used for heating the state-of-the-art factory comes from CO2 – neutral wood waste and bark from the production of Troldtekt panels.

#### **Mimimal Transport**

As Troldtekt A/S prioritises raw materials from the local area – wood

from the forests in Western Denmark and cement from Aalborg Portland, the environmental impact in connection with transport has been significantly reduced.

#### **Best Category Indoor Climate**

As early as 1997, Troldtekt panels were awarded the Indoor Climate Labelling in best category by Dansk Indeklima Mærkning (Danish Indoor Climate Labelling). In practice, this means that Troldtekt panels release a minimum of particles and gasses when installed.

#### **Back to Nature**

KomTek A/S processes waste from the production at Troldhede into soil improvers. This production waste is a particularly effective type of compost, as the high calcium content of the cement increases oxidation, and the fibre content of the panels ensures a high quality compost.

## CO<sub>2</sub> neutralt

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- www.troldekt.dk is CO2-neutral
- at Troldtekt A/S, we aim to replace our petrol-fuelled company car fleet with diesel by 2011. In this way, we will be reducing the environmentally harmful substances CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.

## Product life cycle in practice





#### **ENVIRONMENT PRIZE AWARDED TO TROLDTEKT A/S**

In the spring of 2010, Byggeriets Miljøpris (The Danish Building Industry Environment Award) was set up. Troldtekt A/S was the happy recipient during the trade fair, incidentally the biggest in the Nordic countries, TUN BYG in Fredericia. A unanimous panel of judges selected Troldtekt A/S for their focus on the environment during the entire product life cycle. The prize was awarded by HRH Crown Prince Frederik to Peer Leth, Managing Director of Troldtekt A/S.







# Prevention, retention and fairness

At Troldtekt A/S, we believe in an open, trusting and unprejudiced dialogue based on our staff manual and policies. The point of departure is a positive view of human nature and mutual respect – regardless of sex, ability or origin. We believe that staff development will ultimately lead to company development.

#### OUR STAFF IS A DECISIVE RESOURCE

At Troldtekt A/S, we want to support and show consideration to our members of staff, so that everyone has the best possible conditions and qualifications for thriving in his/her job. For this reason, we have established an introductory programme for all new members of staff - typically on-the-job training. Representatives from both management and employee sides come together in the works committee to discuss work-related issues, policies and post-training, but also to harmonise expectations to machinery and method. Every year, we hold appraisal interviews to ensure a good working relationship and personal development. We offer flexible working hours for staff with relevant personal, family or healthrelated needs.

#### **DIVERSITY IS SECOND NATURE**

We view differences in sex, age, ability and ethnic background as a strength. We believe that the diversity of backgrounds that exist among our colleagues bring valuable competencies to the company. Approximately 30 per cent of the production staff at Troldhede are not ethnic Danes, including one team leader – several of these have celebrated their 10th and 15th anniversaries with us. Two colleagues are employed with wage subsidy and members of staff on long-term sick leave are offered a slow job return with 1-2 working hours per day.

#### **EDUCATION DEVELOPS BUSINESS**

Concurrently with our expanding export activity, we handle growing numbers of product variants. This makes the information flow across the three shifts increasingly complex, so we are currently introducing the intranet to facilitate the process. To safeguard future effectiveness of the intranet, all production workers tested their knowledge of the Danish language at VUC Ringkøbing-Skjern in 2009. Consequently, 19 staff members were offered a 12-week tuition course by VUC-instructors during working hours at Troldhede. This kind of development benefits both staff and the company as a whole.



## GOOD HEALTH STRENGTHENS THE COMPANY

The staff at Troldtekt A/S are covered by a health insurance scheme which secures staff members fast treatment in private hospitals, at specialist clinics or at the majority of other treatment centres such as chiropractors, physiotherapists, psychologists or clinical dietists.

In cooperation with Vium Lifecare, Troldtekt A/S has held four health afternoons touching on everything from fitness tests and the importance of exercise to the correlation between food and energy levels to sustainable working relationships. In addition, we organise specific health checks for our night shifts and special guidelines for the prevention and reduction sickness, work-related injuries and diseases.

#### **SAFETY UP FRONT**

At Troldtekt A/S, we will do anything to prevent occupational accidents, and we are making considerable efforts at ensuring a healthy physical as well as mental working environment. With this in mind, we have held first aid courses, purchased heart starters with ensuing instruction in their use. We have begun a registration process of near-accidents.

Apart from this, we have a well-functioning health and safety organisation and a systematic effort at workstation assessments in collaboration with AM-Gruppen. As a result of this, noise and dust are monitored closely, the contingency plan is constantly updated, and uneven driveways for trucks will be repaired so that the truck driver will avoid jolts and bumps.



SAFE TRUCK-DRIVING New surface with yellow markings makes truck-driving safe at the Troldtekt factory, Troldhede.



# A Helping Hand for an Injured Shoulder

Troldtekt employee, Perinpam Sinnaiya had a serious shoulder accident. This gave him physical pain and resulted in a period of being economically hard up, but the support he received from his work place provided a welcome consolation.

Eva Paulsen and Perinpam Sinnaiya met 21 years ago at Technical College at Esbjerg. The couple live at Grindsted with their four children – apart form the four little ones that Eva looks after as a child-minder.



A heavy H-iron fell on Perinpam Sinnaiya's left shoulder when he, together with a colleague, lowered the iron beam from the factory ceiling in February 2010. The H-iron tore two ligaments in his shoulder, which has given trouble ever since:

– I was scanned several times during the spring before the doctors put the ligaments back into place with screws, in May. But it made the pain worse and I can't use my arm – the consultant still does not know why, declares Perinpam Sinnaiya.

#### **Good Support**

- Both the shop steward and the production manager from Troldtekt A/S have visited me several times, and my colleagues have phoned me. I have received a grant which improves my economic situation at a time when my income has been halved, says Perinpam Sinnaiya. He has worked for 13 years at the factory as a truck driver.

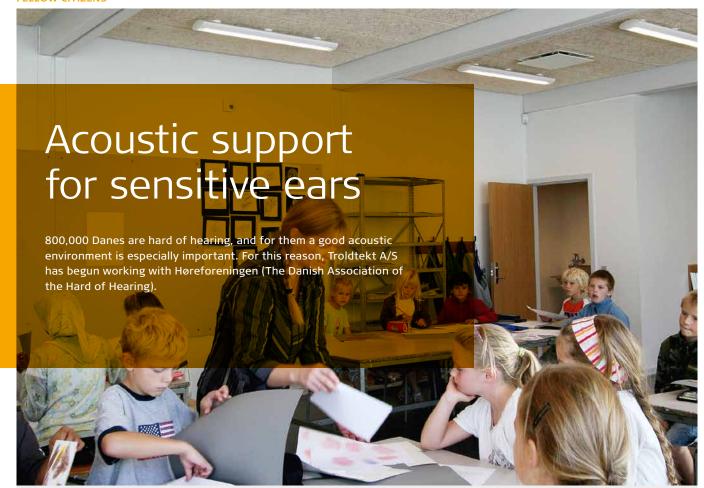
"The Merchant L. Hammerich and His Wife Ellen, nee Lisberg Foundation was set up in 1936, and the aims of the foundation are to provide present and former employees with economic assistance in times of need.

#### Back Again

Perinpam Sinnaiya and his partner, Eva Paulsen, now hope that physiotherapy might alleviate his disability.

- Troldtekt A/S will accept that I work less to start with. And I really would like to. Troldtekt A/S equals good colleagues, decent employers and excellent conditions, says Perinpam Sinnaiya, and Eva Paulsen adds:
- It's been hard because he so much wants to get stuck in - but he can't. I now believe that everything will be all right, although his arm might not be quite like it was before.





In 2010, Troldtekt A/S started sponsoring Høreforeningen. Everyday life for the hearing-impaired is especially improved by a comfortable acoustic environment. In this way, Høreforeningen and Troldtekt A/S share a common interest, namely to get the message across to all players in all tiers of the construction process: acoustics are an important aspect of good architecture. By helping Høreforeningen with what we consider our core competency, we get the most CSR for our money.

#### Less Tired with Troldtekt

Sanne Lauridsen is chairperson at the local branch of Høreforeningen in Aarhus, and she is hard of hearing.

- I find that architects typically look more at appearance than acoustic comfort - especially in shopping and sports centres. These places often cause me to feel tired in my head from concentrating hard on a dialogue, and I invariably end up leaving because the sound races around, says Sanne Lauridsen and adds:

- When there are acoustic panels installed in the room, I have to spend less energy on understanding what people say. They don't have to repeat quite as much, and I don't get so tired.

#### Subtitles and expert help

As part of the collaboration with Høreforeningen, Troldtekt A/S has subtitled their film on acoustics for the hearing-impaired and sponsored the external acoustician, Jan Voetmann, as a lecturer at the national course for parents with hearing-impaired children.

ABOUT HØREFORENINGEN
Høreforeningen is a disability
organisation handling the
concerns of more than 800,000
people. They do this by mainly
working for better living
conditions for those affected by
hearing problems or diseases of
the ear. This affects every sixth
person over the age of 18.

#### ACOUSTICS FILM In their film, Troldtekt A/S expound the most important ideas within ro

important ideas within room acoustics. In accordance with Høreforeningen's wishes, the film has now been subtitled.





#### **AN EYE FOR ACOUSTICS**

Can you design Troldtekt panels with a more sensual expression – without losing the good acoustic qualities? That was the challenge, Anne Stensgaard set for herself last year for her final thesis on design technology. Troldtekt A/S contributed the materials, sparring and practical assistance to Anne Stensgaard who pressed the panels into concave arches, double waves and other seductive shapes. The design technologist herself is satisfied:

 The project was a complete success. The structure of the panels is beautifully accentuated by the new shapes – without compromising the material strength. And because of the panels' shape and the location of the diffusers, the acoustic effect is actually improved, she explains.

The new shapes are meant for striking business, private and public buildings, and Troldtekt A/S is just now waiting for the perfect project to kick-start an actual production.

Troldtekt A/S has previously helped student architects with their projects, e.g. in materials science. Presently, we are helping two student constructing architects who are writing their theses on the theory of science with Troldtekt as a case study.

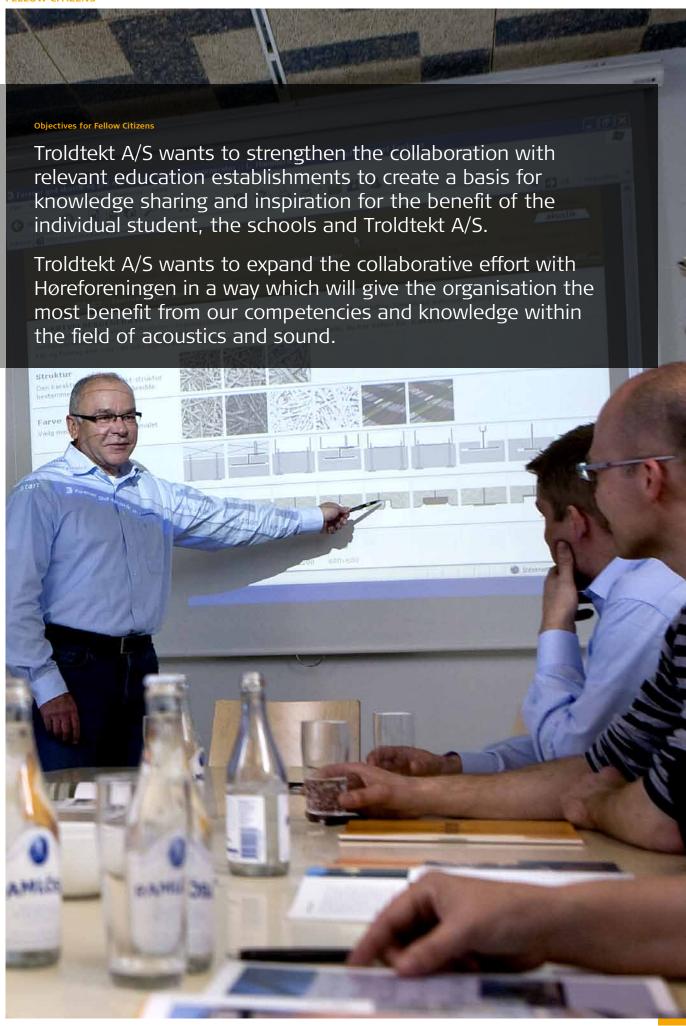
#### WE APPRECIATE THE NATURAL TALENT

On the occasion of Troldtekt A/S' 75th anniversary, we plan to award a brand new prize. The rules are simple: The student architect who manages to include cement-bonded wood wool from Troldtekt in the most imaginative context, will receive the prize and a journey for two to Rio de Janeiro. The Troldtekt Prize will seek out its first recipient in January 2011.

The only limit is their imagination when the students will compete for the prize which will be awarded without taking acoustic issues into consideration.









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Troldtekt A/S sponsors	Høreforeningen
	Høreforeningen is a disability organisation handling the concerns of more than 800,000 people. They do this by mainly working for better living conditions for those affected by hearing problems or diseases of the ear.
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Dansk Akustisk Selskab
D.A.S aims to extend knowledge about acoustics and its applications in Denmark and to connect people sharing an interest in acoustics at home and abroad.



Foreningen for Unge Trælastfolk
The organisation aims to create a forum young people within the field of timber and building materials, and to inform them about relevant issues affecting their field of activity.



Certifications





