

**ECON**

17 October 2010

## **Record Year for Yorkshire 'Grit'**



A Ripon firm that supplies road maintenance and gritting vehicles to many of the country's contractors, councils and local authorities has completed a mammoth summer of maintenance, servicing 275 gritters from all over the UK. The Yorkshire company now supplies and maintains 80 per cent of local authority vehicles throughout the UK.

This year the company won new contracts to place £2.8m of vehicles in service as far afield as Wiltshire, Cornwall and Fife. It put a total of 44 new state of the art vehicles costing around £70,000 each onto the UK's roads ahead of the winter, a record year for the second generation family firm.

With a turnover of £20m, ECON was founded in 1969 and has grown to be the UK's leading manufacturer and leaser of gritters and snowploughs.

The annual summer maintenance of the fleet saw many of the firm's 170 staff carrying out essential mechanical servicing and MOT testing as well as upgrading vehicles with new GPS control systems, improved tracking systems and general repairs.

"This summer was busier than ever, partly due to the very harsh winter we experienced across the country last year requiring additional use of the existing fleet, but also because we have been very successful at placing new vehicles with councils across the UK during the past year," said sales director Andrew Lupton.

"We have seen a massive increase in demand for hire vehicles as public service budgets are squeezed, and our investment in technology to minimise wastage and make salt stocks go further also helped win more orders for us following a winter of drastic shortages," added Lupton.

In this region, the firm's customers include the largest privately owned fleet in the UK, The Gritting Company based in Leeds that operates more than 60 spreaders covering WM Morrison supermarkets among others.

Other fleets of local authority owned ECON vehicles are used to clear the huge network of public roads in Sheffield, Bradford, Wakefield, Barnsley, Calderdale, Kirklees, Rotherham, York and Doncaster.

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**Snow2009.jpeg**

An ECON gritter in clearing roads near Brimham Rocks, North Yorkshire