Record growth for civil and structural engineering consultancy BCS Design Group

Revenue growth of over 60 per cent saw sales at BCS Design Group increase from £3.9m to £6.4m in the year to 31 August 2014, from £3.9m the previous year. The group’s profitability more than doubled, providing a platform for diversification and further rapid expansion in 2015.

The firm, which was established by civil engineer and managing director Steve Osbaldeston in 2003, has grown from his spare room into an award-winning national civil and structural engineering consultancy employing 38 engineers and office staff at its head office in Leeds, and in London.

The business saw growth in demand for its specialist design services for road, rail and temporary works clients across the UK including contractors such as Balfour Beatty, Carillion and Laing O’Rourke.

“Our reputation for specialist design is now well-established in the UK and we are enjoying increased demand as infrastructure projects see greater investment. Our step up in scale over the past few years has also opened up some new opportunities,” said Steve Osbaldeston.
In the past decade BCS Design has become one of the leading designers in the rail industry and has been instrumental in the Thames Link and Cross Rail programmes including re-signalling, level crossing, power supply and station renewals.

“With the April 2014 start of the £38bn ‘control period 5’ rail investment programme by Network Rail, we are at the start of a five-year spending programme on the busiest parts of the UK rail network. This is the largest upgrade of the railways since the Victorian era,” said Mr Osbaldeston. “Add the huge opportunities offered for the planning and design of HS2, and we are in a very good place, as one of the specialists in our sector able to service these really transformational projects.”

The firm has also completed significant design work for numerous rail, highway, and bridge replacement works, as well as involvement in the design of temporary works, where major infrastructure projects have a long term impact. BCS Design was awarded the NCE/ACE Consultant of the Year title, in March 2014, adding to a remarkable year for the firm.

“The opportunity to use our expansion and new scale to move upstream into complementary markets is something our clients are encouraging us to look at, and it is really exciting to have a whole new chapter of future growth ahead of us,” commented co-director Martin Cure.

Recent projects by BCS Design engineers include the design of rail improvements and platform extensions for Thameslink across the South East; the on-going design and maintenance of the M40 in partnership with UK Highways Ltd and surveys, ground investigation and design for 120 miles of railway for the UK’s Western Zone signalling upgrade.

“Our clients want us to do more for them, which is a great way to keep our trajectory and growth rate in double digits. Expanding our offering to broaden our services has been the focus of our five-year forward plan and we expect to launch new multi-disciplinary divisions over the coming 24 months,” added Mr Cure.

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Photography:

Steve Osbaldeston, managing director of BCS Design

Contacts: Paul Snape and Sarah Hone at Appeal PR on 01423 56 99 99 or email paul@appealpr.com