

# The drain game

**Environmental Biotech was launched in the UK in September 2002 to provide drain line management services to various industry sectors. One of the company's first successes was a contract with the Treats & Snax sandwich bar chain, overcoming a problem of drain line blockages.**

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**T**REATS & SNAX, a family-controlled chain of 24 snack and sandwich bars in central London, was established in 1978 and is supported by a food processing factory in Acton, West London. All the snack and sandwich bars operate under the 'Treats' banner and service a variety of food, from sandwiches to samosas.

The Snax Food Factory was developed as a central production unit to service all of the Treats branches and to ensure they always have a consistent supply of products to sell as well as supplying a range of products to other retail companies in the UK.

The custom-fitted factory occupies some 13,000 sq ft and consists of three main production areas – a sandwich room/salad production, fryer room and a bakery.

Like many major food processing companies Snax has experienced significant problems with blockages in drain and waste pipelines due to the extensive amount of fats, oils, grease and gelatine that find their way into the system. This necessitated a plumbing contractor to visit the Acton plant every four months to rod the drain lines.

"The situation was becoming intolerable; we had a significant expense every four months with no

permanent solution in sight", said Amin Merali, director of Treats and Snax.

"Although the rodding was effective, all it actually did was to alleviate the problem, not cure it, moving it on to become someone else's problem. We had to find a permanent solution and that's when I contacted Environmental Biotech."

Environmental Biotech sent in its inspection team and carried out a full survey of all the drain lines at the plant. Using video imaging and dye marking a detailed map of the drain system was produced, highlighting the many high-risk areas.

Environmental Biotech's recommendation involved a complete cleaning of the drain system, followed by the installation of an automatic pumped system, injecting live vegetative bacteria into the pipelines 12 times a day. These short-life micro-organisms feed on the problematic fat, sugar and starch and eventually digest the hydrocarbon-based compounds reducing them to harmless carbon dioxide and water. This eco-friendly process is known as bioremediation.

Every two weeks Environmental Biotech service technicians return to inspect the drain lines and refill the injection system.

The fortnightly visits by the technicians ensure that any minor problems are dealt with immediately and the business can run without unexpected emergencies and unbudgeted emergency calls. ■



## The advantage of networking

THE Goring Kerr DSPnet 3 is a network system designed to link up to 64 metal detectors to a remote PC – newly launched by the Process Instruments Division of Thermo Electron Corporation. This low cost network

connection provides comprehensive data management and control software, which keeps a centralised log of information about all Goring Kerr DSP metal detectors operating throughout a plant.

As well as providing automatic retrieval of quality control records into one area and remote diagnostic checks, the DSPnet 3 system offers customers the time and labour saving option of setting up and controlling all metal detectors from a central point plus providing shift, interval, alarm and status reports.