

Co-operative Financial Services



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News Release

Albion at the reins of a global gallop

Midlands based Albion Saddlemakers is galloping ahead having won a major contract with the internationally acclaimed Spanish Riding School of Vienna.

Established 30 years ago, the family run business has grown to become the UK's leading saddle manufacturer and the third largest in Europe.

The Co-operative Bank's Birmingham Corporate Banking Centre provided expansion funding to support the company's growth and facilitated the cash flow needed to meet the requirements of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna.

Based at its Walsall factory, Albion's specialist design and engineering 70 strong team manufacture niche equestrian products for competition riders including members of the British Olympic horse riding team.

Already chomping at the bit, Albion owners Paul and Sherry Belton have now set their sights on exploiting the emerging Asian and Middle Eastern markets, including Dubai, UAE, China, Russia and Korea.

Paul Belton said: "Over the last 30 years we've worked to build the Albion brand to the position it's in today. The Spanish Riding School, Vienna is the world's oldest riding school and is at the pinnacle of classic horse riding.

Winning this prestigious contract illustrates the quality of our products and is the best guarantee for the future as Albion continues to grow.”

The company’s Corporate Relationship Manager, John Crittenden at The Co-operative Bank said: “Albion Saddlemakers is an extremely successful, solid family run business that has demonstrated exceptional growth over the last three years. Having already conquered the UK and European markets, the company is well placed to become one of the leading saddle manufacturers in the global equestrian market.”

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Photo caption:

L-R John Crittenden, Corporate Relationship Manager at The Co-operative Bank and Sherry and Paul Belton, Albion Saddlemakers

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