



The SWL team.
Pictures: Callum Mackay.
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Safety firm empowered by group's success

Electrical services are surging forward

EASTER Ross-based SWL Ltd is a company that more than lives up to its name.

For almost quarter of a century, customers have mainly known SWL – the abbreviation stands for Safety Welding & Lifting – as a supplier, repairer and inspector of lifting equipment, with an impressively vast hire fleet of specialist equipment.

That is still true, but SWL, through its electrical division, is now developing a growing business as an electrical contractor.

The electrical division may have started as a complementary service to the main lifting business, but it has quickly established itself in its own right, thanks in part to an early contract with Highland Council.

SWL general manager Duncan MacLeod said: "We have never thought of the electrical side as just an add on to what we do. Right from the start it was always meant to be an important part of our business."

Electrical manager Grant Robertson said that the electrical team was originally introduced to compliment the lifting division, allowing SWL to offer LOLER and

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Duncan MacLeod



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electrical inspections of high-level lighting rigs at schools and other council buildings.

Contracts with other property owners followed, drawing on SWL's expertise, with electrical inspection and testing (EICR) and fire extinguisher servicing among the many services the team can provide.

Grant said: "Electrical safety is an important part of what we do and

our customers know we can deliver to a very high standard.

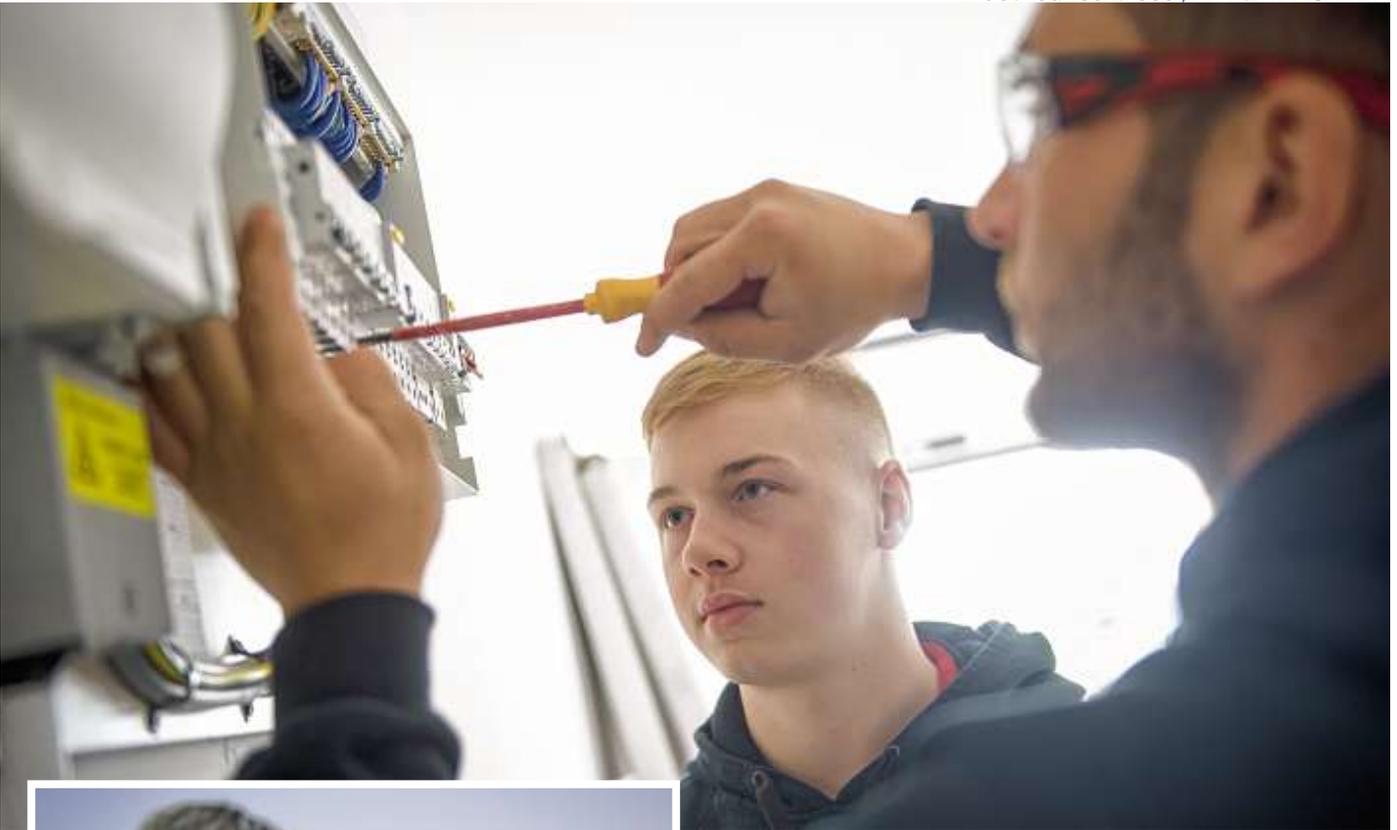
"Safety testing is something that we thrive on, especially when it comes to upgrading businesses or rented property to help bring them up to current legislative standards, making their buildings and businesses safer."

Carrying out tests for property owners who are moving into the

rental market has become such a specialisation of SWL, that the company's website carries useful advice for landlords to ensure they stay compliant with the law.

SWL's team can also help draw up a maintenance plan for landlords, or any other client, to remedy any shortfalls.

Other services offered by the SWL team include load monitoring



ISO 9001:2015 compliant and are proud of our CHAS (Construction Health and Safety) accreditation.

"All our electricians are UKATA qualified to carry out non-licensed work with asbestos.

"A lot of aging electrical systems still have asbestos in their distribution boards, which we can safely remove and arrange an environmentally sound disposal.

"It eliminates the need for additional contractors as we can do both jobs as part of the same package.

"These qualifications are obviously very reassuring for our clients.

"Nowadays customer service goes beyond just doing the job and doing the job well. You have to look after your clients and offer them the necessary support, and with our qualifications and accreditations, they know we can do just that."

Grant added: "Because we already have these qualifications in place, not only does it mean we are fully ready for the jobs that come our way, it also gives the clients confidence that we will get the job done when they want and look after them afterwards."

While the early days of SWL saw the company very much involved with the North Sea energy sector, through the electrical division the firm is now involved with an ever-expanding range of businesses, following SWL's takeover by the McDonald Scaffolding Group in 2015.

"We are proud of our roots and hope to take on young, local talent as we expand," Grant said.

"We have grown steadily over the last couple of years, and with the whole of the Highlands and Islands to cover, that just looks set to continue."



to investigate overload conditions, thermal-imaging investigations to identify areas of concern unseen by the naked eye, and emergency light testing.

"We are constantly adding to our suite of services," Duncan said.

"We're always looking at ways we can provide new services and add value for our customers."

SWL has already laid the

groundwork for any diverse jobs that come its way by ensuring its staff have the qualifications customers are looking for.

Duncan said: "We are fully accredited with NICEIC (National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting), which carries a lot of respect within the electrical sector, as well as with the British Fire Consortium. We are

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