



drax

Electric
Vehicles

Charging support from end to end

Helping Werfen keep pace with NHS sustainability standards



Werfen manufactures 'in vitro diagnostic' (IVD) medical devices to help hospitals and health care organisations around the world detect diseases, conditions and infections. In the UK, it primarily supplies to the NHS. The company's Warrington HQ has recently expanded to accommodate 125 staff.

The NHS is aiming to be net zero by 2040. Its suppliers are keen to enable these sustainability targets – reductions in their Scope 1 emissions helps reduce the NHS's reportable Scope 3 emissions.



Werfen first measured its carbon footprint in 2019. The company's been tracking decarbonisation progress and employing ambitious sustainability timelines ever since. Among its targets was the intention to equip all on-site parking spaces with EV charging facilities.

Essential electrification

75% of Werfen's UK workforce is field-based and covers substantial mileage. The company recognised an urgent need to switch its fleet vehicles to EVs to reduce its emissions. It was also aware of the requirement for supporting charging infrastructure.



The transition to electric vehicles was a critical one for us to be able to reduce our Scope 1 – and the NHS's Scope 3 – emissions. We didn't want to just offset emissions – we wanted to actually reduce them.



Richard Hames
UK General Manager, Werfen

Werfen offices and laboratories host internal meetings for travelling staff – but also product demonstrations and training sessions. The company's facilities team was determined to make Werfen's UK headquarters an attractive hub for hosting. It saw the provision of EV charging options as a clear step towards growing the site's appeal.



A welcome introduction

The healthcare diagnostics services supplier spoke to a number of potential EV partners about its electrification plans – but felt the proposals they were receiving served the supplier rather than the customer. Uniblend – Werfen's utilities consultant – suggested Kiran Naidu, Werfen UK's Technical Services Manager, speak to Drax Electric Vehicles.



With Drax, it was a different conversation immediately. It was less of a sales pitch and more of a consultation. They wanted to understand our requirements first – and then work out how to satisfy them. They also advised the considerations we'd need to take in terms of compatibility and future-proofing.



Kiran Naidu

UK Technical Services Manager, Werfen

The partnership began organically from these initial conversations, resulting in discoveries relating to site power capacity limitations.



The need for speed?

Werfen's team had an initial preference for installing a number of high-power, high-speed chargers. Drax worked on plans for various charging configurations that could work in the space, based on possible site-power expansion. The electrification experts also recognised that less powerful, 'fast' chargers – with dual ports and load balancing capacity – would suit Werfen's needs better, while providing more parking spaces with charging connectivity.

The Drax team was also able to support Werfen through the process of securing additional power capacity by leading conversations with the Distribution Network Operator (DNO).



Drax was there for us throughout the lengthy discussions with the DNO, with our landlord and with solicitors while we tried to get the additional power sorted. They gave advice whenever we needed it – even before we were in a position to order hardware or schedule installation.



Kiran Naidu

UK Technical Services Manager, Werfen

Minimising disruption

Due to the time required for landlord approvals and site capacity extension, Werfen's requirements had expanded with the development of a second building and addition of further parking spaces. The healthcare diagnostics services supplier decided – to minimise disruption – that it wanted to install all charge points – providing a total of 18 ports – in one go.

Working with its in-house installation team, BMM Energy Solutions, Drax managed to keep the impact of groundworks and implementation to a minimum. This enabled Werfen to continue day-to-day operations without significant disruption.

“



You never know what to expect with groundworks – there's the chance everything's dug up and it causes havoc. But our installations were nothing like that. The Drax implementation manager discussed the plans with us. During installation, they were very considerate and slick – they just got on with things without fuss.

”

Naomi Thompson
EHS & Facilities Officer, Werfen



Werfen chose RFID authorisation for its chargers. However, although it doesn't currently charge employees or visitors for the use of its charging facilities, Drax was able to implement the ability to do so. This could prove handy in future if, for example, electricity price rises make continued subsidies impractical or electricity for charging EVs becomes a taxable benefit for staff.

Continued support

Other than an online session and a site visit on completion, Werfen didn't require detailed training from Drax. The chargers were fully operational as soon as the meters were operational.

Since implementation, Drax has visited to install charging signage and has been in touch to schedule firmware updates when necessary.

Werfen's keen to track statistics relating to the details of charging sessions. This helps the organisation prove its CO₂ savings – as well as the cost savings of having an in-house charging provision compared to having to charge at public-facing facilities. My Electric Vehicles – the Drax charging management portal – has enabled Werfen to do just that.



“



Drax have booked in software upgrades around our availability. And any minor issues we've experienced, we've phoned them and they've been brilliant and straight on it. In terms of the portal, they've encouraged us to suggest useful functionality – and then scheduled it into their development pipeline.

”

Kiran Naidu
UK Technical Services Manager, Werfen



Charging expansion

Werfen's still keen to complete the job of providing charging facilities at every space in its car park. This will mean extending the site's power capacity once again – if the landlord supports the proposal in the context of the full business park's energy needs.

As part of the second phase of works, the company's also looking to install one rapid charger for short-stay charging.

