

**2002 Alstom Award for Innovation in Safety  
for  
Vortok's Rigid Safety Barrier**

Vortok International has won the prestigious 2002 Alstom Railway Award for Innovation in Safety for its Rigid Safety Fencing at this year's Rail Forum/Modern Railways Industry Awards. This category is for innovation in any aspect of railway safety, including systems, staff and operational safety and personal security of the traveler that can be demonstrated to have improved safety standards and performance.

The winners were announced at a Gala Dinner held in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London on Monday, 25 March 2002.

The event was attended by hundreds of senior people from the railway industry helping to reinforce Vortok's growing profile and enquiries from some guests present on the night have already resulted in new orders. This result is a deserving recognition of the work put in by everyone at Plymouth and is a source of great pride to the whole workforce.

The Award itself is a Stuart Crystal cut glass vase, which will be used at several national and international exhibitions this year to promote the company and its products.

The barrier comprises an energy absorbing structure to support and protect the worker from passing trains up to speeds of 125mph, as well as providing visual demarcation of the safe working area. It has a simple spring loaded clamp design that fastens the arm to the running rail without the use of tools, whilst maintaining a safe distance for the installer of 1.25m. The clamp and arm assembly is suitable for non-electrified, overhead line and live 3rd rail electrified tracks and is mainly constructed from insulating materials to protect the worker and protect track circuits.

It is adjustable to suit different safe distances at different train speeds and is adaptable to all types of flat bottom and bull head rail, on site, without recourse to threaded fasteners, spanners or keys. The fence is now widely used across the UK with some 10,000m in service with new variants coming into service.