Francis Ward, the leading reusable IBC and drum manufacturer has once again used its expertise in rotational moulding to design the Warlord-CF.

The Warlord-CF is a reusable drum designed for the storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals. The drum was originally designed in conjunction with the agrochemical industry to improve operator safety, storage efficiency and environmental integrity.

Even though there is much debate about the use of chemicals in the agriculture market, there is no sign of a decrease in agrochemical usage. As a result there are health and safety concerns for farmers who have to spray the chemicals on their fields. Reducing farmers' exposure to chemicals is seen as the easiest way to do this.

In addition increased environmental legislation preventing ground water contamination is encouraging use of closed systems as well.

Environmental legislation also means agrochemical containers have become Controlled Waste so disposal options are severely limited. 'Stack and burn' is no longer an option for farmers! Reusable packaging options are becoming increasingly necessary.

Chemical distribution firms who supply agrochemicals have long been looking for a container that is safer for farmers to access, but also improves environmental credentials.

To meet these criteria, Francis Ward adapted its Warlord Drum, a tried and tested drum that is used across Europe in hazardous applications! The drum now has a central inlet that is fitted with a 'Micro Matic valve'. The valve is what is known as a Dry-break valve that has to be connected to a Dry-break coupler to access the chemicals. The Dry-break coupler is then attached to a pump mechanism to discharge the contents. The benefit is a complete closed transfer system where operator and farmers do not come into contact with the chemicals. This system also prevents against contamination of the drum with no external goods able to enter through the valve. If customers prefer not to use the 'Micro Matic Valve', the inlet is a standard Tri-sure threadform enabling customised fittings and pump attachments.

In side the drum a dip tube is attached to the 'Micro Matic valve' leading down to a sump at the bottom of the drum. This allows for maximum discharge of contents when being pumped out.

Just like the original Warlord Drum it is rotational moulded. This creates a seamless drum with virtually no built in stress. The benefit to customers is a very durable drum that can withstand the rigors of agricultural practice. The subsequent benefit, due to its long life, is that suppliers are able to reuse the drums as multi trip units. Farmers no longer have to worry about disposing of containers, which often build up and can lead to pollution. Instead they have a route of return back to the suppliers.

It should be noted that the Warlord-CF is not exclusive to the agrochemical industry. In fact Francis Ward has experienced high levels of interest and demand from a variety of chemical distribution applications that also require a closed loop system, notably in the nuclear industry.

The drum can be produced in a variety of colours for contents or corporate identification and can include abrasion proof moulded-in graphics for branding.