

UK industry news



Regional show is the 'only one of its kind'

North & North West Manufacturing & Electronics takes place 5-6 May at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton. Now in its 13th year, the show is the only one of its kind in the region and is a great opportunity to meet an array of local companies in a single visit. Over 150 of the region's top industrial enterprises will showcase their products and services, while technical seminars will

offer insights into a host of topics, ranging from securing investment to succeeding at product development.

Entry to the show and the technical seminars is free, and the Reebok Stadium is easily accessible by public transport or by road, with 3,000 free parking spaces on site. To register for free tickets and seminar places, visit the Web site (www.industrynorth.co.uk).

Leader appoints new technical sales engineer

In order to support a recently signed agency agreement for the sale of Bison manual chucks from Poland, as well as the steady flow of new products from its major principal Hainbuch and its own expanding fixturing portfolio, Birmingham-based Leader Chuck Systems Ltd (Tel: 0121 771 4843) has appointed a new technical sales engineer — Will Hare, who will cover Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, East Anglia, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Mr Hare joins Chris Watson and Shaun Fairclough, who are responsible for customers based in the South East and North East respectively. He has over four decades of engineering experience, with an in-depth knowledge of chucks and component fixturing.

Demand remains high for conventional manual/CNC lathes

The Heckmondwike-based 600 Group (Tel: 01924 415000), which sells machine tools, spares and accessories to over 180 countries, says that high-quality conventional and manual/CNC lathes have been the most resilient during the global downturn.

The group says the demand for these machines has been threefold: significantly increased investment in education, a trend towards small-batch production and a lack of availability

of finance for more-advanced CNC machines.

Chief executive David Norman believes that much of the CNC machine tool stockpiling that took place at the height of the boom is at long last coming to an end. He said: "I have no doubt that the market for CNC machinery will return. Even during this economic downturn, we have continued to develop and enhance our CNC machine capability, so when customer demand switches, we are more than ready."

Semta and Association of Learning Providers sign agreement

Semta, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, has signed an agreement that will see it forge closer links with independent skills and education providers. At the end of last month, representatives of the Association of Learning Providers signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Semta that will help the two organisations to work together on a range of issues faced by both learners and employers.

The document also includes a number of proposals aimed at identifying the future skill needs of employers operating in the science, engineering and manufacturing sectors.

These proposals include sharing research and other information, as well as creating a new forum to act as a sounding board on key issues and the appointment of a Skills Champion.

Commenting on the new agreement,

Semta chief executive Philip Whiteman said: "There are many challenges to businesses in the years ahead, and firms need to ensure that their workforce has the right skills to remain competitive in an increasingly tough global market-place.

"This can only be achieved through closer links between businesses, government bodies and training providers, and this agreement will go a long way towards forming closer partnerships."