

News release from Leeds Manufacturing
08 May 2009



£300K Birthday Present From China For Leeds Plastics Firm

One of Leeds' longest-established plastics companies is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a £300,000 order all the way from China.

Barkston Plastics is playing a major role in an 18-month £3m project, co-ordinated by Yeadon-based design house Process Line to make and supply lithographic tanks and ancillary equipment to the Chinese printing industry. It follows similar successful export contracts to the USA, Europe, India and other Asian destinations.

The Cross Green company beat off stiff competition from around Europe for the order, thanks to its capacity and skill in constructing the massive polypropylene tanks to precise specifications. Laser cutting and spark testing of welding contribute to this process.

Barkston Plastics' operations director Mark Carter commented: "The China contract is a timely celebration of our 40th anniversary. We initially won an order worth £200,000, then scooped a further £100,000 against stiff competition from Italy.

"We're probably one of Leeds' best-kept manufacturing secrets, but have just invested £60,000 in a re-branding exercise, including two new websites. One of these is an online store, which is already paying dividends with a string of orders, thanks to our unique laser welding facility. Our robotic laser welding process is the only one of its kind in Europe."

Ian Williams, policy director Leeds Chamber of Commerce, commented: "This latest success for Barkston demonstrates how Leeds manufacturers are able to compete and win orders in a fiercely competitive global business environment. It further supports the view that manufacturing has a leading role to play in leading out of the current recession and in ensuring the city's future prosperity."

Ends