

# Making it in Leeds

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## **Leeds manufacturing: looking to the future**

Thursday 22/1/09, Elland Road, Leeds

**John Willman, UK business editor of the Financial Times, is to lead the speaker line up at a conference exploring the future of manufacturing within the Leeds city region. The event, taking place at Elland Road on Thursday 22nd January 2009, is organised by Business Link with support from Leeds Manufacturing.**

Joining him on the platform at the conference will be representatives from Otley-based engineering firm Craftsman Tools and signage manufacturer Omega Signs.

Craftsman Tools have made major inroads into US markets and now exports over 44% of its output. Managing director Robert Johnson will provide a first hand experience of export market development and supply chain management. Tony Timmermanns, managing director of Omega Signs, will talk about innovation and product development as drivers of business growth.

The event is aimed at companies across all sectors of manufacturing in Leeds and the surrounding city region. It aims to promote best practice in modern manufacturing and draw attention to the wide range of support available to manufacturing businesses. The event will be attended by representatives from the key business support organisations in the city.

Leeds is the UK's second largest centre for manufacturing outside London, with over 1,900 firms and a workforce of over 39,000 employed in specialized engineering, electronics, chemicals, food and drink manufacture, medical technology, textiles, print and publishing.

Cllr Andrew Carter, joint leader of Leeds City Council and executive member for development, has welcomed the event as recognition of the continuing importance of the manufacturing sector to the city's economy:

"Leeds is home to many highly innovative manufacturing companies based in the city, pushing the boundaries and, in some cases, leading the world in their respective fields," said Cllr Carter.

“The sector is also incredibly diverse. The majority of manufacturing companies in Leeds are small to medium sized businesses. They play a key role in the economic life of the city, adding to the diversity and vitality of the economy and ensuring the city's fortunes don't depend on individual industries or companies.

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**For more information, contact the Business Link Yorkshire events booking team on:**

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