

News Release

13 December 2006

Crystal Clear Future For Plastics Firm Sitting Comfortably



A winning combination of skilled engineering and academia is set to double the £9million annual sales of a Leeds-based plastics company.

Barkston Plastics already had skill and resource links with St John's College, York, but generally found that design students were leaving university with no practical engineering experience. From a think tank emerged the instruction to 12 students: "Make us something in plastic."

The outright winner was a stunning range of occasional furniture in crystal clear acrylic that proved a sensation at this year's 100% design show, one of the UK's most influential interiors shows.

Under the banner of Barkston's new sister company, Embark, the range, with each item hand-made is now in production. Commercial director Steve Rock says: "We

want to keep the products individual, so there will be no mass production and we are also making bespoke pieces in clear, tinted or etched acrylic.

“With the current trend for city centre high rise living and minimalist interiors, we believe we’re on to a winner.”

The company has invested £160,000 in a state of the art robotic laser welder for acrylics of up to 50mm thickness to help make the furniture. Developed with the Cambridge-based Welding Institute, it is the only one of its kind in the world and tightly guarded by extensive patents.

Ends

Photography: Steve Rock (left) demonstrates the Embark acrylic furniture to Paul Stephens, Leeds City Council’s chief economic services officer.

Further Information: From Andy McNally at Embark Design: 0113 249 4093