

Making it in Leeds

News release from Leeds Manufacturing

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Boom time for firm with £600,000 cutting edge

Business is booming for a Leeds company launched under a year ago with a £600,000 investment in the latest laser metal cutting plant.

Launched last Spring by Yorkshireman Mike Briggs, Accurate Laser Cutting continues to grow at an extraordinary rate with monthly turnover now exceeding £50,000 and a total of six new jobs created as the facility runs 24x7 to fulfil the growing flow of orders.

At the heart of the success story is the Trumpf laser metal-cutting machinery that absorbed much of the £600,000 initial investment.

“We really appear to have hit a niche market in the Leeds area, offering a speedy quoting service followed by a maximum of three days delivery, on time at competitive prices and to a high quality,” says Mike Briggs, who established the operation on the Stourton Business Park in South Leeds.

“We received our first order on June 3, two days after becoming operational, since when we’ve completed several hundred ranging from small-scale prototyping to five-figure value high volume runs. Many enquiries have resulted from existing customer recommendations,” he says.

And he pays tribute to technical director Mike Cursons, who joined the company in August, bringing a wealth of knowledge of sheet metalworking and 20 years experience in laser cutting technology: “Mike’s contribution has been crucial to our sustained growth,” he says.

He continues: “There are other laser cutters in the region, but the new Trumpf machine is real state of the art. It allows us to guarantee quotes within a few hours of enquiry, followed by quality components delivery a maximum of three days from receipt of order - a true sub-contracting service.

And it can handle all metals at thicknesses ranging from heavy duty machine parts to almost microscopic pieces akin to costume jewellery with complete accuracy.”

Mike Briggs was previously senior engineer for a rival laser cutting machinery manufacturer and managed a 30-strong team of service engineers, but faced relocation to the Midlands as the company restructured its UK operations.

Fortunately, a meeting with two former engineering colleagues revealed their successfully established laser cutting operation in the Midlands and the idea for a northern operation was born. Accurate Laser Cutting in Dudley had also grown swiftly, prompting the Leeds investment.

Paul Stephens, Leeds City Council chief officer for economic development, comments: “Mike and his team have got off to a tremendous start since they opened for business in the summer. Leeds and the surrounding city region is a major centre for manufacturing in the UK, with core strengths in engineering and fabrication, making it the perfect location for Mike and his team to establish and grow the new enterprise.”

Ends

Photography: Cutting edge – Accurate Laser Cutting’s Mike Briggs and a “giant spider” demonstrating the accuracy and versatility of laser cutting.

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Notes for editors

Leeds Manufacturing is a joint initiative by Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Leeds City Council which aims to raise the profile of individual manufacturing companies in Leeds and promote the city as a centre for manufacturing excellence. Further case studies on Leeds manufacturing companies are available online at: www.leedsmanufacturing.co.uk