

# Making it in Leeds

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## News from Leeds Manufacturing

26th April 2010

### **Industry leader to share secrets of success at manufacturing event**

Serial entrepreneur, CEO and Chairman of GSM Group, Barry Dodd, will be sharing the secrets of his success at an event aimed specifically at manufacturing companies.

Mr Dodd will be speaking at the manufacturing lunch organised by Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber, taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Headingley Experience in Leeds. The event, which is sponsored by Irwin Mitchell, is the latest in a series of sector specific events organised by the chamber.

Barry Dodd will tell guests how he transformed his two automotive companies, which are first tier suppliers to brands such as Jaguar and Audi, by increasing revenue from less than £1 per vehicle to over £300 per vehicle today. He will describe how this was achieved by embracing innovation and driving GSM to take advantage of global supply opportunities within the low carbon economy.

He will also provide insight into how his company managed to overcome difficulties during the recession and what he expects for the future of his business and the international manufacturing industry. The event will be followed by a question and answer session.

Mark Goldstone, head of corporate relations at Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce said: "This event is a great opportunity to hear from one of manufacturing's leading figures on innovation and the global marketplace. Barry has a wealth of practical experience in the industry and we are delighted that he has agreed to speak at our first specialist event for manufacturers".

The event is taking place from 12pm – 2pm. The cost for members is £28+VAT and for non-members is £40+vat. This includes a two-course sit down lunch followed by coffee.

To book a place please call 0113 247 0000, visit [www.yourchamber.org.uk](http://www.yourchamber.org.uk) or email [events@yourchamber.org.uk](mailto:events@yourchamber.org.uk) . Ticket preference will be given to those working within or closely linked to the manufacturing industry.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Hayley Johnson on 0113 247 0000**

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Barry Dodd Biography**

Barry Dodd began working life as a graduate trainee with ICI and spent five years within ICI management working in London, New York and Teesside. He left when the urge to work for himself got the better of him.

He founded his first company, GSM Graphic Arts Ltd as a two person start up. Through organic growth and 15 acquisitions within the last 15 years, GSM has grown to become the largest manufacturer of industrial graphic products in Europe. In the UK, GSM Group run four manufacturing plants and a software house.

GSM has taken part in the Dti Inside UK Enterprise visit programme that showcased best practice. The Thirsk plant won the IUKE best SME award in year 2000. The Group have won many other awards and appear in several best practice videos.

A serial entrepreneur, Barry is also Chairman of Addpower Technologies a high tech start up which has developed an instantly rechargeable battery and Varlink a fast growing distributor of mobile computing solutions.

Barry was awarded an OBE in 2006 for services to UK business.

#### **activities include:**

Board member Yorkshire Forward.

Chair of CO2Sense Yorkshire

Chair of Yorkshire Universities Proof of Concept fund.

Board member Yorkshire Innovation, the Regional Science Council

Member UK Automotive Industry Council