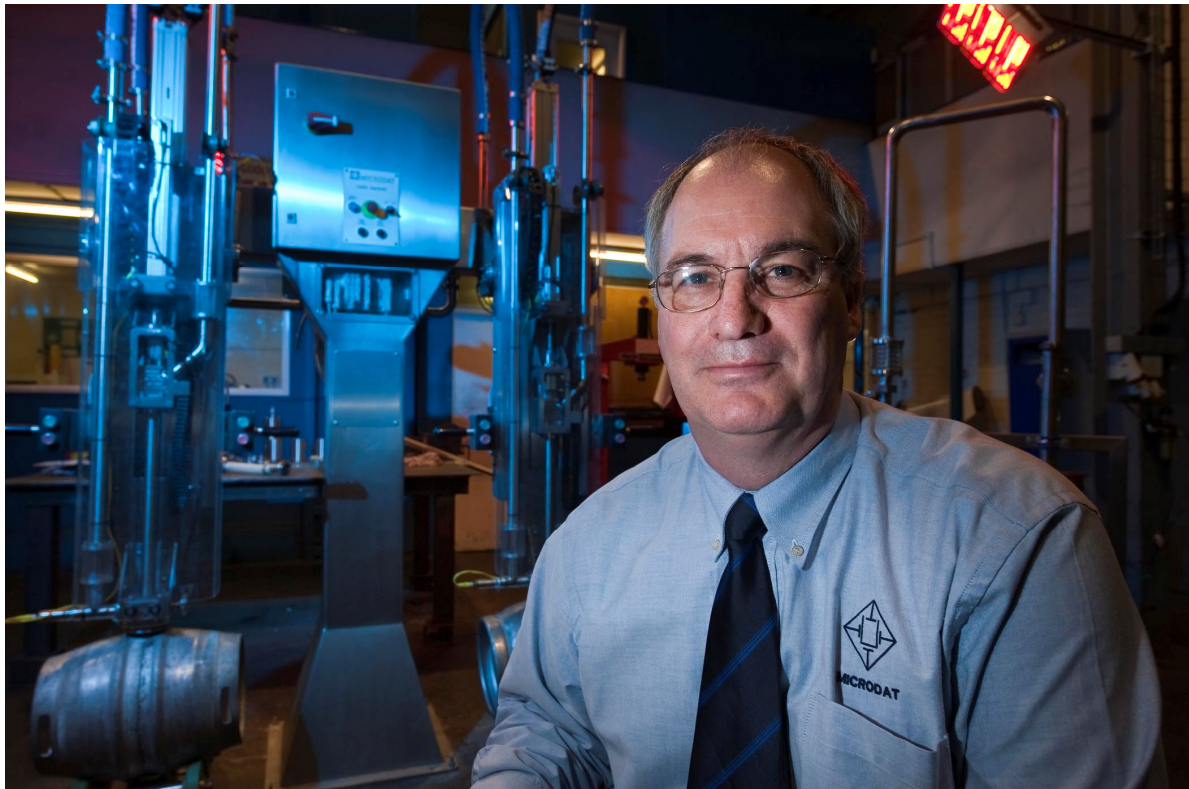


Making it in Leeds

News release from Leeds Manufacturing

07 January 2009



Investment & New Products Create Jobs & Sub-Contract Opportunities

Continued investment in new product development during the recession has paid off for Leeds engineering firm Microdat with a New Year order book already in excess of total business in 2009 and the creation of six new jobs.

Santa arrived early for the company that specialises in brewing equipment with a £560,000 order for keg washing and filling equipment from A B Inbev (the brewers of Stella & Becks). This followed hot on the heels of a £1.2m order for a New 100 barrel brewery process and cask packaging plant for Burnley brewer Moorhouses and Microdat's first export order from the USA - for cask-washing machinery.

Microdat posted a record year in 2008 with sales of £3.6m. The 2009 downturn took effect but the firm continued to develop new products ready for the upturn and invested heavily in a recent Munich exhibition. Accordingly, orders for 2010 are already nearing £3m with many enquiries yet to be converted.

Understandably, founder and managing director Steve Midgley confidently predicts another record year with sales around the £4m plus mark and is seeking regional sub-contractors to help with the growth of his business: "It takes strong nerves to keep investing during a business downturn, but our policy certainly seems to have paid off.

"The festive close-down gave us valuable thinking time regarding our own labour resource and suppliers and to fulfil our bumper order book we would very much like to hear from sub-contractors more local to Leeds with particular skills in stainless steel, hygienic pipe work, vessel fabrication and sheet metal work," said Mr Midgley.

"We currently have good sub contract suppliers, but mostly from much further afield such as traditional brewing centres like Burton Upon Trent. We have sales and project design skills and would now like to supplement our own manufacturing with local sub contract partners wishing to benefit from our unique and growing business success."

Cllr Andrew Carter, joint leader of Leeds City Council, said: "2009 was a tough year for the economy and for manufacturers especially but continued investment linked to innovation is enabling companies like Microdat to maintain their competitive edge and puts them in a position to make the most of opportunities that present themselves as the economy recovers."

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