

Making it in Leeds

News from Leeds Manufacturing

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Microdat Pulls £5M Orders

The continued growth of independent brewers has created a raft of new orders totalling £5 million and new jobs at Leeds-based specialist brewing engineer Microdat.

Five new jobs have been created with more potentially in the pipeline as orders pour in from around the UK.

The St Austell Brewery has placed two major orders for major equipment totalling £2million, hot on the heels of £1.4million orders each from Moorhouse's Burnley Brewery and the Wye Valley Brewery in Herefordshire. Roger Protz, editor of the Good Beer Guide and Britain's leading beer writer, gave the Burnley project his blessing at a special launch ceremony.

Further substantial orders are in hand for Timothy Taylor's, Keighley (£750,000) and Greene King in Suffolk (£500,000).

A bespoke Microdat packaging line and ancillary equipment is going into the Leeds Brewery, with further smaller projects for the Hopping Mad Brewery in Olney, Bucks, St Austell and the Kirkstall and Abbeydale breweries in Yorkshire.

Microdat founder and managing director Steve Midgley said: "Following a steady 2010, the swing to quality beers from independent brewers has accelerated and we're now heading for a record sales year.

"While it's sad to see the departure of Tetley's from Leeds, we like to think that, along with the independent brewers, we continue to fly the flag for real ale in the city and beyond."

Leeds City Council chief economic services officer Paul Stephens said: "The brewing industry has undergone significant change but this has created opportunities for innovative and entrepreneurial companies such as Microdat, which play a key role in creating new employment and developing a thriving economy."

Ends

Photography: Steve Midgley, of Microdat.

Notes to Editors: Launched in the late 1980's Microdat quickly developed a reputation for innovation within the specialist sector of keg and cask packaging in the UK brewing industry.

Continued investment in the latest technology and advanced engineering techniques, including robotics, has led to sustained progress in automated handling systems, chiefly for brewers, but also helping other sectors to improve productivity.

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