

Making it in Leeds

News from Leeds Manufacturing

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Mitsubishi Power Systems to double workforce following £2.5m investment

Growing demand from power generation customers and strong year on year performance could lead to a doubling of the 50-strong workforce at the new Leeds base of Mitsubishi Power Systems Europe Ltd (MPSE).

The rapidly expanding £120m turnover company has already invested almost £2.5m in the 40,000 sq ft service centre at Navigation Park, Hunslet and a further investment will bring a new inspection and testing laboratory and fully-equipped workshop on stream within six months. MPSE serves the traditional power generating industry and the developing renewable energy sector.

The planned expansion follows strong business performances in 2009 and 2010, with further growth anticipated in 2012 and beyond. This continued growth will enhance the Leeds base's key role in the group's UK operations which also features a London-based European Headquarters. An important element of future growth is the development of people, and MPSE is planning to develop a training and development programme to bring on the engineers of the future.

Serving the power industry in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and working 24/7, the Leeds team can also be despatched to Mitsubishi global contracts anywhere in the world, including the Americas and Asia Pacific. Closer to home, the business has major ongoing contracts at Damhead Creek, Huntstown, Teesside and Saltend, as well as having recently been involved in completing projects in Turkey and Egypt.

Head of the MPSE Leeds Service Centre, Director Juergen Richter chose the Leeds base for its close motorway links, inter-city rail routes, regional airports, and quality labour pool: "The brand new service centre provided a clean sheet for internal design and layout, which included a £300,000 bespoke fit-out with enhanced office space to accommodate the expanding workforce," he said.

Some considerable stock and parts concerned with the turbine power generation industry are housed in the immaculate warehouse, which is also home to suites of 9 x 20 ft containers. Seaworthy for transport to overseas contracts, they handle power outage, rig and safety elements on-site at power stations and have been widely praised by power generating customers.

Even these containers are dwarfed by the occasional appearance of a Mitsubishi gas turbine rotor measuring 12m x 4m and which swings into action for stand-by turbine power generation.

"The Leeds Service Centre provides 24/7 support for all our clients and are able to mobilise to site within 24/48hrs, providing full engineering support from tooling and engineering hardware to specialist technical knowledge," said Mr Richter.

MPSE was established in Leeds in 2008 and ran alongside Mitsubishi Printing in South Accommodation Road until the recent move. The printing business is now comfortably housed within the new service centre.

Paul Stephens, head of economic development at Leeds City Council, commented: "This is a significant investment for Mitsubishi and for Leeds. It plays to the city's traditional strengths in engineering and its geographical advantages as a business location, allowing companies to service clients and access markets across the UK, as well as providing excellent connectivity with London and Europe."

Ends

Photography: Head of the MPSE Leeds Service Centre, Juergen Richter at the new Leeds base.

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Note to Editors:

Leeds is the UK's second largest centre for manufacturing outside London, with over 36,000 people employed by 1,815 companies across engineering, print and paper manufacture, food and drink, electronics, textiles and medical technologies. The sector generates 10.8% of the city's £15 billion annual output.