

Making it in Leeds

News from Leeds Manufacturing

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Growing Leeds pancake firm create new jobs with council support

Businesses in Leeds are being urged to take advantage of grants available under Leeds City Council's business growth fund to support capital investment and job creation.

SMEs in Leeds across most sectors can apply to the council for grants, which are worth up to £10,000 and are available to cover up to 20 per cent of an investment in new equipment and premises fit outs.

Fast growing pancake business Enjays recently received a £9,000 grant towards the cost of new automated production lines to speed up and boost production of its 'secret recipe' pancakes.

The company, set up by former university colleagues Neil Tipping and Jon White, has created four new jobs as a result and is poised for further expansion following a six figure investment in a new manufacturing facility in south Leeds.

The expansion includes a brand new production line that manufactures various sizes of pancakes, including blinis at rates of up to 18,000 an hour. Staff previously employed via an employment agency have now been taken on full time to cope with growing demand.

Neil and Jon set up the business in 2005, originally operating from a small shop unit in Headingley. From a small creperie Enjays has become a national operation supplying pancake concepts to over 40 UK outlets including Butlins and Merlin Entertainments Group which operates Alton Towers and the Tussauds Group.

The pair were recently joined by Craig Hindmarsh, who has a highly successful track record in managing large blue chip food manufacturing businesses and will assist in driving the expansion forward.

Carig commented: "I saw the potential from the first time I met Jon and Neil. The growth of Enjays since its beginning has been phenomenal, showing that there is a fantastic demand for its products."

The new facility will allow the business to focus on supplying high quality pre-made pancakes into the food service and retail sectors. "The new facilities are enabling us to expand our range and offer our existing customers exciting new products as well as allowing us to look at the food service sector and retail sector in more detail. We feel we're at the start of a much bigger future," Craig adds.

Phil Cole, head of the council's business and enterprise service said: "We're delighted to be supporting entrepreneurs such as Neil and Jon. They have a great business proposition and new ventures of this kind play a vital role in creating new jobs and in developing a diverse and thriving economy here in Leeds."

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Photography: From left, Jon White, Neil Tipping and Craig Hindmarsh at the new 10,000 sq ft facility in South Leeds.

For further information, please contact:

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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 £17.8 billion annual output.