



KIRKLEES BUSINESS NEWS

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The business NEWSpaper for Kirklees

Firm extracts best using technology

A COMPANY in Huddersfield has underlined its status as a world-class manufacturer by winning a top award.

Bradley-based Extract Technology, which makes engineered containment systems for the pharmaceutical, chemical and biotechnology markets, won the best newcomer award at the eighth annual Yorkshire Productivity Awards, which were held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

Technical manager Paul Hudson received the award on behalf of the firm from Elisabeth Bonfield, head of business development for awards sponsor EMTA Awards Ltd.

The award recognised Extract Technology's commitment to improving production efficiency – a commitment which has helped it achieve sales success with major clients across Europe, Australasia, Africa, and Asia as well as in the UK.

Extract Technology was founded in 1981 in Dewsbury before moving to Bradley Junction Industrial Estate in 1990.

The company, which has 65 employees, manufactures in-house with 70% of sales going to export.

General manager Alan Wainwright said the company's specialist business and improvements in production efficiency had helped it to withstand the recession.

He said: "Despite the global economic downturn and competitive market conditions, we have managed to pick up orders throughout the world and current enquiry activity was promising."

A recent highlight was the completion of a specialist contract to provide a three-chamber cell culture isolator for the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service in Helsinki.

Other recent contracts awarded to Extract include ones to provide isolators for pharmaceutical company Teva in Hungary and for AstraZeneca in Sweden.

Extract Technology has also returned with strong leads from recent exhibitions in Rotterdam and Singapore. The latter included a presentation by the company to 150



■ TOP TEAM: Extract Technology general manager Alan Wainwright (right) with colleagues Paul Hudson (left) and Jason Armitage.

delegates, which was well-received and is expected to lead to more business.

Chief financial officer Jason Armitage said: "In recent times we have seen a shift in production moving towards Asia and the Far East. They are the emerging markets and they will be major markets for Extract."

Mr Hudson said the company was reaping the benefits of production improvements. "We have improved the layouts of our two main workshops to suit what has become a much more diversified product range," he said.

"We carry out our own fabrication and fitting in-house and send our engineers on-site to install and commission systems for our customers and to train their operators.

"The products we manufacture have evolved and are much more technical.

That means we have made an investment in training and skills as well as driving towards improved efficiency."

The workforce have played a significant part in the improvements, including investments in lean manufacturing and NVQ training.

Mr Wainwright said the company had good reason to be optimistic. "Extract Technology is a strong brand developed over 30 years," he said. "We stand for quality engineering of bespoke systems.

"Many of our employees have that traditional engineering background for which Huddersfield is world-famous.

"We also have close links with local schools and support apprentice schemes which allows us to grow and develop our employee skills."



■ BLOOD LINE: Extract Technology completed a 20-week contract to supply this cell culture isolator for the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service in Helsinki

INSIDE

Safety

SUCCESS

A DEWSBURY firm making and supplying kitchens for the social housing sector has received a top safety award for the second year running. Rixonway Kitchens was presented with its second gold award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents at a ceremony in Birmingham.

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