

Launch of 'PTG Heavy Industries' expands portfolio for UK machine tool and technology group

World demand for large specialist machine tools and a recession driven wave of remanufacture business has amply justified the decision by Precision Technologies Group (PTG) to purchase its large machine business in 2008. The new expanded operation has now been launched as PTG Heavy Industries, and is providing strong growth prospects and a healthy order book in a business climate where industries that traditionally rely on new smaller machine tools such the automotive sector are still under pressure.

PTG reports that industries served by the large capacity machine tool sector such as mining, large construction equipment, oil and shipping are using the relative trading lull to reinvest in large scale plant equipment. Machine orders are strong; hence PTG Heavy Industries will start trading with a healthy order book.

Incorporated into the business are two historic brands; Binns & Berry and Crawford Swift, each with worldwide recognition and over 100 years of experience designing and manufacturing large capacity CNC lathes, deep hole boring machines and roll grinders. New machine orders have been confirmed for both the Binns & Berry and Crawford Swift brands, while additional business is also being generated by the expanding remanufacturing and large machine tool service side of the business.

Dr. Tony Bannan, PTG Chief Operating Officer comments, 'Heavy industry has turned a corner; from the dark days of the 80's when it was a dirty word, to today when government has acknowledged that high-value manufacturing is vital to the country in order to rebalance the economy and provide the engine to pull the UK out of recession. PTG Heavy Industries retains a fantastic skills base with years of manufacturing and engineering experience being put to good use and not lost as manufacturing moves offshore. There is no doubt that the relative weakness of the pound is also boosting our cost competitiveness on the international market.'

Machines manufactured and re-engineered at PTG Heavy Industries include heavy-duty long bed lathes with a work piece capacity of up to 250 tonnes. There are also a number of ongoing projects for special purpose machine tools and Crawford Swift's award winning friction stir welding machine. Carl Griffiths, General Manager of the new operation added, 'the experience we have in designing and building these machines sets us apart on the world stage, we can build a new machine, upgrade an existing machine or design and build machine tool solutions with the confidence that comes only from technology leadership and experience.'

PTG Heavy Industries' machine tool brands encompass design innovations such as the Binns & Berry large capacity CNC lathes that utilise a unique modular construction with 4 guideways and centre distances of up to 20 metres giving turn through capability allowing components to be machined end to end with out interruption for steady rest removal. Other machines that incorporate specialist technology include sliding gap bed lathes, offset/T bed lathes, deep-hole boring machines and thread whirling machines.

The company provides complete turnkey solutions for new machines re-engineering, rebuild and retrofit services for large capacity machines anywhere in the world. As a majority export business, this is another area where skills and experience put the company at an advantage.

The works covers 38,000ft² of engineering space with one of Europe's largest slideway planing and grinding machines capable of machining 14.5m x 3.3m x 2.2m in a single setup, and supported by crange with single lift capacity up to 50 Tonnes.

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