

GOOD NEWS MATTERS DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

To everyone, here's a Happy Christmas gift from UK Manufacturing that just keeps on giving.

Despite less than positive news in mainstream media, our sectors in engineering and manufacturing in the UK remain extremely buoyant and there continues to be a lot of great news of investment and expansion, including an unprecedented Government investment of £4.5bn!

We need to continue to build on this to ensure the future remains as positive as it is now and to build on the legacy of those that have come before us to make sure the UK remains as a forerunner of engineering excellence.

In the following pages you'll see some of the stories from recent months which have hit the headlines, including news about Bruderer UK and the start of construction of our new, purpose-built facility in Telford!

Thank you to those who also share this news and to you, for taking time to read our article.

From all at Bruderer UK Ltd, we wish you a Happy Christmas and health, happiness, and success for 2024.



The world's leading manufacturer of high-speed presses will open a 48,000 sq. ft new factory and showroom in Telford in 2024.

Swiss-based Bruderer has reinforced its 55-year commitment to the UK by announcing a significant investment in the dedicated site on Hortonwood, just a stone's throw away from the home of the industrial revolution.

Construction work on the bespoke facility will start in October and will see the creation of a dedicated competence centre capable of servicing new and pre-owned machines, restoration of legacy presses and, for the first time, a modern showroom that will give a first-hand insight into new models, ancillary equipment, and turnkey solutions.

The move will see the firm relocate its existing facility from Luton to Shropshire over the course of the next nine months, with four new jobs and an apprenticeship programme set to be created to cope with an unprecedented increase in demand for its technology.

“We have been planning this investment for a number of years and I’m delighted that our parent company have recognised the potential in the UK and agreed to build our new factory and showroom,” explained Adrian Haller, Managing Director of Bruderer UK.

“The UK was the first subsidiary outside of our Switzerland home some 55 years ago and we still remain a strong base for Bruderer presses, with seven domestic companies investing in new machines in the last nine months alone.”

He continued: “We had outgrown our Luton facility and many of our staff, and indeed customers, are based in the Midlands. It was a natural decision to find a home in that region and Hortonwood gave us not only the perfect location, but also the space to build our new factory from the ground up.

“This means we can house all our spares, a cleaning and paint shop, machining area, quality checking station and exhibition space to promote all our solutions under one roof.



The UK's manufacturing industry is set to benefit from £4.5 billion in government funding, including more than £2 billion for the automotive sector and £975 million for the country's soaring aerospace sector.

Commenting on the funding package, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, said: “Britain is now the eighth largest manufacturer in the world, recently overtaking France. To build on this success, we are targeting funding to support the sectors where the UK is or could be world leading. “Our £4.5bn of funding will leverage many times that from the private sector, and in turn will grow our economy, create more skilled, higher-paid jobs in new industries that will be built to last.”



Magna International is set to significantly increase its UK production capacity. and create dozens of new jobs, with a major expansion of its Cosma Casting factory in Telford.

The Canadian-owned automotive firm has recently secured a new contract and the extension is required to house new large tonnage die casting units and other machining and assembly cells that will be used to manufacture additional product lines of high strength aluminium components for the electric vehicle industry.

Originally opened in 2018, Cosma Casting UK's Shropshire plant is one of the region's major employers with a c350-strong workforce.



We don't make anything anymore? UK Manufacturing - The Facts 2023:

- 8th largest manufacturer in the world
 - Output worth £224 billion to the economy
 - Supports 2.6 million jobs
 - Accounts for 41% of all UK R&D
- 16% of all UK business investment
- (Source: Make UK)



Success for Hyperbat with £11.3m battery production project

H1perChain, an £11.3m project designed to scale up the UK's battery pack manufacturing and supply chain capability, which was funded by the Advanced Propulsion Centre, has successfully developed an automated pilot line for module/pack assembly, cell joining and in-line testing – delivering a step-change in high performance battery costs and scalability.

Led by Hyperbat and working with main consortium partners Unipart Manufacturing, WAE, Coventry University and Direc-Tec, the challenge has also come up with a world class laser welding joining process for cylindrical cell formats, hundreds of skills development opportunities, and the creation of a digital platform to connect the battery value chain.

More than 50 highly skilled jobs have been created at the state-of-the-art production facility in Coventry, with the promise of another 25 on the way as it enters into its first commercial agreement to supply battery packs for a global customer.

Jon Bell, project lead at Hyperbat, said: “We came into H1perchain with the overriding aim of developing a process and emerging supply chain capability for manufacturing high-performance batteries in the UK. The brief was to find a way of reducing costs whilst increasing performance and meeting lead times, something we believe we are well on the way to achieving with the pilot line successfully assembling packs and a ‘digital twin’ in play to scale up production into the tens of thousands.

“Importantly, we have won our first commercial project, which has started to go into production. There are also several other opportunities in the pipeline that we are exploring. If the UK is going to compete in the electrification race, it is critical that we have a domestic battery making capability and a supportive supply chain in place.”



Siemens Mobility looking to create 250 more jobs in Goole as it aims to widen rail village operations.

A total of 250 more jobs could be coming to Goole's rail village as Siemens Mobility looks to further expand operations in the town.

Rail Minister Huw Merriman has praised the "endless opportunity" now emerging, having been briefed on the plans during his summer tour of UK infrastructure. He heard how the company is finalising proposals to bring additional train component assembly and refurbishment work to the sprawling site, with a multi-million pound 13,500 sq. m bogie and wheelset centre at the fore.

An application has been lodged with East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the centre, dedicated to the structures that sit beneath the carriages. It would build on a recently opened components facility, as additional elements over and above the original plans. That could also be significantly expanded as a wider range of work is attracted, while bosses look to capitalise on freeport status and provide an international service.



BAE Systems £89m contract win will create new jobs in Dorset.

The company provides advanced technology to the UK from its sites in the Southwest, including specialist communications and software systems to submarine design and cyber capabilities. BAE Systems has been awarded an £89m contract to enhance front-line connectivity for military personnel, linking small reconnaissance drones, combat vehicles, fighter jets, aircraft carriers and military commands.

The company, which provides advanced technology to the UK from its sites in the Southwest, including specialist communications and software systems to submarine design and cyber capabilities, won the contract from the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The new five-year contract will see BAE Systems lead a consortium of trusted partners, including Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR), PA Consulting and L3 Harris, to design and manufacture a deployable tactical Wide Area Network (WAN) known as 'Trinity'. This will deliver a "highly secure and state-of-the-art" battlefield internet capability to UK forces which is hoped will sustain battlefield awareness and intelligence sharing through a myriad of adversarial attacks.



£13 million to help transform medicines manufacturing.

Seventeen new projects will receive funding for innovative medicine manufacturing, delivered by the Innovate UK Transforming Medicine Manufacturing programme.

Today, Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency, is pleased to announce the winners of a series of competitions focusing on:

- nucleic acid medicines manufacturing
- intracellular drug delivery
- digitalisation and automation

The projects span across the country to address different challenges.

These include innovative technologies for nucleic acid manufacturing and intracellular drug delivery to improve vaccines and therapeutics deployment while also implementing digital and automation technologies to accelerate medicines manufacturing.

£10 million from the Chancellor's Life Sci for Growth package will help to bolster the UK's health resilience.



Moulding the future: Northern Ireland manufacturer invests £7m in new facility to drive business efficiency.

Founded in 1990 by Sam and Julienne McCrea, SAM has grown from strength to strength, supplying quality MDF mouldings to both domestic and commercial premises across the UK, Ireland, Europe,

and the USA.

This latest multi-million-pound investment will be channelled into product innovation, distribution system improvements and the construction of a new 45,000 square foot warehousing facility located in Newark Industrial Estate, Antrim.

Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, councillor Mark Cooper BEM recently visited the Antrim-based manufacturer, he said: "I commend SAM for their significant investment and forward-thinking expansion plans. This speaks volumes about their commitment to our Borough and I'm confident this latest investment will benefit our community immensely, particularly in terms of local job opportunities. The Council's Economic Development Team will continue to support the business through this period of expansion and beyond."



Jaguar Land Rover to create 300 new jobs in West Midlands

Luxury car brand is hiring technicians and test engineers to work on its next generation of electric vehicles.

The technician and test engineer roles will be based at the company's factories in Solihull, Gaydon and

Whitley and will support the growth of Range Rover production and development of its next electric models.

Of the 300 roles, the manufacturer is recruiting around 100 maintenance technicians for its Solihull plant to operate and maintain highly automated, precision production facilities in a new £130 million body shop.

This new facility will support an intended increase in Range Rover and Range Rover Sport production by 30 per cent.

Alongside this, technicians will also be trained to work on a new £70 million body production system to support the manufacture of the new electric Range Rover at Solihull.



Diageo to invest £26m in NI facility expansion.

Diageo has received planning permission from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for a £26 million extension of its Baileys global supply facility in Mallusk, Northern Ireland, UK.

The facility is one of two global production sites of the Baileys brand, producing over 60 million bottles of Baileys each year, which are distributed to 150 countries across the world. It is one of three Diageo sites in Northern Ireland, which includes a beer canning and packaging facility in East Belfast and its headquarters located in Belfast city centre.

Approval of the expansion will enable Diageo to improve its logistics and warehousing facilities, according to the company. Work on the multi-year project is expected to begin in early 2024.

Lesley Allen, operations manager at Baileys Mallusk, said: "We are delighted with the council's decision to approve our plans to extend our site at Mallusk. The extension will support the storage, delivery and distribution of raw materials and finished goods and we are looking forward to the opportunities it will create for us.



Jobs created as Chinese firm chooses Fife for first UK factory.

The firm looked at sites in France and Belgium - but instead has moved to Glenrothes.

Sunhope Packaging Machinery (UK) Ltd is the new division established by Sunhope Packaging Machinery

(Zhenjiang) Co. Ltd.

The business, based in Zhenjiang City in the Jiangsu province, has chosen to set up its UK operations in a unit at Southfield Industrial Estate in Glenrothes.

It has been involved in the manufacture of machinery for over 30 years.

In recent times, the business has grown to be the leading manufacturer of paper bag machines and equipment for the packaging industry in China.

The Chinese firm has worked with Scottish Development International (SDI) and InvestFife to acquire the unit at Southfield Industrial Estate.

After considering sites in France, the Netherlands and Belgium, Sunhope chose to establish a factory in the UK.



Programme to boost West Midlands manufacturing SMEs launched.

MTC Training, the training wing of the Coventry-based Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), has secured funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver a new training course that will improve the efficiency of manufacturing businesses across the region.

The Skills Bootcamp Manufacturing Efficiency programme, supported by Lloyds Bank, aims to help managers and leaders looking to upskill and optimise their organisation's processes and output with its combination of face-to-face training, self-study and online and remote learning.

Participating businesses will also benefit from line walks facilitated by MTC's Manufacturing Support Services consultancy experts, who will help delegates with the initial identification of inefficiencies within their workplace across business activity and technology, as well as continued guidance to enhance skills development through the programme.



£13 million for 22 AI for health research projects

Projects aim to transform health using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist and refine diagnostics and procedures.

Today, August 10, the Secretary of State for Science and Technology, Michelle Donelan, announced 22 projects that will explore how to develop and use AI in health.

The announcement comes on the same day that the government appointed two leading experts to spearhead preparations for the UK to host the first major international summit on the safe use of AI.

The projects will involve universities stretching from Edinburgh to Surrey.

They will be supported by £13 million from UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Technology Missions Fund, previously announced in the Science and Technology Framework, to support AI innovation to accelerate health research.

This includes more than £500,000 for University College London's (UCL) Centre for Interventional and Surgical Sciences.

The Secretary of State visited it yesterday to observe the early development of technology that could revolutionise surgery for one of the most common types of brain tumour.

The project will develop a real-time AI 'assisted decision support framework' to improve surgical outcomes, including avoiding complications following surgery and shortening recovery time for patients.



University of Sheffield professor to help grow UK semiconductor sector.

An academic from the University of Sheffield is set to help the government boost the UK semiconductor sector, as part of a new advisory panel that held its first meeting last week (3 August 2023).

Professor John Goodenough from the University's Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering - a world-leader in semiconductor R&D - is part of an expert advisory panel that will help the government ensure a secure supply of chips that are an essential part of every electronic device.

From phones and computers to ventilators and power stations, nearly every piece of technology in the world depends on semiconductors. As a result, they are vitally important for the world we live in but have been in short supply since the pandemic.

The Semiconductor Advisory Panel, which includes some of the leading innovators from the industry, will advise the government on how to harness the UK's domestic semiconductor strengths, ensure secure supply of chips, and protect national security.

The panel will help the government deliver its National Semiconductor Strategy - a 20-year vision for the sector around three key goals: growing the domestic semiconductor sector, mitigating the risk of supply chain disruptions, and protecting national security.



Bramble Energy unveils new multi-million-pound headquarters

The expansive new facility, which includes a world-leading hydrogen innovation and development hub, is a multi-million-pound investment representing the company's extraordinary growth since launching in 2016.

Founded as a university spin-out, then developed in the garage of co-founder and CEO Dr Tom Mason, Bramble Energy has rapidly gained momentum with its revolutionary fuel cell technology based on innovative printed circuit board (PCB) technology. The remarkable

business growth has led to the demand for a larger facility that can accommodate Bramble Energy's projected expansion and support the scale up of its technology to transform the hydrogen fuel cell industry.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT EDITION OF GOOD NEW STORIES.

KEEP POSITIVE, KEEP THE FAITH, AND KEEP PUNCHING