

Merc shows the drive to succeed

AN eye for detail and a ground-breaking computer package led Merc Engineering to the award for innovation.

The Barrowford-based precision engineering company has spent years reflecting on the way it works, leading to the introduction of the software programme Mafis ERP.

The innovative programme – and its knock-on effect on business – was the key to impressing the judges.

Mafis controls all the areas of the business from payroll to production planning and has allowed staff to introduce wide-ranging business improvement techniques into the company.

Les Nuttall, managing director of Merc Engineering, said: "We have spent a number of years developing and changing the way we work, streamlining our business.

"It has allowed us to move towards more efficient manufacturing process."

As a result the company has seen an annual growth of almost 30 per cent year-on-year.

The company already serves the defence market and also deals with railway, motorsport, power generation and commercial sectors.

In March this year Merc Engineering expanded its workforce to 70 people and has turnover forecast of around £4.2million for 2008/2009, following the acquisition of local aerospace specialist Bright Spark Engineering.

This is the area – which makes up six per cent of Merc's turnover – in which the company plans to continue expanding.

It will do this by focusing on larger companies when it comes to the tendering process in a bid to swell the size of the organisation.

Mr Nuttall said: "We are part of the Aerospace Alliance which means we are looking at manufacturing on the international stage, at a time when many areas of manufacturing are faltering."

He added: "It is fantastic to be given this award. It is great to show the people back at work that what we are doing, improving and changing, is being recognised."



DELIGHT: Les Nuttall, managing director of Merc Engineering, celebrates the firm's success and top, right, receives the award from Steven Broomhead, chief executive of category sponsors North West Regional Development Agency



We are looking at the international stage at a time when many areas of manufacturing are faltering

LES NUTTALL,
managing
director

MERC
ENGINEERING UK

BUSINESS TYPE:
Precision engineering
BASED: Pendle Street,
Barrowford
FOUNDED: 2001
STAFF: 68
TURNOVER: £3.5million



Creating a vibrant business community in England's Northwest

The Northwest Regional Development Agency is driving forward enterprise and innovation across England's Northwest by:

- Investing in seed and venture capital funds to help businesses start up and grow.
- Supporting the development of business incubators to provide marketing, mentoring, financial management and legal support to new businesses.
- Collaborating closely with the region's universities to develop flagship science and knowledge-driven projects.
- Attracting new investment – the region gained over 150 inward investments in the past year alone, creating or safeguarding over 14,500 jobs.
- Operating dedicated teams committed to the sustainable development of defined industry sectors.

For further details please contact **01925 400 100**
or visit www.nwda.co.uk or
www.englandsnorthwest.com

INVESTING IN
englandsnorthwest

» SEE OUR VIDEO OF THE AWARDS ONLINE

visit our website at lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/video

