

## Industry News

### INDUSTRY ROUND-UP

#### Rolls-Royce win

Sigma Components, part of the Avingtrans Group's aerospace division, has signed a 10-year long-term agreement (LTA) with Rolls-Royce plc which is valued at c£25m over its duration based on the current predicted volumes. Under the contract, Sigma will be the sole supplier of pipe assemblies on one of Rolls-Royce's engine programmes.

[www.sigmacomponents.com](http://www.sigmacomponents.com)

#### Bulgarian birthday

William Hughes is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of its factory in Bulgaria. "The success of our Bulgaria operation has exceeded all of our expectations," said Emma Burgon, engineering director. Facilities in Bulgaria include 35 CNC wire bending machines, two vertical injection moulding machines, two nylon plastic coating lines and seven robotic welding cells.

[www.wmhughes.co.uk](http://www.wmhughes.co.uk)

#### High temperature ABS castings

Belfast rapid prototyping bureau LPE can now offer vacuum castings in high temperature ABS resin VC3392. Designed to simulate thermoplastics such as ABS, VC 3392 provides a cost-effective solution for the low volume production where heat resistance of up to 120oC is required. It also offers excellent impact and petrol resistance, making it suitable for under-bonnet automotive applications and the oil and gas industry.

[www.laserproto.com](http://www.laserproto.com)

#### Manufacturing award

Investment casting specialist Lestercast has won the 'Excellence in Manufacturing' Award at the Leicester Mercury Business Awards 2014.

[www.lestercast.co.uk](http://www.lestercast.co.uk)

## Data capture lifts quality



**KMF (Precision Sheet Metals) has implemented a hand-held system to capture and distribute process information from individual elements of the business.**

The results will allow it to predict when conditions that could adversely affect quality occur and therefore be able to react to those conditions.

At the heart of this new data capture procedure is the Principle Suite software from Applied Principles, which works in tandem with the hand-held data capture units allowing a variety of information to be collected, from images, process data such as oven temperature and critically signatures from process owners. The data collected creates a 'health check' for a particular process which is then automatically organised and distributed by e-mail to team leaders and other relevant members of staff. The outcome is that this data encourages rigorous pro-active checks that drive consistent process adherence.

The time saved in collecting and disseminating this information will lead to significant gains and encourage greater co-operation between team leaders and quality technicians within the business. The information will also play a valuable

role in the company's management system audits with a track of actions taken to close out non-conformities, with sign off from a single authorised person. The underlying aim is to provide greater reassurance to customers that their work is being closely monitored to ensure full compliance with their specific quality needs.

"The audit process, once implemented, is owned and managed by the team who are directly responsible for the control of the process. This creates much better links between process owners and quality teams who can now focus on reducing variation as opposed to watching what each other does.

"I personally feel that this will become a key improvement tool for KMF in years to come and will change the way we manage quality, maintenance and health and safety," says Gary Sutton, quality manager, KMF (Precision Sheet Metal). "We see this system as a valuable tool for controlling and refining processes, such as CNC cutting, powder painting and especially our aerospace and medical manufacturing areas. Eventually it will be expanded to incorporate health and safety process management and preventative maintenance of capital equipment."

[www.kmf.co.uk](http://www.kmf.co.uk)