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Bringing together design and manufacturing

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KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) is hosting workshops to show designers what is possible with modern technologies. Early involvement by designers can dramatically reduce costs.

With its customers falling into two distinct camps; those who require a build to print service and those who require a complete design to delivery service KMF has recognised a common bond – the value of shared knowledge.

With this in mind, and taking advantage of its new £600,000 training centre, KMF is organising a series of Design Engineering Workshops supported by four of KMF's key technology partners: Wilson Tool International Ltd; Trumpf Ltd; Salvagnini UK & Ireland Ltd; and Amada UK Ltd.

"Technology and investment is at the heart of KMF's business philosophy, but the true potential of that technology can only be realised if customers know what's possible and understand how we can utilise that technology to their advantage," says Graham Leese, KMF's Engineering Manager.

The first of these informal workshop events saw 31 delegates, from 19 KMF customers, interacting with these technology partners and drawing on the local expertise of KMF's dedicated Design and Engineering teams. "KMF believe opportunities like The Design Engineering Workshop offer our valued customers a unique insight into our modern manufacturing site and systems. We understand that designers often sit in isolation from the technology that their supply chains utilise and sometimes do not get the opportunity to witness new techniques and processes first hand. Designers have huge ability to influence the ultimate cost of the finished article, however once the design is finished approximately 80% of the cost of manufacture is "locked in" leaving the remaining 20% capable of being affected by value analysis/value engineering activities. This rationale alone makes the early consultation of the manufacturer essential," adds Graham Leese.

The next workshop will be held at KMF's training centre, located next to its Newcastle under Lyme manufacturing facility, on 29 September 2010.



The KMF workshop showed designers what can be achieved using the latest technologies

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