



KMF welcomes Business Secretary

KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) recently welcomed Business Secretary Vince Cable to its Newcastle under Lyme premises as part of the Government's strategy of developing long-term partnerships with industry; KMF was selected due to it being the largest sub-contract manufacturer of precision sheet metal components in the UK, supplying a diverse customer base in industry sectors that include aerospace, medical, renewable-energy and telecommunications.

Of equal interest to Dr Cable — pictured with fourth-year apprentice Sam Dutton — was the company's investment in its apprentice training scheme, which is self-funded and has been extremely successful; former apprentices are now undertaking highly skilled roles in the manufacturing facility, and some are now in senior management roles.

Commenting on his visit, Dr Cable said: "KMF is a really inspirational engineering

company, with the best apprenticeship programme I've ever seen. Its commitment to skills provision, apprenticeships and in-house training sets a very high standard, and being given a tour by a current apprentice who will be the next generation of engineers added to the visit.

"The Government needs to have a close, long-term and strategic partnership with industry, if we are to maintain our advantage in advanced manufacturing. Our industrial strategy will aim to help companies like KMF, so that we can support business with the right focus on skills, investment and growth for the future."

Leading KMF's apprentice-training scheme is training-centre manager Jenny Conlon, who said: "It was interesting listening to the conversations that Dr Cable was having with the apprentices; he was genuinely interested in their achievements, asking about their individual experiences of the apprenticeship and the skills they are learning."