



## Combination punch-laser machine boosts productivity at KMF

The latest equipment to be bought by KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) Ltd, Newcastle under Lyme, is a Trumpf TruMatic 7000 punch/laser combination machine with a fully automated sheet-handling system, together worth some £900,000.

The TruMatic 7000, which features a 4KW laser and a punching rate of 1,200 strokes per min, can process sheet measuring 1,250 × 1,250mm and up to 8mm thick. KMF has linked the machine to twin Stopa fully automated sheet-handling systems; the automatic loading and unloading of the sheet is managed by Trumpf's Sheetmaster software. The entire system is also linked to KMF's Epicor9 ERP system for material stock control.

The TruMatic 7000 is of particular benefit to KMF's aerospace customers; the demands of aerospace work vary from the company's day-to-day production, in that the require-

ment is for low-volume highly complex — and highly varied — piece parts that generally require more-exotic material grades. This leads to a greater emphasis on maximising sheet utilisation, without falling into the trap of manufacturing to stock just to reduce the piece part cost.

Keith Nicholl, KMF's business improvement manager, says: "This new installation enhances our promise of being able to make exactly what customers want, when they want it — without sacrificing material or processing efficiencies. The combination of punch and laser in one machine, along with the automation and storage systems that we have integrated, greatly increases the variety of parts and features that can be processed without being limited by tooling; and the added versatility in terms of production will bring significant benefits to work-flow and sheet usage."