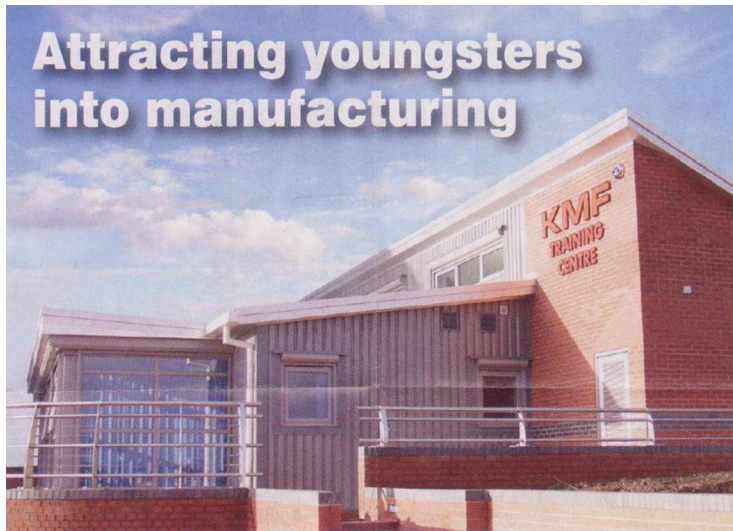


Attracting youngsters into manufacturing



Staffordshire-based KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) Ltd (www.kmf.co.uk) has launched an initiative to attract young people into manufacturing. Its Young Engineer of the Year awards scheme is being rolled out across the county, with 20 schools now signed up to take part.

The school-children will have to create a mechanical clock, and their efforts will be judged by leading members of the business community. The winning effort will be manufactured by KMF and released for general sale, while the winners will have the opportunity of an apprenticeship.

KMF managing director Gareth Higgins

says: "It is important that young people consider a future in engineering and manufacturing, so I am hopeful that this competition will help to engage pupils when they consider the subjects they wish to study in the future. We want the competition to be challenging and fun, and hopefully we will find our future apprentices. Our local schools have been very supportive, and I am grateful for the level of interest they have shown."

If it is successful, the scheme will be run every year with a different project brief. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony next March, where all the entries will be on display.