

Taking metal working to a new level

KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) Ltd, Newcastle under Lyme (Tel: 01782 569060), has extended its on-going investment programme to meet the demands of two major customers requiring what the company calls 'advanced products'.

For one customer, KMF is manufacturing chassis for mass spectrometers; for the other, it is manufacturing seat structures (pictured) for commercial aircraft. Business improvement manager Keith Nicholl says that, while most products can be easily accommodated in KMF's 80,000ft² manufacturing facility, more-demanding products need customer-focused product cells. However, the two new projects presented extra challenges.

For the aircraft seats, for example, the company has to comply with civil-aviation requirements that include providing full material traceability for every seat produced; this requirement extends to all materials, including sheet steel, fasteners, chemical adhesives and specialised surface coatings. In addition, the seat chassis requires complex CNC cutting, folding and specialised part marking via a laser ink-jet system.

To accommodate these two projects, KMF built a stand-alone 'advanced-products facility' in a newly purchased 10,000ft² building adjacent to its main manufacturing site. "Having this facility allows us to provide dedicated machinery and resources to complete the specialised tasks required by these customers, while ensuring that quality and delivery targets are achieved," says Mr Nicholl.

