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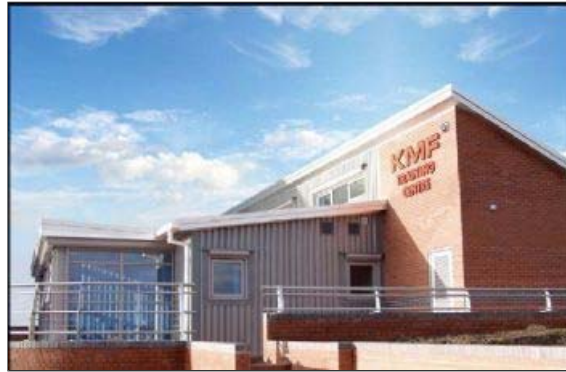
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Sheet metal training centre for engineers

Story added 16 December 2009.

KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) is the UK's leading manufacturer of precision sheet metal components and assemblies. The company has seen turnover grow from £9 million to over £20 million during the past five years, making an annual investment in new equipment of around £1 million per year in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.



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In order to provide the in-house skills base for future growth KMF has created a dedicated training centre at its Newcastle-under-Lyme headquarters. The state-of-the-art £600,000 apprentice training centre was officially opened by the company's founder, Michael Higgins, on the 20th November 2009.

KMF has been taking on new apprentices at the rate of four per year since 2001 and is very proud of its retention rate, with over 90 per cent of those apprentices still working for the company. In 2006 the company made the decision to bring all apprentice training in-house. In the new engineering centre apprentices at KMF are taught skills such as CNC machining in classes of four by in-house lecturers. Being on-site throughout their apprenticeship also allows a greater involvement with the wider aspects of the business, and time spent in the commercial and production elements of the business are written into each apprentice's training program from the beginning of their employment.

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