



A GRAND DESIGN FOR THE OPEN DAY

Back at the beginning of October we run a series of open days for the benefit of our customers with the main theme of 'Design for Manufacture'

Commercial Director Gary Hollister takes up the story.

"We were delighted with the response and feedback we received to the open days. Working in partnership with AMADA (UK) the purpose of the days was to give our customers an overview of the latest manufacturing techniques designed to reduce costs and effectively accelerate product to market.

During the two days over 50 guests attended the event, and as a direct result many of them are now working with our technical department to re-design existing product or launch new projects based on the information attained from the day.

Many thanks go to Amada who were on hand to present an overview of the latest hardware and software and this was followed by practical demonstrations throughout the production process. The core aim of the day was to highlight areas where costs are added and by applying a different thinking process, how costs can be reduced.

Please feel free to discuss these issues with me. In the meantime our intention is to run a similar event in the Spring of 2009 so look out for the invitations in the coming months".

SOLAR POWER GETS THE GREEN LIGHT AT HARLOW GROUP



Following extensive trials HGL are proud to have been chosen as suppliers for a prestigious contract with a leading energy solutions provider Solarcentury

The company was founded in 1998 to design and supply solar energy solutions for the environment.

Founder and Executive Chairman Jeremy Leggett established Solarcentury to address the threat of climate change by reducing CO2 emissions through the application of solar energy.

They envisage having solar systems on the roof of every building, supplying clean power and achieving deep cuts in carbon emissions.

Solarcentury is in business for a purpose, to make a big difference in the fight against climate change using construction-integrated solar solutions.

A little known fact is that the sun bathes the earth in an incredible amount of energy. In a day, enough energy arrives to power the whole world for several years. Humanity can now effectively harness the power of the sun. The 21st Century must be the solar century.

The Harlow Group has worked in conjunction with Solarcentury through the prototype phase and into full production. We are very pleased to be associated with a growing company and one that is looking into the future.

MD COMMENTS



So lets start the year with some good news. Despite all the doom and gloom over the economy we have at the Harlow Group been working extremely hard towards a significant change of direction in the business. Over the last 3 months the company has made significant strides towards attaining Aerospace accreditation to allow us to diversify in the type of work we do and therefore extend our level of service into another area.

It is my belief that gaining AS9100 approval will allow us to make best use of the technology and people skills at our disposal, whilst delivering the one stop shop solution that best suits product that needs a high level of quality assurance and control.

None of this would have been possible without the help and assistance from GE Aviation who have guided and supported us in the start-up phase of manufacturing aerospace product. It is our plan to have full certification by the Spring 2009.

On a separate note I would like to thank all those involved (not least of all Amada UK) in helping make our open day seminars for Design for Manufacture a great success (see headline story). This is not something we have done before and it gave everyone a great deal of satisfaction to be able to meet and discuss customer's ideas and concepts.

We have every intention of running another open day in the near future. So watch out for the communication in the coming months.

Bill Timpson
MANAGING DIRECTOR

TOMORROWS ENGINEERS SEE TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION

Back in October and November 08 the Harlow Group had the pleasure of hosting some educational visits from the lower 6th form of a local school.

Wilfred Dorrington (aged 16) takes up the story

"Felsted School is a 13-18 co-educational boarding school, which offers GCSE's, A levels and the International Baccalaureate. It prides itself on being able to offer lots of extra-curricular activities from sport and drama through expeditions abroad and trips of a more local nature. Academic trips, such as the one to Harlow Group, is an essential part of providing Felsted students with an improved understanding of the subjects they are studying, and a real view of the world of work.

The idea of the trip was to give the students an insight into how a factory is run and also to provide some insight into how sheet metal products are made. During the visit, a design for a CD rack, which was provided by the Felsted D&T department, was manufactured to show just how responsive Harlow Group manufacturing could be. The students followed the CD rack from the CAD stages through to final paint spray in order to understand the



product's journey as it gradually transformed. Felsted D&T department have come to ask for more help from the Harlow Group in recent times as project work needs paint finishing to a high standard in order to improve results".

The Harlow group are very proud to demonstrate to students how a manufacturing site works in real life and the impact design and technology has on our world

CONGRATULATIONS

Gabor Kaizer and Nikoletta Villas have announced their engagement and are expecting their first child later this year.

Vanda Maxwell has become engaged to partner Steve Cross and will marry in Vegas in early March.

Sudip Kalyankar became a father for the first time in December to new daughter Aarya, which means 'Noble Woman'.

Tricia Clear has reached 10 years service with the Harlow Group.

Dave and Julie Russell have had a wonderful start to the New Year with the arrival of their first daughter Petra.

Finally a warm welcome to our new starters Steve Law (Technical and Quality Manager), John Broadbank, Mike Creamer, Sean Turner and Robert Kozlowski. They have joined us to help ensure the successful introduction of our new aerospace project for GE Aviation.



MEET THE TEAM

In this edition of "Meet The Team" we introduce you to our new Purchasing Manager, Peter Risley.

Peter joined us in early October with 25 years experience in the sheet metal industry ranging from CNC programming, Production Management, Purchasing and Technical Engineering.

Outside of work Peter is a family man who is married to Sam with 3 children, 17-year-old Jack, 7 year old Holly and Madison who is 5, what a busy man!

He also enjoys many different sports, such as, badminton, running, golf and football. He has F.A. qualifications to be a football manager but he was disappointed when he didn't get the call to manage his favourite team – SPURS!

If you would like to know more about Peter and his infamous football career at St Albans City or his knowledge in the sheet metal industry then contact him by email: p_risley@harlow-group.co.uk

Sudoku Competition Corner

Your Chance to win a New Year Hamper.

To all our newsletter readers there is a chance to win a New Year Hamper (full of goodies) by just completing this Sudoku puzzle correctly and returning it to us by 31/03/09

Name: Company:

Address:

..... Contact No:

Please send your completed articles to Suduko Competition, Harlow Group Ltd, Allen House, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2HJ. Last competition winner was Peter Bright from Bibby Scientific Ltd T/A Jenway based in Dunmow..

This competition is open to all readers of this newsletter except employees and their families of the Harlow Group Ltd. Winner will be selected randomly after the closing date for entries. Winner will be notified and receive their prize by post. No cash alternative to the prize will be offered.

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Contact Information

Telephone: 01279 406600 ■ Fax: 01279 443376 ■ Email: sales@harlow-group.co.uk ■ Web: www.harlowgroup.co.uk

Harlow Group Limited, Allen House, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2HJ