



Thetford Manufacturing Excellence Club Meeting

Thursday 12th April 2007 at 14.45

Trox UK, Thetford

(01842 756598)

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Richard Bridgman	Warren Services (Chair)
Annabel Grant	EEDA (speaker)
Ade Shaw	Poultec (speaker)
Dorian Hindmarsh	Hethel Engineering Centre (speaker)
Simon Coward	Hethel Engineering Centre (speaker)
Mark Stead	REV Project
Chris Whitman	REV Project
Jonathan Read	REV Project
David Morgan	Boniface Engineering
James Grint	Peerless Plastics & Coatings
Helen Humphries	Peerless Plastics & Coatings
Brian Greengrass	SBS Belting
Kevin Whitefield	Active Technologies
Paul Spinks	Active Technologies
Gary Clark-Ward	Marketing Displays UK
Ian Rudling	Comtek Ltd
Susan Glossop	Thetford Town Council
Trevor Webster	Baxter's
David Rice	Trox UK
Darrell Harris	Trox UK
Lee Hunton	Machined Precision Components
Andrew MacAllan	Performance Plus Partnership

2. Apologies

John Moore	Antonov
Andrew Barwood	Bowels and Walker
Lynne Wellbelove	Breckland Precision Engineering
Kevin Locke	C J Engineering
Mick Grossman	Comtek Ltd
Edward Rudd	C.S.I. Ltd
Graeme Werrell	C.S.I. Ltd
Ernie Panks	Dawsons
John Whiffin	Dawsons
Lester Sharpe	Dawsons
Colin Winslow	Detail Plastic Components
Ron Decelis	EEl
Roger Moore	EEl
David Dixon	Garmet Ltd
Stephanie Howard	Goodwood Engineering
Paul Garrard	Hayssen Europe Ltd

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Bobby McGregor
Carol Hodges
Iris Bailey
Karl Darby
Rick Worcester
Tom Palmer
Doug Berwick
Barry Hobbs
Mike Marshall
Roy Denyer
Richard Towell
Laurence Brooks
Andrew Barnes
Barry Wells
Jim Wells
David Rendells
Richard Rogers
Paul Nichol

Jeyes Ltd
Job Centre Plus
Karris Welding Services Ltd
Karris Welding Services Ltd
Merit Plastics
Merit Plastic Mouldings
Parkes Products
Parkes Products
Parkes Products
Pegasus Profiles
Pemco international
Performance Plus Partnership
Powertrain Technologies
Premier Plastics
Premier Plastics
Rendells Precision Engineering
Rogers Precision Engineering
United Forktrucks

2. Welcome, Introductions and minutes from the last meeting

Richard Bridgman welcomed the group and introduced the following agenda. David Rice from Trox briefed the group on the location facilities. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true account.

Before the agenda commenced Ian Rudling from Comtek Ltd wanted the minutes to show the positive impact that the group is having. From previous meetings he has been in discussions with Marketing Displays UK and has succeeded in taking on two of their temporary staff who's contracts were due to finish.

4. Hethel Engineering Centre

Simon Coward gave a brief overview of the Hethel Engineering Centre and its facilities. The centre has been open now for just over 12 months and is funded through EEDA, County Council, LSC and the Lotus Partnership. Their four main goals are to offer tenancy to new and growing businesses, offer a variety of engineering and management training, conferencing facilities and engineering services, at both introductory and advanced levels.

A new workshop in collaboration with HASS is about to be opened at HEC. It will incorporate 5 new CNC machines for training and act as a showroom for HASS.

Dorian Hindmarsh, HEC Training Sales Manager spoke in more depth about the facilities and courses available. He added that courses currently not scheduled can be moulded round company specifics and he will source training around company needs.

For more information please see the attached presentation or contact Simon Coward at Hethel on 01953 859100, scoward@hethelcentre.com.

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5. EEDA – Funding Innovation

Annabelle Grant spoke about the funding opportunities currently available from EEDDA. The Proof of Concept grant is a £1.5m funding pot for grants between £5k and £40k with 75% of eligible costs grant funded. The first deadlines for this is 20th April, however further applications can be received after this date. The objectives for proof of concept are to promote enterprise, encourage business start up and drive business growth.

The R & D Grant for research and development is a regional pot of £5.5m with grants between £2.5k and £500k. Applications are accepted all year and it is not a competitive process. The grant is to improve productivity, profitability and overall innovation performance of regional SME's. The process will take between 40-45 weeks and applications will be sent to an external technical specialists / patent office.

For further information and eligibility/criteria please see the attached presentation or contact Annabelle Grant on 07736 900741, annabelgrant@eeda.org.uk.

6. Poultec – The BRITE 2 Project

Ade Shaw explained how Poultec Training is a nationally recognised training provider specialising in the delivering of bespoke training & development solutions for a wide range of businesses throughout Norfolk and the UK.

Ade Shaw introduced the project BRITE 2 and explained how SME's in Breckland can have National Vocational Qualifications, Institute of Leadership and Management, Environmental, Health & Safety, Food Hygiene and First Aid qualifications delivered fully funded.

For further information and eligibility/criteria please contact Ade Shaw on 07734 472751, ade.shaw@polutec.co.uk.

7. P&S Personnel

P&S Personnel have arranged a deal with the manufacturing club for assistance with finding the right the employees for their business. The company specialises in oil, gas and engineering employment sectors and is currently working out of the Innovation Centre in Thetford.

For further information please refer to the pack handed round during the meeting or contact Sharon O'Mahony on 01842 768368, sharon@pspersonnelltd.co.uk.

9. Close and date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on the 14 June at Hethel Engineering Centre.

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