

WILSON TOOL OPENS ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN SWINDON, ENGLAND.



On 1 May 2009, Wilson Tool International continued their expansion in Europe with the opening of a new 2,000 square metre (22,000 sq.ft.) factory unit next to the existing European Headquarters building in Swindon, England. The new unit demonstrates Wilson Tool's continued commitment to the European market, with the overall facility in Swindon now measuring an impressive 7,600 square metres (82,000 sq.ft.).

The project to expand the existing manufacturing capacity in Swindon began in 2008 with the purchase of a factory unit next to the existing headquarters building. The unit has now been refurbished and fitted out to provide additional manufacturing space and a new dedicated Customer and Employee Training Centre.

The additional manufacturing space will provide capacity for Wilson Tool to continue its growth in Europe. It will provide space for new machines to manufacture press brake tooling, the fastest growing product line in the business. It will also allow the company to continue its lean manufacturing journey, with new flow lines for punch press and press brake tooling already installed in both units.

"Changing our layout to flow will improve efficiencies and eliminate waste in our manufacturing processes", said Ray John, Manufacturing Manager. "Reducing our lead times, particularly for special tools, is a key objective of Wilson Tool in 2009. Our commitment to lean manufacturing has already enabled us to manufacture cluster tools and lance and form tools in three days. The new facility will give us the capacity to reduce the lead times of our other special tools."



PLANT 2 WORKSHOP



PLANT 2 CUSTOMER AND EMPLOYEE TRAINING CENTRE

The Customer Training Centre on the upper floor of the new facility was opened with a Productivity Seminar day on 13 May. 69 customers attended the event to learn more about lean manufacturing for sheet metal companies, a topic that is becoming increasingly important in today's harsh economic environment. Customers attended a set of workshops throughout the day, with classroom seminars and practical punch press and press brake demonstrations in Wilson Tool's Technology Centre. Wilson Tool plans to run additional seminar days in the future, and will also use the new facility for more specific product and application training for individual customers.



PLANT 1 TECHNOLOGY CENTRE



PLANT 1 TRAINING ROOM



PLANT 1 & PLANT 2

**For more information about Wilson Tool and any products,
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