

Macalloy's new factory sets the gold standard

METAL tensioning systems supremos Macalloy are on the starting blocks ready to go for 'Olympic gold' following their move to a new purpose-built factory at Dinnington in the autumn.

Top of their target list of contracts to win are those supplying threaded bar tension systems for the new stadia planned for the 2012 London Olympics. Their products are already well proven in stadia around the world including the recent revamp of the Olympiastadion in Berlin – venue for the football World Cup final – and the Olympic stadium in Athens.

And to celebrate the move to their new home Macalloy will be burying a time capsule giving a snapshot of life in South Yorkshire in 2006. The company hope that local schools will do the same, putting together their own versions to be buried alongside theirs.

The move to the former Dinnington colliery site – funded by Corus subsidiary UK Steel Enterprise, the Bank of Scotland, South Yorkshire Investment Fund and a grant from Yorkshire Forward – is well timed.

"We are gearing up for the London Olympics," said managing director Peter Hoy. "The business is on its marks and poised ready take advantage of the opportunities that the event presents, both for the stadia and the infrastructure. But we will not stop there – we are also looking towards 2016 and the next games, wherever they may be held.

"Worldwide investment in sport is set to continue for a long time yet and we will be a major player in that global market."

UK Steel Enterprise regional manager Keith Williams says: "Having seen the success of the business since we provided equity finance to assist the MBO, we have been more than happy to



Macalloy md Peter Hoy, front, with Gordon Jamieson, left, UKSE investment executive, Keith Williams UKSE regional manager and site manager Haydn Dickens

help again with funding for the relocation. Macalloy's products are known throughout the world and Peter and his team are making the most of the many opportunities available to them."

Macalloy is a leading provider of tensioning systems which support many of the large span glass structures in most of the world's recent airport developments. Closer to home their products support the roof of the Don Valley Stadium and the Commercial Street Supertram Bridge in Sheffield and the Manchester Stadium built for the Commonwealth Games. They also supplied the Hungerford Bridge Millennium project which has won a number of design awards.

The company is leaving an old factory in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley which has been associated with the traditional metals industry for a long time. During the war years rifles for the Army were made there.

The new factory means a return to Rotherham where the company was based in the 1960s. The new building gives them the opportunity to bring in a more streamlined and efficient way of working, making production lines more cost effective.

Macalloy turnover has increased year on year, around 40% over the last five years, with stadia contracts around the world making a sizeable contribution.



Katrine and Andrew Simcox at Neepsend Industrial Estate

Fresh beat to the industrial heart

A NEW Sheffield property company is creating a purpose-built commercial development in the heart of one of the city's oldest industrial areas.

ARK Properties has designed the Neepsend Industrial Estate to provide secure modern premises for small and medium-sized engineering firms facing an uncertain future under regeneration plans for the area.

"There are proposals for residential redevelopments in Neepsend which will leave a lot of firms who have been based there for many years looking for a new home," says ARK director Andrew Simcox.

"We can provide an alternative, clean and secure working environment in the same area."

Local electrical contractors S&M Howson will be the first to move on to the estate, relocating from Bruce Works, Mowbray Street, which is being redeveloped. "We needed to relocate somewhere in the city but wanted to stay in the area and Neepsend Industrial Estate meets our needs perfectly," says partner Mark Howson.

A further two 2,000 sq ft units are due to be completed at the end of July in Phase One of the estate. Phase Two is due for completion by the end of August. The units are available for lease singly or as combinations.

Andrew has set up ARK Properties with his wife Katrine. He is also managing director of SAR Construction, which has been carrying out industrial and commercial refurbishment work in the city for the past 14 years.

Neepsend Industrial Estate is adjacent to SAR Construction's offices and workshops and will complement another development of larger units taking shape on the other site of Parkwood Road.

"This is probably the first new industrial development in Neepsend for many years," says Andrew. "Parkwood Road is changing from a backwater to a prime business location."

Further details are available from ARK Properties on 0114 2851009, mobile 07836 724954, email arkproperties@btconnect.com

Working together on the Riverside

DEVELOPERS and planning officers are to work together on a regeneration package for one of the largest industrial estates in the Peak District National Park.

National Park officers and Litton Properties, owners of the Riverside Business Park in Bakewell, hope to formulate a scheme that will both celebrate the site's landmark role in the Industrial Revolution and enable it to flourish in the future.

The authority is aiming to help sustain the site's 220 jobs and to attract more jobs as well as conserving historic buildings, creating flood-protected housing for social as well as open-market needs and making it economically viable.

The National Park's planning committee urged closer collaboration after it deferred a decision on Litton Properties' outline plans for a second time.

Plans for the five-hectare site off the A6 Buxton Road include 32 business units to replace run-down buildings and 11 offices. This would require a new road access and in order to finance that, plus flood prevention and anti-contamination works, the company proposed 93 open-market apartments, 14 open-market houses and shops to serve them.

But the planning committee, in the context of its policy of promoting

affordable housing, could not accept the idea of 107 open-market homes, some of which would be in a flood-plain.

The committee regarded this as a golden opportunity to regenerate an important but run-down industrial site on a prominent location and felt that officers could help the company explore more fully the avenues for public funding, especially in light of Riverside's unique heritage.

Sir Richard Arkwright first harnessed the River Wye to power a cotton mill in the 18th century. Lumford Mill is a listed building and Arkwright's original water system is a scheduled ancient monument.

Planning committee chair Narendra Bajaria said: "The company has said it would be happy to explore more fully with the authority the possibilities for public funding. While we understand that a certain amount of open-market housing may be necessary, we are not comfortable with the scale proposed. Other funding may reduce the dependence on housing to help finance the package.

"What we want here is a vision that celebrates and promotes understanding of the site's unique industrial heritage, while addressing the issues of conservation, employment and redevelopment in one cohesive and sustainable regeneration package that the area can be proud of."



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