

# The Star Business Top 100 Companies

**BARBER HARRISON & PLATT**  
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# Engineering tops for city

## Manufacturing businesses among highest profit makers

**T**HE continuing importance of engineering to the Sheffield economy is reflected in the high proportion of manufacturing businesses among the city's top 15 profit makers.

Almost half the top 15 are from the engineering sector, although two - hand tool manufacturer Stanley and clutch assembly manufacturer Luk - might more properly be considered as Rotherham businesses.

A turnaround at Forgings International holdings, which has seen losses of £3.6 million last year transformed into a £12.3 million profit this year, makes the US-owned Firth

Rixson parent group Sheffield's most profitable engineering firm - behind construction industry businesses SIG, Henry Boot and Hepworth and office supplies business Kingfield Heath. Rising four places in the table, after almost doubling pre-tax profits to nearly £11 million, is ELG Haniel Metals, the UK's largest recycler of stainless steel scrap.

The increase in profits comes on top of the firm's success in this year's Queen's Awards programme which saw the company secure an award for making scrap denser, easier to handle, cheaper to store and transport and better for melting

in electric arc furnaces, reducing the potential for damaging electrodes and the risk of explosions, while increasing the life of furnace linings.

ELG Haniel recycles around 150,000 tonnes of scrap a year and has won orders for its denser scrap from all the main UK mills, from mainland Europe and Taiwan, Japan and China.

Danaher UK Industries, the environmental and industrial controls business, is a new entrant in the Star Barner Harrison & Platt Top 100.

The company is part of the Washington-based Danaher Corporation, whose products

include microscopes that let researchers see life at 100 nanometers in three dimensions, dental diagnostic equipment and technologies that help ensure drinking water is safe.

UK subsidiaries include Brighton-based West Industries - one of the first companies to design a microprocessor based temperature control devices.

Betafence, just behind Danaher and Sheffield's ninth most profitable company, announced two months ago that it was shedding up to 85 jobs by closing its original Sheffield Road factory at Tinsley and concentrating operations on its Shepcote Lane works.

## TOP COMPANIES - SHEFFIELD

### BY PRE-TAX PROFIT

Top 100 2005	Top 100 2004	Company name	Pretax profit £000's
1	1	SIG plc	£65,520
39	25	Henry Boot plc	£15,857
21	22	Hepworth Building Products Ltd	12,338
36	41	William Cook Holdings Ltd	8,451
6	7	Insight Enterprises Uk Ltd	8,425
24	30	Fletchers Bakeries Ltd	6,696
99		The A & S Leisure Group Ltd	5,530
66	73	B. Braun Medical Ltd	5,136
41	48	Betafence Ltd	5,120
33	36	E.L.G. Haniel Metals Ltd	5,115
45	53	The Big Green Parcel Machine Ltd	4,198
17	17	Stanley U.K. Holding Ltd. 3,887	
83	64	J.F. Finnegan Ltd	3,874
57	75	Chesterfield Motor Company Ltd	3,430

## Staff benefit from firm's fine training

ONE of Sheffield's leading law firms is being held up as an example to others for its in house training and staff benefits initiatives.

Ashton Morton Slack has been chosen by two separate organisations - one national and

### ADVERTISING FEATURE

one regional - which want to use its experiences as a way of encouraging other companies.

The partnership was selected by the

Business Link South Yorkshire-backed, £20 million "Come and Get It" training initiative as an example of the way the scheme can add value to businesses that take it up.

At about the same time, Ashton Morton Slack was also approached by You at Work - Britain's fastest growing employee benefits specialist, which wanted to use the Sheffield law firm's innovative approach

to employee benefits as an example to

others. Solicitor Steven Sutherland, who took on the job of setting up Ashton Morton Slack's in house training facility and using the Come and Get It initiative to send the firm's legal executives through an Institute of Legal Executives study programme at Sheffield College, which resulted in the firm gaining the 2005 Sheffield Business Award for Training and Development.

Mr Sutherland said: "I am ecstatic by the success achieved by the students in their first year. I have been impressed by their commitment to the

firm and there desire to develop their careers. The help provided by the 'Come and Get It' initiative has been invaluable, so to be selected as a case study to be used in their national advertising campaign is just the icing on the cake"

Meanwhile, Hannah Southern, Ashton Morton Slack's HR manager, who was asked by You at Work to provide information for a case study based on the benefits scheme the firm has introduced, says the firm has tried to create a scheme that was dynamic and gave people choice.

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