



ACCURATE: Mike Briggs with an example of the laser cutting achieved by the firm's state-of-the-art machinery

Cutting edge investment for the future

BY SUSAN PRESS

A £600,000 investment in the latest laser technology marks the start of a new venture at a business park in south Leeds.

Accurate Laser Cutting has just moved to premises on the Stourton Business Park, creating up to 12 new jobs and has plans for a 24-hour operation.

The firm has invested hundreds of thousands of pounds in the latest Trumpf laser cutting machinery.

Entrepreneur Mike Briggs, who served his apprenticeship at the former Kirkstall Forge, heads up the new venture, which has a sister operation in the West Midlands.

Accurate Laser Cutting in Dudley has grown swiftly to an annual turnover of £1.5m and the Leeds project brings recent capital



DETAIL: Mr Briggs sees a clear future

expenditure to £1.2m.

Mr Briggs said: "While there are other laser cutters in the region, the new Trumpf machine is state-of-the-art and will allow us to guarantee quotes within a few

hours of enquiry. The new machine can handle all metals at thicknesses ranging from heavy duty machine parts to almost microscopic pieces akin to costume jewellery with complete accuracy."

Help in setting up the laser business was provided by Leeds City Council's Locate In Leeds business service.

With UK lenders still reluctant to take risks with new businesses, financial backing has been secured from French bank Societe Generale.

Khosrow Bidari, senior business development officer for Leeds City Council, said: "Setting up a new business is always risky but in the current climate it takes real conviction.

"Leeds and the surrounding city region is a strong centre for manufacturing and will provide an excellent base for Mike and his team as they cut their teeth in the North."