

Manufacturer

Commercial Feature

The Price is right

A leading Black Country specialist in non-destructive testing has invested in their workforce ahead of the next phase of their development.

Due to the continued growth and success Wilenhall based NDT Midlands have promoted Kirsty Price to management liaison officer. In her new role she will support managing director Stewart Dudwell and quality manager Brian Worley in driving the business forward.

Commitment

Stewart Dudwell said: "Kirsty has been with us since January 2011 and has been excellent in her admin role. We selected her as the obvious candidate for this new role based on her commitment to the company, hard work and ability."

Alongside this appointment NDT Midlands have bought in Southall Associates to support their HSE and legal obligations. This involves regular, daily, weekly and monthly business reviews and audits.

Stewart said: "Southall's initial introduction was to Brian, with a view to our current health and safety risk assessments utilising their safety cloud. As we go



Kirsty Price with NDT managing director Stewart Dudwell, left and quality manager Brian Worley

forward Kirsty will be involved in this side of the business too."

Kirsty, aged 19, has booked onto a health and safety training course at the end of the month and after passing will consider a National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) accreditation.

She enthused: "This is a great move for me, I have more responsibility at work and I'm really looking forward to the challenges

ahead." Kirsty's new role will extend to representing the company at forthcoming events and seminars with Brian to develop her networking skills, interaction and confidence. She will also participate in future Made in the Midlands events.

Potential

Stewart Dudwell added: "I can see very high potential in Kirsty. The company has committed to investing in her and we welcome her

into our management structure. She has a bright future with us."

Founded in 2008 following a management buy-out, NDT Midlands moved to its purpose-built facility last year.

Through continuous investment in processes and quality management systems the company aims to preserve its reputation within the industry for providing a non-destructive testing service of the highest quality to its customers.

MAN claims its place in finals of The Manufacturer awards

This is proving to be another milestone year for the Midlands Assembly Network (MAN), with the innovative collaboration now through to the final of one of industry's most prestigious competitions.

The collective, which features 10 world class sub-contract manufacturers, has been named as a finalist in The Manufacturer awards and will now have to showcase its credentials to a panel of high profile judges.

MAN will do battle with some of the UK's finest engineering businesses to see if it can claim the crown of SME Manufacturer of the Year (over 125 employees) at the finale in December.

MAN chairman Tony Hague, of PP Electrical Systems in Cheslyn Hay, said: "This is a competition we've had our eye on for some time and now, seven years on from our formation, believe we are in a ideal position to win it."

"In 2012/13, we have added £7.5 million of new sales to the group and are currently working on a number of ambitious projects that will see us develop new technologies and products that are 'world firsts'."

"We're also in the process of creating 75 new jobs, many of those in senior and skilled positions."

The Midlands Assembly Network is made up of 10 companies including

Grove Design, Advanced Chemical Etching, Alucast, Barkley Plastics, Brandauer, FW Cables, Mec Com, PP Electrical Systems, SMT Developments and Westley Engineering.

Together they employ more than 650 people and turnover in excess of £65 million, providing access to world class manufacturing in precision pressings, casting, etching, injection moulding, wiring looms, toolmaking, PCB assembly and electrical control systems and assemblies.

For further information on the Midlands Assembly Network, visit www.man-group.co.uk or follow @man_group on twitter.

Firm supplies lockers to Amazon in Spain

An Aldridge firm has been working with online giant Amazon as it expands its locker delivery serve in Spain.

Lockers Direct2U has supplied Amazon Spain with 150 of its lockers after competing with other UK and European manufacturers to secure the lucrative order.

Direct2U has previously supplied Amazon UK on a number of occasions to various sites throughout the UK and has built up a reputation for a quality product at a competitive price.

Direct2U said it was keen to clinch the deal to develop its business relationship with Amazon on a global scale. Direct2U marketing manager Greg Higgitt said: "This order again reflects the increasing competitiveness of manufacturing in the UK and in particular manufacturing in the Black Country."



Aldridge company Lockers Direct2u has supplied 150 of its lockers to online retailer Amazon for use in Spain

Direct2U has seen substantial growth in tough times over the last few years, and saw this as an opportunity to enhance its export sales.

The lockers, which are manufactured in the West Midlands, had to be designed and manufactured to a bespoke specification to ensure that they were suit-

able for Amazon's requirements and for the premises they were being installed into.

Despite Direct2U having over 30 years' experience in the locker industry, the project brought new challenges to the company. It had to design and manufacture a new style of locker very quickly and had to overcome

logistical issues. A new transport company had to be sourced to ensure that the lockers would arrive in Madrid, Spain in perfect condition and at a time and date specified by Amazon.

Mr Higgitt said: "Amazon is an important customer of ours and we wanted to ensure that we continued to develop our business with them."

Challenges

"This seemed like the perfect opportunity to do so on a more international scale. We are always looking at new ways to grow our business and this has highlighted to us the opportunities there are to supply products on a global scale through e-commerce business."

Direct2u boast many blue chip companies as clients supplying both into the public and private sector including the education, health and health sectors with leading clients including G4S, Princess Yachts and the NHS.



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