

Celebrating 30th anniversary

WEC Group Ltd, a Darwen (UK) based engineering company, is proud to be celebrating its 30th anniversary and looking forward to another thirty years in business. While the company is now one of the town's most prominent businesses, its origins were modest. The company was founded in 1979 by Steve Hartley and Ross Place, having both fallen victim to 'the three day week'. Following redundancy, Steve and Ross, both time-served tradesmen and in their early twenties, set out to provide a welding and fabrication service from a 1,000 square foot make-shift shed.

Thirty years on the Group comprises six divisions, each specializing in different aspects of engineering; Welding Engineering, WEC Camera Mounting Solutions, Laser Engineering UK, Hi-Spec CNC, m-tec and 5750 Components which was acquired in October 2008.

The company has grown dramatically in recent years, currently operating from a 125,000+ square foot facility, employing over 250 employees and achieving GBP 20 million in turnover in 2008.

The Group services many industries including automotive, rail, aerospace, security and regeneration. Projects are diverse, ranging from small components to pressure vessels and bridges. A recently completed project is 'Mead's Reach', a 75 tonne, 55 metre bridge built entirely of duplex steel and installed at

Temple Quay in Bristol. The GBP 1.4 million project is part of a GBP 200 million regeneration scheme and is a fine example of the kind of work the team at WEC group is producing.

The staff at WEC Group is at the heart of its success, with many employees having spent most of their working life at the company. In 2006 the Group was experiencing a shortage of skilled workers in the marketplace and decided to take control of the situation. The introduction of the WEC Welding & Engineering Training Academy is aimed at providing 16-21 year olds with the skills and knowledge to compete in the industry. In the first year, the apprentices are involved in fabricating structures such as bridges and benches, with many completed pieces donated to the local community. Working with local schools and training providers, the aim of the scheme is to equip WEC Group with the caliber of workers they require to compete effectively whilst providing a high quality of workmanship on all projects. The Academy continues to grow from strength to strength with over 100 applications for the 2008-2009 program.

A major employer in its local community and one of the biggest UK suppliers in its field, the WEC Group is continually investing in new technology and skilled people to provide the standard of work and service its customers expect. They are proud stand sponsors of Blackburn Rovers Football Club 2008-2010 and are focused on investing in the local community.



The 55m Meads Reach duplex bridge at Temple Quay, Bristol



The WEC Group team is proud to support its local community