

# Manufacturing Advisory Service South East Press Release 5 February 2010

## MEP Scoops SC21 Bronze Award



L to R: Steve Poulten (Works Manager – MEP), David Kemp (Vice President, Supply Chain, Goodrich Engine Control and Electrical Power Systems), and Phil Hart (MD – MEP)

MEP Ltd has become one of the first companies in the South East to achieve the Supply Chain in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SC21) Bronze Award in recognition of its continued supply chain improvement efforts within the aerospace and defence industry.

Working closely with the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) South East, Kent based manufacturer MEP, an active member of the MAS South East Kent Best Practice Club which meets quarterly to share manufacturing best practice, spent over two years working towards SC21 Bronze Award accreditation.

A programme overseen by **A|D|S**, the Advanced UK AeroSpace Defence and Security Industries, SC21 is based around lean principles and good practice designed to accelerate the competitiveness of the aerospace and defence industry by raising the performance of businesses supplying into the sector throughout the UK.

In order to raise its overall manufacturing performance, 15 members of staff at MEP underwent the MAS South East Lean Facilitator training course headed up by Manufacturing Specialist Ian Pateman, a programme designed to achieve significant savings for a company whilst providing a training ground for chosen individuals – people that can lead change.

Concentrating on lean tools and techniques through a mixture of individual facilitation skills and team work, MEP has completely changed the culture and skills base of the whole company – Ian demonstrated how simple changes and an alternative approach can reap enormous benefits to both company and individual.

Philip Hart, Managing Director, said: *“We are delighted to have achieved such a prestigious award within the aerospace and industry sector – we have worked hard towards this accreditation concentrating on delivering a working culture built upon a solid foundation now committed to continuous improvement in order to deliver competitive solutions for our customers. Such recognition within the industry is vital to the ongoing success of MEP and we are now looking to build this success by attaining a Silver Award in late 2010.”*

He continued: *“Working within tight space constraints, the ongoing support we have received from MAS South East throughout this process has been invaluable. Lean manufacturing enables us to focus on streamlining and improving the quality and delivery of our manufacturing performance and products whilst the development of our internal communications has allowed day to day operations to run more efficiently.”*

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Ian Pateman said: *“The aerospace and defence industry is such an important sector within the UK manufacturing community, which is why SMEs such as MEP should be doing all they can to remain focused and competitive in order to keep the industry flourishing – developing successful, productive and efficient supply chains across all manufacturing sectors is crucial to the industry’s future growth and potential in delivering increased value to customers.”*

*“I’m extremely impressed with the focus and hard work put in by the whole team at MEP - the training they received also helped them to achieve further recognition with a Runners Up award at the EEF Future Manufacturing regional awards in November. In addition, staff at MEP have completed a supervisory workshop with us, as well as a shop floor based project, and they are also active members of our Best Practice and Resource Efficiency clubs, all of which demonstrates their total commitment to development and continuous improvement.”*

Based in Aylesford, MEP manufacture technologically advanced thermoset and thermoplastic mouldings, machining and fabrication of metal, plastic and reinforced composite components for the defence, aerospace, electrical, electronic and allied industries in the UK and abroad. MEP formally received their award and certificate at the SC21 Task Force meeting at Agusta Westland in Yeovil earlier this week. The award was presented by David Kemp, the Vice President of Supply Chain for Goodrich Engine Controls and Electrical Power Systems, who sponsored MEP Ltd through the SC21 programme.

[www.mas-se.org.uk](http://www.mas-se.org.uk)   [www.mep.co.uk](http://www.mep.co.uk)

Media enquiries:

Harvest Marketing Communications

Tel: 023 9244 9655

## **The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) South East**

MAS South East provides companies with practical help and hands-on support in all aspects of manufacturing; offering easy access to professional and experienced manufacturing specialists focused on delivering real bottom line benefits – ‘Support for manufacturers from manufacturers’.

Launched by the Government in 2002, MAS is a key component of the Government’s Solutions for Business portfolio and plays a vital role in giving UK manufacturers the support they need to improve productivity and achieve success in an increasingly competitive global economy.

MAS South East supports manufacturers in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex.

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## MEP Ltd

Founded in 1972 as M.E.P. (Aeroplastics) Ltd., **MEP** has maintained a steady growth by continually supplying Quality products to both existing and new customers, at home and overseas. Accredited to **BS EN 9100:2003** and **ISO 9001:2008**, they invest heavily in plant, equipment and facilities to ensure they continue to offer customers the most advanced technology and techniques.

MEP are very firmly committed to continual improvement and producing the best quality products and services. This is heightened by their commitment to training at all levels so that they can continually adapt to the ever changing world and challenges.

As MEP have both comprehensive **moulding** and **machining** facilities, it enables them to give a non-biased approach to achieving the very best manufacturing method, performance and **cost effective** selection of materials. Their customer base comprises defence, aerospace, electrical, electronic and allied industries in the UK and abroad. A full technical service is available and encouraged to all customers, from product design involvement, through research and development, in to production. This ensures that new products are manufacture-able from the onset.

For more information about MEP please visit [www.mep.co.uk](http://www.mep.co.uk) or telephone 01622 718642.

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