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ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION EXPANDS APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME WITH SUPPORT FROM LLOYDS BANK



A Bristol-based engineering association has invested in new machinery, enabling it to offer nine new placements on its apprentice training courses, with the support of a £61,000 hire purchase facility from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

The British Engineering and Manufacturers' Association (BEMA), established in 1936, works with manufacturers to provide bespoke training for apprentices looking to kickstart their career in manufacturing.

The association has increased the number of placements it provides year-on-year due to increased demand for skilled workers. Since opening its new training centre in 2014, BEMA has more than doubled its placements, now having the capacity to train 29 students.

The business secured a hire purchase facility to buy four new turning and milling machines, without affecting its day-to-day cash flow. The machines will be used to train the new apprentices during their 10-month placement.

Ian Mynett, Chief Executive of BEMA, said: "The new machinery has given us the opportunity to train more people and support our partner companies with sought-after skilled workers in the manufacturing sector.

"During the first 10 months of the placement, apprentices will spend five days a week at our training centre, gaining hands-on experience with relevant equipment. The support from Lloyds Bank has been invaluable in our expansion and we look forward to working with them again in the future as we continue to grow."

Stuart Williams, Regional Manager at Lloyds Bank Global Transactional Banking, said: "We recently ran a report with MHA that found almost a third of South West businesses list the skills shortage as a barrier for growth. B.E.M.A is a great example of an association looking to tackle this issue.

“We’re committed to helping Britain prosper by supporting associations like BEMA, and to underline this, since 2011 we’ve grown our net lending to SMEs by 32% since 2011, while the market contracted by 12%.”

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