

BUSINESS PROFILE: Special Steel Group

The **Special Steel Group** is a privately owned group of seven independent businesses headquartered in Sheffield. The Group's companies operate in the steel and engineering sector - trading in open die forging, heat treatment, mechanical, metallurgical and non-destructive testing, stockholding and precision machining – and currently employ over 270 people in Sheffield with a further 15 in Houston, Texas.

The original company was founded by the Beardshaw family in 1925, but the formation of Special Quality Alloys in 1986 was the start of Special Steel Group becoming a global brand. Today, the Group exports critical forged and machined parts for surface and subsea oil and gas extraction to over 30 different countries, all from Sheffield. In 2007, the group installed one of the UK's first fully automated heat treatment plants.



Speaking about being based in Sheffield, Chief Executive, Simon Marshall, said: **“The Special Steel Group’s key strength is access to the**

Group’s world class processing facilities, all based in Sheffield.’



“One of the main advantages of being based in Sheffield is that we have a strong ‘steel orientated’ industrial network. This allows for a large pool of potential employees with the right skill sets, as well as access to other companies offering support services necessary to maintain, develop and build a world class steel and engineering business. Being based in Sheffield is part of our steel heritage, and we have an inherent pride in continuing that tradition and association.’

The Group has invested heavily in its facilities, and now has 5 operational plants in Sheffield. It has recently started an extensive refurbishment programme at its Forge and is building an additional 20,000 Sq ft. facility on the original site.

“Three years ago, we started working more closely with the Sheffield Universities and created a fulltime H.R. function within our own organisation which has provided much needed support to our businesses. The establishment of the Sheffield University Technical College is also very encouraging news for a business like ours.”



Sheffield

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