

NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Not for Publication or Broadcast until
12 noon Tuesday 15 October



European Union invests £3m in NAMTEC The National Metals Technology Centre in Rotherham

The European Union is investing £3.12 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in NAMTEC, the new National Metals Technology Centre to be based in Rotherham. This investment is part of the £700 million investment in South Yorkshire being made by Europe through the Objective 1 Programme.

NAMTEC was launched, today, by Department of Trade and Industry Minister for Employment and the Regions, Alan Johnson MP. It has been created in response to an identified need from the industry sector that has been articulated by many of the leading companies and technology suppliers. It is a £9 million development that also draws funds from the DTI, Yorkshire Forward and the private sector and will maintain South Yorkshire's pre-eminent position in the UK metals industry.

NAMTEC will manage a number of projects that will directly impact on the ability of companies in the metals industry in South Yorkshire to be more competitive on the international stage by exploiting new technology more effectively.

Tony Newson of Objective 1 said: "We are extremely happy to support NAMTEC which will build on South Yorkshire's reputation for excellence in metals and helps us position South Yorkshire as an ideal location for further high technology investment. NAMTEC is an important part of our strategy to transform the local economy through the development of dynamic business clusters. It is a catalytic project in the Advanced Manufacturing and Metals cluster and will keep South Yorkshire to the forefront of metals technology and innovation both nationally and across the world."

Speaking at the launch NAMTEC Chief Executive Richard Ball said: "NAMTEC will be a flagship development that brings value to the metals industry by providing efficient access to the knowledge base, focusing research and development and developing technology transfer activities. It will act as a national focus for all metals industry activity to position the UK metals industry more competitively in international markets."

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire is a £1.8 billion investment programme that draws on over £700 million from the European Union's Structural Funds that are provided to help Europe's poorest areas regenerate their economies and create jobs. South Yorkshire is one of those poorest areas with fewer businesses and fewer and less well-paid jobs than other European regions.

To date the Programme has committed over £230 million of European money to over 250 projects in South Yorkshire. Objective 1 funds are supporting the development of new businesses, helping businesses to innovate and grow, supporting the development of skills and training, supporting social enterprises, supporting the

economic development of deprived communities in South Yorkshire, helping to bring forward the development of sites and premises for increased economic activity and helping to tackle both financial and transport bottlenecks that inhibit economic growth.

Issued by

Richard Holmes
Communications Manager
Objective 1 Programme Directorate
Silkstone House
Pioneer Close
Wath Upon Dearne
ROTHERHAM S63 7JZ

Telephone: 01709 763618

Fax: 01709 763679

Email: richardholmes.goyh@go-regions.gov.uk