



## Oxley Developments, Ulverston

# Modern Star lathes are twice as fast



*the name in sliding-headstock technology*

**T**here can be few manufacturers of turned parts in the UK with more experience of multi-axis CNC sliding-headstock machining than Oxley Developments in Ulverston, Cumbria.

The firm is a global leader in the design and production of night vision equipment, LED lighting, data capture systems and electronic components for aerospace and other industrial applications.

It was in 1983, in the early days of CNC sliding head technology, that the company bought its first lathe, a Star SNC-15, which is still operating around the clock today.

In the intervening 26 years, Oxley has continued to invest in more machines from the same supplier, to

the exclusion of other makes of sliding-head mill-turning centres. It now has nine Stars up to 20 mm diameter capacity, the most recent being an SA-16, installed in June 2009.

Oxley machine shop manager, Andrew Maiden, said that in the first 10 months of operating two Star lathes installed in March 2008, they produced over half a million parts. **More than 1,100 hours were saved** compared with if the components had been made on two of the older Stars.

The time reduction is a result of shorter machining times plus the labour saved through not having to carry out secondary operations manually, such as drilling, milling and deburring.

**"Cycle times on our new Stars are around half those on older lathes, and there are far fewer second ops."**

**Andrew Maiden  
Machine Shop Manager  
Oxley Developments**