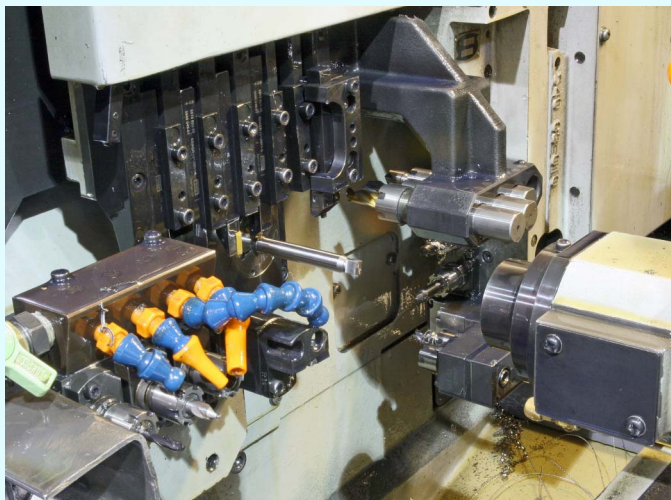


**stair**  
*in action...*

## Stourbridge Turning & Grinding

# Sliders produce 40% more than fixed-head lathes



**S**tourbridge Turning and Grinding (STAG), currently utilises only half of its single- and multi-spindle auto capacity, as orders for large batches needed to justify their use are becoming increasingly scarce, and those that remain tend to go overseas.

Since 2001, CNC mill-turning machines, in particular Star multi-axis sliding-headstock lathes, have been fulfilling contracts for smaller volumes much more cost-effectively.

"They can be set up quickly and are able to produce parts in one visit to the machine, eliminating manual second operations," explained STAG director, Giles Pargeter. "As a result, in four years we have reduced our shop floor staff from 23 to 14, which has resulted in significant savings and made us much more competitive."

Between August 2002 and December 2005, STAG invested in four sliding-head bar automatics of 32 mm capacity, one 20 mm machine and a 16 mm model, all from Star.

"After the first lathe was installed, I could not believe how much more profitable manufacture of components became compared with machining them on our cam auto's," Mr Pargeter enthused.

"It opened up new possibilities for producing higher added-value components that we could not have entertained before. "Whereas we were selling parts for a few pence at low margins, especially if they needed second operations, suddenly we were turning out complex components in one hit costing several pounds each and making good margins."

*the name in sliding-headstock technology*

**"A 5-minute cycle on one of our fixed-head lathes can typically be carried out in 3 minutes on a Star slider"**

**Giles Pargeter  
Director  
STAG**