



## Wealdpark, Merseyside

# Modern Star lathes are very eco-friendly



**A**n often-overlooked advantage of using CNC sliding headstock lathes rather than cam-type automatics is a big reduction in the consumption of energy and consumables, according to Phil Smith, a director of Merseyside turned parts subcontractor, Wealdpark.

The company has installed an average of one Star lathe per year for the last decade and now has 10. In terms of production output, each has replaced four to five cam-type turning machines, which are now all gone.

The simple fact of using one machine to produce a given number of parts in one hit, rather than a bank of cam automatics plus milling, drilling and turning machines for subsequent manual operations, gives rise to savings in electricity, cutting oil and tooling.

Mr Smith commented, "When Wealdpark operated 53 single-spindle

cam automatics plus second-op machines, more than 2,000 gallons of cutting oil was used every quarter. The 10 Stars use just 180 gallons in the same period – an 11-fold reduction and a big money-saver.

"Electricity to power one-sixth the number of machine tools is also much lower and results in further substantial savings over the course of a year.

"Fewer machines means fewer cutters overall and in addition, those cutters last longer because with CNC machines, feeds and speeds can be optimised to suit the material, process and tool."

All of these savings are on top of Wealdpark having reduced its workforce over the past 10 years from 55 to 19, while increasing output. Other benefits of single-operation mill-turning on a CNC machine are easier set-up, quicker cycles, 24/7 operation, better repeatability and less work-in-progress.

*the name in sales of sliding-head lathes*

**"Savings in energy and consumables are becoming more and more important."**

**Phil Smith  
Director  
Wealdpark**