



A LOCASE SUCCESS STORY

COMPANY NAME: Contracts Engineering



Case study: How Contracts Engineering is adopting robots into its operations

Contracts Engineering is a sheet metal fabricator that manufactures components and sub-assemblies for OEMs and tier-one clients. The company began exploring the idea of adopting robotics in 2017. The business was growing and seeing more situations where they struggled to hit lead times and quality requirements because too much of the work was being done manually. It purchased its first robot in 2020.

Managing Director Troy Barratt says finding the right equipment and suppliers was daunting, given the difficulties of understanding exactly what was needed. They focused on finding a reliable system integration partner, not simply buying a robot.

[Manufacturing outlook: robotics and automation | NatWest Business](#)

LOCATION: Sittingbourne, Kent

THE PROJECT

THE OUTCOME

Project outline: Brief history of company/Description of the aims of the project/What was needed to achieve the desired outcome?

Contracts Engineering Limited is a specialist in metal product fabrication, manufacture and assembly. The business carries out a variety of work to support the LCREE sector, including contracts for bike shelters and LED lighting design as well as a conscious movement into external insulation and cladding.

They used the LoCASE grant to help purchase a CyberWeld co-bot, which when paired with existing welder-fabricators, will increase their output by up to 3 times.

Result of the project upon completion/What was achieved/What did they gain/How much grant did they receive/What will be their projected savings on Fuel bills & CO2? (if known):

They received a £20,000 grant towards the total cost of the co-bot.

Up to 3 x increased productivity which has given them the opportunity to take on bigger contracts and develop new business.

Two new members of staff including a 17-year-old apprentice who is currently running the robot.

The business has won multiple awards and been featured on the Natwest website (see above) for its innovative use of robots and apprenticeship scheme.

The LoCASE project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and aims to support SMEs across the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) region to lower their carbon emissions and improve their energy efficiency through targeted business support and grants.