

DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS AT HOWLE CARBIDES AND TITMAN

- Elektron plc Hard Metals Division -

Elektron plc (EKT:AIM) has appointed Neill Ricketts as managing director and Clare Pickin as operations director of its Hard Metals Division which comprises Howle Carbides and Titman, specialist producers of ultra-durable Tungsten Carbide components.

Neill Ricketts joins from Hardide Coatings Limited where he was managing director for UK and Europe. He brings 20 years of commercial, production and engineering experience previously gained as managing director of Kronos Engineering Solutions and at Poeton Industries. He holds a B. Eng (Hons) in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Salford and is completing an MBA (Operations) from the University of Gloucestershire.

Clare Pickin joins from ARO Welding Technologies where she was Managing Director for six years. She has a further 14 years of production and operations management experience gained at Research Machines, Rover Group and Lucas Automotive. She holds a B. Eng (Hons) from Aston University.

The appointments strengthen the management teams at Howle Carbides, one of the European leaders in the design and manufacture of tungsten carbide hardmetal wear parts and Titman, the UK's largest manufacturer of tungsten carbide router cutters.

Neill Ricketts has been appointed to head up a major investment programme in new technology and plant, and significantly grow the Hard Metals Division organically and through acquisitions. Clare Pickin is to improve the operational effectiveness at Howle Carbides including the introduction of lean and cell manufacturing. She will also implement manufacturing best practice across the Elektron Group and develop a new company integration strategy.

"We now have a strong and dynamic senior management team with a clear strategy to drive both Howle Carbides and Titman into market leading positions," said Keith Daley, executive chairman of parent company Elektron plc. "Howle is undergoing unprecedented change and is emerging leaner, focused and more competitive. The technical and engineering skills base is being built up to deliver engineered solutions with a shorter lead time than any other UK provider. Together with new product development and a sharp focus on key sectors, the company is well-placed to become the mid-sized European market leader in its field," added Mr Daley.

Howle Carbides will be announcing its investment programme, a new identity and website in the next few weeks and is exhibiting at Offshore Europe in Aberdeen, 8-11 September 2009 on stand 1183.

www.howlecarbides.com

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Note to Editors:

Howle Carbides is one of the European leaders in the design and manufacture of tungsten carbide wear parts. The company has more than 50 years of experience in tungsten carbide grade and product development and provides wear part solutions to many of Europe's major companies and industries.

Titman is the UK's largest manufacturer of industrial and professional tungsten carbide router cutters. The company has led the way in router bit development for over 20 years, leading the market in the design and performance of conventional products as well as introducing new and revolutionary cutters.