



PRESS RELEASE

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**TOTAL CARBIDE INVESTS IN STATE-OF-THE-ART
OSTERWALDER POWDER PRESS
- only UK machine producing Tungsten Carbide components -**

Total Carbide, a leading European manufacturer of sintered Tungsten Carbide wear parts, has expanded its high volume wear part production capability following a significant investment in the latest Osterwalder CA-NC II hydraulic powder press for its European manufacturing headquarters in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, UK.

The fully-automated CNC press enables Total Carbide to manufacture more complex shaped parts with 'as pressed' tolerances as low as 20 microns. It also eliminates the need, in many cases, for expensive additional grinding operations. On-board robotics and the latest self-cleaning and self-monitoring technology mean production is continuous thereby reducing previous delivery times. The Osterwalder powder press is the only one in the UK producing Tungsten Carbide components.

Neill Ricketts, Managing Director of Total Carbide commented: "Total Carbide already has a strong global customer base in the metal cutting inserts market and this technology means that we can grow our business through the ability to produce the more complex designs that the current marketplace demands. This investment means that we can now compete effectively with the largest manufacturers in the high volume wear part market.

"This is the first acquisition in a long term plan to invest in the latest technology across the spectrum of our operations." added Ricketts. "We are confident in the growth potential of our core markets and are currently implementing a number of product development, recruitment, export, strategic relationship, training and process improvement initiatives so that we are positioned to take full advantage of the economic recovery."

www.totalcarbide.com

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Neill Ricketts is available for interview or further comment. For photography or interviews please contact:

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Note to Editors:

Total Carbide, formerly 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. Together with Titman, the UK's largest manufacturer of industrial and professional tungsten carbide router cutters, the company forms the Hard Metals Division of Elektron plc (EKT:AIM).