Event success promises UK manufacturing has strong future.

A one-day event – to highlight future developments in British manufacturing – proved so successful that it was twice oversubscribed and was extended to a second.

The Future Manufacturing Event, organised by industrial automation specialist Mitsubishi Electric and hosted by the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) at Sheffield University, combined seminar sessions with a carefully focused exhibition. It brought together practising engineers and leading technologists to discuss practical implementations of the current trends in the manufacturing and processing industries.

“Topics covered by the seminar speakers focussed on two key issues namely; Energy Legislation and Solutions and Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things,” says Mitsubishi Electric’s Garry Lewis. “The seminars and complimentary exhibition area focused the discussions very much on issues of the day. The exhibition area showcased many examples of integrated solutions from complimentary suppliers, which included vision systems, vibration monitoring and energy management.”

Mitsubishi Electric also used the event to launch their iQ-R series PAC controller and the iQ-F compact PLC series. The centre piece of the exhibition featured the Mitsubishi Electric product demonstration wall, which showed Mitsubishi’s total integration capability, from Low Voltage Switchgear (LVS) through robot and motion integration of the iQ PLC platform, the new iQ-F and iQ-R series CNC control, MAPS SCADA and the iQ Works engineering suite.

Kafai Wu of Wallwork Heat Treatments commented: “We have been using Mitsubishi equipment for 30 years and we are here to see how we can save energy which is big part of our spending. It’s been a worthwhile event that has shown us that Mitsubishi can deliver solutions to a range of issues.”

Dr Steve Lloyd of Remote Utility Monitoring & Management (RUMM) presented one of the seminars, explaining about the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) that is a mandatory energy assessment scheme due for implementation in December 2015. Many of the delegates took the opportunity to improve their understanding of this scheme and the ways in which Mitsubishi could help in achieving improved energy savings.

Lewis again: “Judging by the enthusiasm for this event, it is clear that today’s engineers are very keen to develop their knowledge of the latest technologies and also learn how to apply this to the automation environment. The constructive discussions over the two days demonstrate that people are committed to developing smart manufacturing solutions that will lead to constantly improving productivity and quality, combined with energy efficiency.”

Exhibitor partners: Copadata, RUMM, Brook Crompton, Radicon, Schaeffler/FAG, Pepperl & Fuchs, Power Quality Management, Cognex,
Rittal, E Plan, Lutze, Wittenstein and CLPA.

About Mitsubishi Electric

With over 90 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products to both corporate clients and general consumers all over the world, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, as well as in products for the energy sector, water and waste water, transportation and building equipment.

With around 124,000 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 39.3 billion US Dollar* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014.

Our sales offices, research & development centres and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Industrial Automation – UK Branch is located in Hatfield, United Kingdom. It is a part of the European Factory Automation Business Group based in Ratingen, Germany which in turn is part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of Industrial Automation – UK Branch is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout United Kingdom.

*Exchange rate 103 Yen = 1 US Dollar, Stand 31.3.2014 (Source: Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market)

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