

Automation campaign inspires UK manufacturers

As part of the government-backed Automating Manufacturing Programme, BARA has recently completed a second series of successful breakfast meetings to raise UK manufacturers' awareness of the £600,000 funding available to help firms adopt and integrate automation.

The business breakfasts took place at some of the UK's most automation-friendly companies, Youngman Group (Maldon, Essex) and Ecotile LLP (Luton), where attendees from manufacturers of all sizes were able to witness first-hand automation in action. Beginning with an informal presentation on the Automating Manufacturing Programme by BARA Chairman Mike Wilson, each meeting also offered attendees an explanation of the finance available by Lombards, an opportunity to hear from experienced automation users and a tour of automation in use at the host facility.



BARA Chairman Mike Wilson

"Many of the attendees found these breakfast meetings of terrific benefit by opening up the lines of communication for the first stages towards automation," commented Mike Wilson. "Companies can see if this is something they wish to explore further by making use of the government funded review, whereby an independent consultant will visit their factory free of charge and provide a confidential report on where processes can be automated to increase productivity." Lorraine Lewis of Halo Management Consultants attended the Luton meeting and was keen to praise its benefits: "I found the meeting particularly useful as it gave me a rapid overview of what's on offer from the government funded Automation Review. In addition it provided an insight into what finance is available should our clients wish to adopt some or all of the recommendations that would come from the report."



ABB's access tower welding system at Youngman

Grant Collier, Head of Marketing for the PPMA Group added: "We would like to hear from any end-user company wishing to take advantage of the Automating Manufacturing Programme. Companies will be offered a free review on a first come, first served basis until the funding is exhausted."

The PPMA Group is already processing over 40 applications from end-users wishing to have their automation potential assessed and is receiving further interest on a daily basis.

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