*April 2015 – for immediate release Further information: Chris Pockett, +44 1453 524133*

**Renishaw backs initiative to bring British manufacturing into the 21st century**

A new website showcasing 21st century British manufacturing is due to be launched next week (April 23rd) at a high-profile event in London.

[www.madeherenow.com](http://www.madeherenow.com), the brainchild of former Financial Times Manufacturing Editor Peter Marsh, is looking to tell the story of modern-day industry through a series of articles, stunning pictures and video on four exemplar companies.

AES, Bentley Motors, Plessey Semiconductors and FormFormForm have opened their factories to give leading authors and photographers the chance to explore their shopfloors and discover innovations, new technologies and opportunities driving the next revolution.

A total of 46 organisations, including leading engineering business Renishaw, have already backed the website, which is setting out to educate young people on the career opportunities in manufacturing, influence academics and politicians and change perceptions of Britain’s industrial strengths.

Renishaw gave access to two of its Gloucestershire manufacturing sites for the creation of a video for the new website that highlights how modern manufacturing facilities are a world away from historic perceptions. The site at Stonehouse is the company’s main UK machining facility, whilst its assembly facility at Woodchester, near Stroud, was named the UK’s Best Electronics and Electrical Plant in 2012.

The launch event, which starts at 6.30pm at the Building Centre Gallery, will also feature keynote speeches from Author and Commentator Will Hutton and Terry Scuoler, Chief Executive of the EEF, the manufacturer’s organisation.

“We are still very good at making things and manufacturing has immense potential to contribute substantially to our economy,” explained Peter, who spent more than 20 years as a broadsheet journalist and recently published a book on the New Industrial Revolution.

“However, not enough people are aware of our success stories and one way to improve the growth prospects of UK industry is to find new ways to tell the world about it.”

He continued: “Made Here Now intends to meet this need by using some of the best design, photography and writing to bring the excitement of making things to life.

“The project has really captured the imagination and we’ve already received significant support from leading organisations, such as JCB, Nesta, Rolls-Royce, Renishaw, Santander Bank, Siemens, the Royal Society and University of Cambridge.”

Renishaw’s Head of Communications, Chris Pockett said: “We welcome any initiative that will present a more positive picture of manufacturing in the UK and help shatter outmoded stereotypes that act as a barrier to recruitment.”

He continued: “It will take many years to change the negative perceptions that have developed in the wider populace, but Made Here Now will we believe make an excellent contribution to the aim of making our sector more appealing to young people, their parents, teachers and other influencers.”

The main thrust of Made Here Now will be presenting a unique insight into four exemplar manufacturers, all different in size but each one market leading in the products and services they provide.

Case studies include:

**AESSEAL®** – Celebrating the benefits of being ‘niche’, the company manufactures 400 different types of mechanical seals to customers across the globe.

**Bentley Motors** – The luxury car maker announced record volumes in 2014, but it’s a story of combining traditional manufacturing skills with modern ideas that is behind its real success.

**Plessey Semiconductors** – Transforming the fortune of the UK’s electronics sector by developing new ways to make light-emitting chips.

**FormFormForm** – The London-based company behind Sugru, a malleable putty-like substance sold to more than 500,000 customers in 150 countries.

In addition to the profiles of the exemplar companies, Made Here Now will also feature articles from authors Jeremy Leonard (Oxford Economics), Marcus Gibson (Gibson Index) and James Woudhuysen (technology expert) covering the future for manufacturing in the developed world, the prospects for reshoring and major technology shifts respectively.

In a further contribution, Economics Professor Robert Rowthorn of the University of Cambridge makes the case for a programme of "re-industrialisation" to boost the UK economy.

The final element of the project is a comprehensive resource section, with lots of useful links for companies, individuals and those involved in education.

Peter concluded: “We want to make the website as interactive as possible and will be welcoming lots of feedback directly or across our social media channels.

“There’s a big appetite for this and the plan is to generate more case studies, articles, videos and pictures to ensure Made Here Now is the first place people visit to discover a true picture of 21st century British manufacturing.”

[www.madeherenow.com](http://www.madeherenow.com) has been designed and built by Manchester-based digital agencies Inventid and Nine Sixty.

**To book a place at the launch event, please email** **events@madeherenow.com** **or tweet @madeherenow on twitter. The website will go live at 7pm on 23rd April.**

**-ENDS-**

Russ Cockburn at Cucumber PR is looking after all media enquiries. To arrange interviews or if you would like to attend the event, please email russ@cucumberpr.co.uk or contact 07812 600271.

Notes to Editors

Made Here Now has 46 supporters from the public sector, industry and academia. These are:

* ADS
* Airbus
* Aston University
* BAE Systems
* CBI
* Civitas
* Clyde Blowers
* Computer Lab at the University of Cambridge
* Cranfield University
* Department for Business Innovation and Skills
* EEF
* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
* ERA Foundation
* General Electrics
* Institution of Engineering and Technology
* JCB
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* IDJ
* Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge
* Manufacturing Technologies Association
* Mazak
* Moley Robotics
* MTA
* Nesta
* New London Architecture
* Oxford Economics
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