



# PRESS

---

## INFORMATION

Release date: 12 November 2009

### **GREAT BRITISH FAVOURITES...‘AS GOOD AS NEW’**

Operators of older British-built Colchester and Harrison traditional centre lathes, which may have been in service for several decades, can now have them cost-effectively re-engineered to ‘as new’ condition by the original manufacturers, thanks to a brand new service launched by 600 UK.

Machines such as Colchester’s Student, Master, Triumph, Mascot and Mastiff ranges and the famous Harrison M and V-Series, produced in large numbers over the past 30-40 years and highly popular with engineering specialists, repair workshops and vocational training facilities, can all be given a new lease of life at a fraction of the cost of acquiring a brand new lathe.

“This new re-engineering service represents a fantastic opportunity for owners of these British lathes to guarantee they will give many more years of excellent services by having them completely refurbished,” says Mike Berry, Managing Director of 600 Europe, based at Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, which is the UK’s largest machine tools manufacturer.

“At a time when economic conditions put investment in brand new machines beyond the reach of some companies, it makes good sense to extend the life of a highly reliable Colchester or Harrison centre lathe.”

“As the original manufacturer with more than 100 years’ experience in building these centre lathes, we are uniquely placed to offer this new service. We know these machines inside out, we hold the original design drawings and we have more than £5 million worth of genuine Colchester and Harrison spare parts,” he explains.

The full 600 UK re-engineering service comprises the following comprehensive stages:

- Re-grind the bed
- Check and re-work the headstock, apron and gearbox
- Re-work the saddle, cross slide, top slide and tailstock
- Check motors and replace all belts, wipers and pulleys
- Re-fit or replace leadscrew guards
- Repaint to current colours

Available options include restoring or updating machines to current health and safety standards and fitting Digital Read Out to all models.

The service has been specifically designed to restore the condition of worn parts which can affect machining accuracy and slow down turning operations which reduces both productivity and profitability.

Loan machine options while customers' lathes are being re-engineered (subject to availability) can ensure that valuable production down-time is kept to an absolute minimum, and the new service also includes a bed-grinding only service, if required.

Engineering specialists Stoneleigh Mechanical Services in Charlton, Greater London, and North Nottinghamshire College at Worksop, have both taken advantage of 600 UK's re-engineering service.

Stoneleigh's Managing Director Peter Hemingway, who set up the company 20 years ago and now employs four other full-time staff, describes the work carried out on the company's 1980 Colchester Mastiff and late-1970s Colchester Mascot machines as "the best thing since sliced bread".

"We are a small company carrying out a wide range of general engineering contracts. A lot of our work is repairing and remanufacturing equipment parts for customers including Tate and Lyle and hospitals.

"We have continued to use our Colchester machines because they are ideal for this type of repair work, compared with newer CNC machines which are more suited to high volume throughput. The lathes were taken away to be refurbished and are now virtually as good as new for a fraction of the cost of buying new machines. They've even been given smart new paintwork," he says.

Meanwhile, North Nottinghamshire College Engineering Department Lecturer Richard Croydon is eagerly anticipating NVQ students starting their 'hands-on' training on the college's five Harrison M300 after Christmas.

"The machines have been refurbished, including having digital read-outs fitted, and are now being commissioned in our workshop. The next turning training will start after Christmas.

"We use the lathes for a range of engineering training for students aged 14-19, including NVQ Levels 1 and 2. The five Harrison machines we have are between 30 and 40 years old and, depending on which courses are running, it's quite normal for them to stand for perhaps six months and then to be really worked very hard by the students rather than experienced engineers over a short period. So they have to be very robust to stand up to it," he says.

He explains that the college opted to have its five lathes re-engineered as part of a upgrading to the engineering facilities: "This investment will ensure we continue to provide high quality training facilities and resources to support our local employers in recruiting and retaining the skilled workforce they need to survive the current recession, and to take advantage of the recovery when it comes."

A special area of 600 UK's factory at Heckmondwike, which produces Colchester-Harrison Tornado and Alpha advanced machine tools, has been established to carry out the re-engineering of customers' Colchester and Harrison centre lathes of any age and condition. The department has a dedicated manager and team of specialist full-time staff.

**RELEASE ENDS**

*For further information contact:*

**Mike Berry, Managing Director - 600 Europe**

*Tel: +44 (0) 1924 415000*

**Peter Loweth, Peter Loweth Public Relations**

*Tel: + 44 (0) 1756 711129*

### Note to Editors

600 UK is part of 600 Group PLC, the UK's largest machine tool company, which operates from a number of locations worldwide and sells its products into more than 180 countries. The Group has two core areas of business activity centred on machine tools and laser marking excellence:

- Machine Tool Division: 600 Group is one of the world's leading names in the manufacture and global distribution of state-of-the-art machine tools. Principal products within the internationally renowned **Colchester-Harrison** range include **Tornado CNC** turning centres, **Alpha CNC** combination lathes, **Storm** vertical machining centres and conventional centre lathes. Important parts of this division are:
  - The 600 Europe operations in West Yorkshire and Stuttgart, Germany, distribute 600 Group products throughout the UK, Continental Western and Central Europe. Additionally, it distributes workholding accessories under the **Parat** brand.
  - 600 North America, based in Michigan, supplies Group products throughout the USA and Canada, including the **Clausing** range of machine tools.
  - The Group's international distribution centres also stock and ship a wide range of workholding accessories manufactured for other machine builders, most of which are manufactured in the Group's UK facilities. These accessories include manual and power chucking products from **Pratt Burnerd**, workholding products from **Crawford Collets** and precision machine tool bearings from **Gamet Bearings**.
  - To support these comprehensive product ranges, a complete technical support service is available for all customers, including on-site service engineering and extensive spare parts stockholding for the installed base of existing machines.
- Laser Marking Division: **Electrox** provides laser marking solutions for a huge range of materials and applications, through its operations in the UK and USA. Electrox is one of the few truly integrated manufacturers of laser marking systems in the world, taking end-to-end responsibility for every aspect of design, development and production of both hardware and software technologies.