



F G Wilson Engineering

October 2006

Programme Details

The RTD Centres of Excellence programme supports the establishment of R&D Centres to stimulate leading edge, industrially exploitable and commercially focused research which will further the restructuring of the economy, improve the competitiveness of Northern Ireland industry, fuel industrial wealth creation and grasp the opportunities offered by new technologies in this knowledge-based age.

The Company

FG Wilson is the largest generator set manufacturer in the United Kingdom and is a world leader in the provision of diesel and gas powered generator sets. It has the capacity to produce in excess of 50,000 generator sets annually.

The company is one of the largest employers in Northern Ireland, with a worldwide workforce of over 2,500.

FG Wilson is a wholly owned subsidiary of Caterpillar Inc, the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines and industrial turbines.

The Challenge

F G Wilson wanted to expand the business substantially by focusing on new product development. The new Centre of Excellence is a multi-disciplined facility that is carrying out market-leading, applied and near-market research into the performance and control of electrical generators.

The Benefits

Invest NI offered £1.5m to support the new Centre of Excellence at FG Wilsons, which will further strengthen Northern Ireland's research infrastructure. This is vital to the development of highly innovative and commercially viable products. The Centre provides an opportunity for engineering Graduates to develop skills in a demanding career. By increasing the level of expertise in this sector we will accelerate innovation and technology transfer and raise the profile of Northern Ireland's engineering expertise in the global market.

"The centre will be an enabler for growth in both the existing and developing markets. It will be a major driver of technological development in Northern Ireland and it supports Caterpillar's strategy to develop its power generation business globally. We want to encourage an integrated approach to innovation through cross-disciplinary projects. Using the combined technological capabilities of FG Wilson, the universities and others we aim to generate cutting-edge research that can be quickly translated into practical applications." Dr Mark Sweeney, Managing Director, FG Wilson Engineering.