

Date: 11 August 2014

Econ Engineering

Ripon manufacturer makes £220,000 green technology investment



Ripon manufacturing business Econ Engineering has made a £220,000 investment in green technology with the installation of solar panels at its manufacturing facility.

Econ, which is the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of gritting and snow plough vehicles, has installed 800 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of its Ripon factory. The technology is expected to lower the firm's electricity consumption by around 15 per cent per year.

Econ fabrication manager, Colin Trehwitt, said: "As a manufacturing business we have unavoidably high levels of power consumption and the investment in solar panels will pay for itself in only a few years."



media relations and profile

He added: "We pride ourselves on our pioneering approach to technology, which enables us to stay ahead of the game when it comes to developing state of the art winter maintenance vehicles. We could see all the advantages of solar photovoltaic technology and were keen to go for it. We are also reducing the business' carbon footprint, which is good for the environment as well as for Econ's bottom line."

Econ Engineering has earned a reputation for its environmentally efficient, high-tech winter maintenance vehicles, which are precisely calibrated and linked to vehicle tracking technology to ensure that salt used by the gritters is not wasted and does not pollute the environment. The firm is one of Ripon's fastest growing employers, with a workforce of almost 200 people.

The solar panels have been supplied and installed at the Econ factory by sustainable technology specialist, Leeds-based G&H Sustainability. The company's managing director, Andrew Hudson, said: "We are seeing increasing demand for solar photovoltaic and other renewable energy technologies among savvy organisations like Econ. Not only is it cleaner and greener, but the government's feed in tariffs enable businesses that generate their own renewable electricity to both use the power they generate as well as paying them for it, so it really is win win."

<Ends>

Photo: L to R Andrew Hudson of G&H Sustainability with Colin Trehitt of Ripon-based ECON Engineering

Contacts: Paul Snape at Appeal PR on 01423 56 99 99 or email paul@appealpr.com