

## Centaur Roofing South Ribble Takes Roofing Team to New Heights



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As the directors of start up roofing company, Centaur Technologies, Jeremy Gorick, Phil Richardson and Bob Stanfield, who has sadly passed away since, may have faced many of the challenges that any new business has to address...but this trio of roofing products professionals were no strangers to the demands of the roofing sector. The partners were all instrumental to the success of Preston-based Liquid Plastics until it was sold to Swiss company, Sika, in 2009.

When the partners came to look for a location to establish their new venture, South Ribble was the obvious choice.

Explains Phil Richardson: "Liquid Plastics revolutionised the roofing market with its liquid roofing membranes and became the market leader. Now we have an opportunity to replicate that success with Centaur Technologies and South Ribble provides the ideal environment for a dynamic and ambitious start up like ours.

"Not only does our new headquarters in Leyland give us excellent access to transport networks, partner businesses

and employees, it also gives us a location that provides practical support and advice to local companies, including capital to establish the business and kick start growth."

Centaur Technologies has been successful in accessing £750,000 in investment funding from the North West Fund for Venture Capital and Lancashire Rosebud Fund, both of which are managed by Enterprise Ventures. Funding for Rosebud is provided by Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL) - the county council's economic development company - as part of the council's broad package of investment and advice.

Phil continues: "The start-up costs for a company that develops and manufactures its own products are particularly high. We have the technology, market knowledge and contacts we need to make this business very successful but every company needs a strong financial base from which to grow. We knew from experience that South Ribble was a great place to do business and the support we have gained since establishing Centaur Technologies in Leyland has reinforced that belief."

The company is now trading from its base in Leyland, with a portfolio of three roofing systems that utilise complex moisture trigger technology to ensure instant rainfall resistance. This enables contractors to complete installations quickly, while end users benefit from a tough polyurethane waterproof membrane, a world's first.

"The low odour, rapid installation product is already proving popular in the roofing marketplace and, by building a network of partners to establish the Centaur Quality Partnership (CQP), the company is offering a turnkey approach, from site survey and specification through to installation.

Jeremy Gorick concludes: "Our intention is to grow and generate both jobs in the South Ribble area and opportunities for our supply chain. Working in a business community that understands and values those goals was critical for us and the funding we've accessed through The North West Fund for Venture Capital and the Rosebud Fund have helped us get there so much sooner."

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