

Knockout! Ex-boxer opens firm's HQ

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SCORES of people showed their support for a local engineering firm at the opening of the business's new premises.

The Firth Firmac Group is the fourth occupant to move on to Scarborough's new £100 million business park following the completion of its new 30,000 sq ft factory and offices.

Staff from the engineering group were joined by almost 100 guests, including visitors from Moscow, Hamburg and Ireland, for the official opening and to witness the cutting of the ribbon by former Scarborough boxer Richard Dunn.

Lewis Firth, a director of the group, said: "We are absolutely delighted with how everything has turned out, it is exactly how we wanted it. The builders were fantastic throughout the process, and everything has gone extremely well.

He added: "Now we are in bigger premises all the companies in the group have more of an opportunity for further expansion. Also the majority of our business is exports, and to be able to bring people customers back to a nice building makes a huge difference."

The Firth Firmac Group is a predominantly family-run business made up of four individual companies.



At the opening are, from left, Judith Firth, Colin Firth, Lewis Firth, Richard Dunn, HSBC staff Sharon Davidson, Leigh Briggs and Kath Stead, and Patricia Firth 092177

The first company to start was Firth Sheet Metal, which was set up by the late George Firth and his son Colin in 1964. The firm manufactures ducting and heating for the ventilation industry.

Just over 10 years later, in 1986, Firmac was established to design and manufacture machinery for the heating and ventilation industry.

In the years to follow the group acquired two more companies - FES, a company providing electrical and mechanical services to the construction industry, and Profile Engineering, which provides a design and engineering service to a range

of industrial clients.

Colin Firth, a director of the group, said: "It really is fantastic. I know if our father is looking down on us he would be very proud of what we have achieved. He was very involved in the business right up until the end, and he would be delighted to see us moving.

"We have been very fortunate that we were able to do something like this during these times. I have got to thank HSBC who we could not have done this without."

The Firth Firmac Group relocated from Barry's Lane after purchasing 2.5 acres of land from Caddick, the firm develop-

ing the Scarborough Business Park.

The group then hired local builders KFB, who constructed the premises next to the first completed phase of the park, which will both be adjoined as the project is completed.

Sharon Davidson, senior commercial manager at HSBC, said: "I think the new premises are fabulous. It is so nice to see a local, well-established company expanding at this time.

"We have been so pleased to be involved in it. Fortunately KFB are customers of ours as well so we have seen two of our local businesses benefit from this project."