

LORIEN DEFIES DOWNTURN WITH EUROPEAN EXPANSION

Despite the uncertain economic picture, Lorien Engineering Solutions' continuing international success is being boosted by the creation of a Central European base in Poland.

In opening its first overseas office this summer, managing director Steve Slater revealed that the Lichfield-based company is in great shape, and is continuing its international expansion: "We are in the enviable position of being able to support successful major international companies, including brand leaders in food, brewing, drinks and health care products, who are at the forefront in developing highly efficient production centres and manufacturing innovations.

"Over the past year we've seen our international operations rocket to 40% of our order book from less than 5% in 2006/7. We fully expect this trend to continue with demand for our services growing from our established customer base where we enjoy an 85% repeat business rate."

The announcement follows a

marked period of sales and profit growth for the firm, which provides engineering and project management services to the FMCG sector, both nationally and internationally. 2008/9 has been the firm's best year on record.

The new branch office will be known as Lorien Engineering Polska, and will be based in the historic city of Wroclaw in the South-West of Poland. From there the firm will be strongly positioned to develop its existing presence in the country's food, brewing and health care sectors, and the office will act as a European hub for the firm's many international clients who have a growing presence in the region.

Lorien's Andrew Mieleniewski will be leading the Polish venture, and he adds: "This is a real milestone for the company, and one which I'm confident will be a success. I have worked within our international team for several years now, and we have established a wealth of experience working on projects in Poland and many Central and Eastern European



Lorien Engineering Solutions directors (from left) Steve Slater, Roy Klek, Steve Turner, Bill Treddenick.

countries, so we already have a very strong foundation to build on. We are all very excited about establishing a permanent base in Poland."

Christopher Sawyer, chairman of CSG (Holdings) plc, which owns Lorien, commented: "It is particularly encouraging that we are in this position given the current economic climate. We hope our Poland branch

will be the first of many overseas operations for Lorien Engineering Solutions, and that it will further enhance both the level of service and the regional knowledge which our customers expect from us."

For more information, visit www.lorienengineering.com