



BM's £6m expansion sparks new Nottinghamshire factory supported by a financial package from NatWest and an EMDA, grant strategy and application by Andante [UK] Ltd



Set for growth: BM Catalysts is expanding in Huthwaite. Pictured are from left, Tim Gilbertson, Fisher Hargreaves Proctor, Stefan Cartier, EMDA, John Massey, BM Catalysts, Peter Lloyd, NatWest, Paul Fox, finance director BM Catalysts, Toby Massey, BM Catalysts, and Mark Blinston managing director BM Catalysts.

AN EXPANDING automotive engineering firm is to create 45 jobs after opening a new manufacturing site in North Notts.

BM Catalysts, which makes the catalytic converters which clean up car exhaust emissions, is investing £6 million in its expansion at Huthwaite. The firm has bought a 60,000 sq ft manufacturing base at Fulwood Rise, near Junction 28, with finance from NatWest and a grant from East Midlands Development Agency.

BM Catalysts produces around 2,000 parts a day at its existing plant at Mansfield and already employs 165 people. The business grew out of Belton Massey, which started out in the 1960s as a chain of tyre and exhaust fitting stations. It tapped into the growing demand for catalytic converters in the 1990s, making its own brand of cat as business expanded. Today, it is the UK's biggest independent manufacturer of catalytic converters and front pipes', using fully-automated techniques.

Mark Blinston, the firm's managing director, said: "The acquisition of this site is part of our continued growth and is a strategic move to further develop our manufacturing capabilities in the UK.

"In our opinion, there has never been a better time to expand." We now look forward to getting the new site fully operational.

"We want to thank EMDA and NatWest, who have helped make this investment possible and FHP for their assistance in the purchase." The financial package which helped make the new move possible was secured after BM received advice from grant specialists Steve Potts, from Andante [UK] Ltd, and Steve Rudkin from Business Initiation Grants.

The money from EMDA came in the form of a Grant for Business Investment, which is jointly funded by the Government and the European Regional development Fund.

John O'Reilly, EMDA's business support director, said: "BM Catalysts is an excellent example of a company experiencing growth despite the difficult economic climate." We were delighted to be able to work with both the business and NatWest to ensure that the appropriate funding package was in place. "Grant for Business Investment has helped many businesses across Nottinghamshire – and the whole of the East Midlands – to develop and grow."

Peter Lloyd, senior relationship manager at NatWest, added: "BM is a real local success story and I am really pleased the bank has been able to support them." Businesses like BM Catalysts are the life blood of the local economy and I am delighted to have helped them create jobs and build on their success."



About Andante [UK] Ltd

Established in 2005 by Senior Partner Steve Potts Andante [UK] Ltd is dedicated to providing business experience and specialist skills for companies small or large & public sector organisations.

Steve has applied his thirty years experience as a main board director and senior manager to deliver a set of values that guarantee a service that is professional and adds value to the client's bottom line.

The Andante team are all professional advisors dedicated to providing sound advice and practical solutions. Specialising in innovation, product development go to market and sales strategy Andante help organisations to manage growth, increase sales, raise capital through grants and reduce costs by maximising funding options.

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