

# Joining Forces Wales 2

in-depth technical assistance funded by the Welsh Assembly Government  
e-bulletin: June 2009

Welcome to the *Joining Forces Wales 2* e-bulletin. If you missed any of the [previous issues >>](#) they're on TWI's website.

## *In this issue:*

- High-value orders through increased customer confidence
- Technical assistance, practical know-how or skills development - at no cost
- Links to 24/7 technical information on TWI's website
- Friction stir welding - creativity and innovation

### **High-value orders through increased customer confidence**

*Joining Forces Wales* technical assistance for Philmor Rail Services Ltd is a typical example of how engineering companies are being helped to improve their business performance.

With additional know-how to complement existing capability, Philmor has adopted advanced fatigue assessment procedures and not only improved its products and competitiveness, but also won high-value orders through increased customer confidence.

A [case study >>](#) describing this is available on TWI's website.

Listing of [all \*Joining Forces Wales\* case studies >>](#)

Now in its fifth year of operation, *Joining Forces Wales* has helped safeguard over 670 jobs, create 115 jobs and secure £33.5m of turnover.



### **Technical assistance, practical know-how or skills development - at no cost**

Paid for by the Welsh Assembly Government and tailored to the needs of your company, *Joining Forces Wales* will provide up to seven days of in-depth technical assistance, practical know-how or skills development.

**TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
REQUIRED**

If you would like to request technical assistance, please click the red button on the left to e-mail Sarah Welch at TWI. In your e-mail message, please outline what you require. Sarah is also contactable on 01223 899 287.



Noddir gan  
Lywodraeth  
Cynulliad Cymru  
Sponsored by  
Welsh Assembly  
Government

**You will not have to pay for TWI technical assistance under *Joining Forces Wales*: up to 7 days is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government.**

More information on [Joining Forces Wales >>](#) is available on TWI's website.

### **Links to 24/7 technical information on TWI's website**

You have no-cost access to up-to-date, expert technical information on TWI's website. This is in addition to in-depth assistance from experts at no cost through *Joining Forces Wales* and means you get technical information the instant you need it.

*continued on next page . . .*

Below are just four links to fairly diverse subjects. Don't be put off if these aren't of interest to you; TWI's web-based information covers a huge range of subjects (you may prefer a brief overview of the [types of information available >>](#) on all technical subjects).

To get the most out of the information it's best to use your login -

**User:** filled-in automatically **Password:** filled-in automatically

View [TWI's privacy policy >>](#).

1. [Residual stresses in components and structures >>](#)
2. [Soldering: materials and design - best practice for the electronics and electrical industries >>](#)
3. [NDT: liquid penetrant inspection >>](#)
4. [Extrusion welding of plastics >>](#)

If a colleague requires a login, please ask them to complete [online registration >>](#) to receive theirs. Should a registered user forget their login they can send an e-mail to [joinit.support@twi.co.uk >>](mailto:joinit.support@twi.co.uk) requesting a reminder: the user's full name and usual e-mail address must be included in the e-mail.

**You will not have to pay for information on TWI's website: your access to this is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government.**

In the next e-bulletin we'll include links to information on -

- Fatigue in welded components and structures
- Arc welding duplex stainless steels - best practice
- Resistance spot welding
- Laser cutting - technology and best practice

Seen the latest issue of ['Connect' >>](#), TWI's on-line technical news magazine?

### **Friction stir welding - creativity and innovation**

When TWI friction welding guru and inventor Wayne Thomas returned to his homeland and place of study, his guest lecture at Swansea Metropolitan University was rated *stimulating, informative and most enjoyable*.



Attended by around 40 delegates, the 8 May event was jointly organised by *Joining Forces Wales* and the Cutting & Fabrication Technology Centre of the [School of Logistics & Manufacturing Engineering >>](#).

Wayne's personal link to the University helped create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Focusing on friction stir welding, his talk even incorporated problem brainstorming with the audience, which encouraged lively, two-way interaction and discussion.

A key paper on friction stir welding, written by Wayne Thomas and TWI colleagues, is available to you as a [PDF file >>](#).

The official launch of the Cutting & Fabrication Technology Centre is scheduled for July 2009.

Further information on *Joining Forces Wales* is available from Martin Bourton at TWI: tel: 01223 899 479 [martin.bourton@twi.co.uk >>](mailto:martin.bourton@twi.co.uk)

*continued on next page . . .*

Yours sincerely  
The *Joining Forces* Wales team at TWI Ltd

Since 2004, TWI technical assistance programmes have boosted business performance in the UK by creating/safeguarding over 3,350 jobs and more than £210m turnover.

*Joining Forces* Wales provides expert help to engineering manufacturing companies in Wales. Delivered under the 'de minimis' scheme, it's run by materials joining specialist TWI Ltd, which has a regional technology centre in Port Talbot, tel 01639 873 100.

[I wish to change my e-mail address on the \*Joining Forces\* Wales mailing list >>](#) - please use this link to e-mail Jayne Sherwen at TWI with details of your replacement e-mail address. In your e-mail message, please provide your old e-mail address, as well as the replacement e-mail address.

Read the *Joining Forces* Wales e-bulletin but would prefer not to receive future issues?

[I no longer wish to receive the \*Joining Forces\* Wales e-bulletin >>](#) - please use this link to e-mail Jayne Sherwen at TWI so that your contact details can be removed from the *Joining Forces* Wales e-bulletin list. In your e-mail message, please provide the relevant e-mail address so that we can locate and delete your details from the list.

