

# Fifty years and counting

*Continued investment, a longstanding and loyal workforce, plus the ambition and capabilities to supply a wide range of blue chip customers have enabled a UK toolmaker to grow in stature over the past 50 years.*

HCM Engineering Ltd is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of tooling for a European-wide base of aluminium and iron foundries. In addition, the company's vast capabilities expand to designing and manufacturing diecasting machines, ancillary machines, jigs and fixtures to enable the processing of the components.

Founded by a team of three including Raymond Hanson, the company is now in the capable hands of his sons Simon and Mike, who have cut their teeth in the family business and are continuing the legacy of investing in both a multi-skilled workforce and the latest technological advancements to ensure HCM's continued success.

## 50th Anniversary

Established in 1969, HCM continues to develop year-on-year, thanks to the Hanson family heritage.

People are particularly important at HCM, where the highly-skilled employees are supported by the company's continual recruitment and training scheme incorporating a structured modern apprenticeship programme.

From humble beginnings in a small workshop with manual copy milling machines to the expanded facilities with high speed CNC milling, the latest CMM equipment, 3D design software, large surface grinding and cylindrical grinding capabilities, and digitising and reverse engineering abilities, HCM continues to impress. The company has grown to be one of the largest manufacturers and designers of tooling



Srikanth Prabhakara pictured with brothers Mike and Simon Hanson and their father Ray Hanson of HCM Engineering when setting up the Bangalore company

for diecasters in the UK and the Hanson brothers are proud of their commitment to marry traditional values with state-of-the-art production capabilities.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary, the company now supplies to a range of industries and uses its long-standing experience, coupled with the latest technology, to manufacture to the highest quality and standards. Recent years have seen the Hanson brothers expand the company overseas including setting up a branch in Bangalore in 2003 to compete with Eastern pricing.

Going into the sixth decade of business, HCM is well placed to comment on sustainability. "We have employees who have been with us for decades and we are passing our skills on to apprentices so we are creating value in our employees," managing director, Simon Hanson tells *Foundry Trade Journal*. "We are lean and we are committed but basically it comes down to the fact that our products and our engineering are world-class."

## Courageous Attitude

The success over the past 50 years is in part down to the risks taken by founder Raymond who always managed to fund investment, often through personal sacrifice.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s one million pounds was invested into the company, filling it with CNC machines and CAD/CAM. This allowed the company to compete with Eastern countries when it comes to cost and improve the quality of its products. Night production was also undertaken.

The forward-thinking attitude and company culture, coupled with the financial investment, has resulted in the company working with blue-chip customers such as Bentley, JLR, Mercedes and Aston Martin.

With the ability for low pressure, high pressure and gravity tooling, along with being able to create complex component designs in conjunction with OEM's, the company's client list expands across the biggest automotive brands in the world, all keen to see what HCM has in store for the coming decades.

[www.hcmeng.co.uk](http://www.hcmeng.co.uk)

