

Firms are seeing improved demand

BRITAIN'S manufacturers are reporting signs of improved demand from customers in Europe, which is helping to boost confidence in the industry for the rest of the year.

A survey of almost 400 firms showed they have enjoyed a relatively strong start to 2015.

The report by the EEF manufacturers' organisation and global law firm DLA Piper said some manufacturers were seeing improved demand from European customers.

The poll suggested that the positive run of output expansion across manufacturing for the past eight quarters will carry on in the first half of 2015. EEF chief economist Ms Lee Hopley said: "Any concerns that manufacturing activity might wobble at the start of 2015 have been quashed with our latest survey showing that the main output, orders, employment and investment indicators all remained above their long-term average over the past three months. Particularly promising are signs of a return to growth in new export orders."

Rugby star helps firm open its new premises



DRAGON'S DEN: Wales and Newport Gwent Dragon Andrew Coombs (centre) with Gareth May, Rob Webb, of Gap Personnel and Fiona Weaver, Hutchings & Thomas

Leading recruitment firm Gap Personnel employed a Dragon to help open its new office in the heart of Newport's professional district.

Gap, which has opened a large new presence at Gold Tops after outgrowing its temporary location in Langstone, invited Wales and Newport Gwent Dragon second row Andrew Coombs to officially open the office.

The new office at 18a Goldfields House, Gold Tops, provides 1,288 sq ft of space.

The industrial recruitment business, which has 29 bases throughout the UK including in Cardiff and Bridgend, says it has picked up some valuable contracts since opening in Newport.

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Gap Personnel's operations director, Newportonian Rob Webb, said: "The choice of Newport as a centre for our operations has proved beneficial to business. We have won a number of new contracts since opening here and a number more since moving to our new much larger base in Gold Tops."

Branch manager and former Caerleon RFC captain, Gareth May, said: "The new office is perfect as it offers us space to expand as a business and also to induct and train candidates before placement."

"We have added two staff to our own office to bring the total to five and will be recruiting more as the business grows in this modern new office at this brilliant location in the premier professional district of Newport."

Fiona Weaver, of agents Hutchings and Thomas Chartered Surveyors, who sourced the property, said: "Gap Personnel was specific in its requirements for office space in central Newport. We were able to identify a number of locations but 18a Goldfields House suited them business right down to the ground due to its central location, ease of access to transport links, parking and the outstanding quality of the accommodation."

Exhibition offers showcase to the business community

TORFAEN Business Voice will host its first business exhibition at Cwmbran Stadium.

The Torfaen Business Show will offer local businesses an opportunity to take a stand and showcase their services.

There will also be a full programme of events, allowing attendees to network with others in the Torfaen business community and hear from a number

of influential speakers.

Dennis Ricketts, chair of Torfaen Business Voice, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for businesses in Torfaen to showcase their services, make new connections and hear from some exciting speakers. It is the first event of its kind in Torfaen and it would be great if the business community could come together to support it."

The business exhibition takes place at Cwmbran Stadium on Wednesday May 6 from 7.45am to 1pm.

Prices for a stand start from £80 while entry to the exhibition itself is free, however, booking is essential.

To book your place visit south-walesbusiness.co.uk/en/business-club/tbvexhibition2015/bookasadelegate.aspx.

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