

Farmstar ploughs security furrow with BCRC grant

Leading agricultural machinery company Farmstar is looking forward to a period of secure business as a recipient of a security grant from the Business Crime Reduction Centre (BCRC).

A sophisticated lighting system and advanced cctv surveillance circuit has been installed at the company's Marr headquarters and depot near Doncaster. Total costs of some £18,000 have been contained by some of the heavy duty fabrication being carried out by the company's own engineers. And the scheme has been further aided by the £3,900 grant from the BCRC in Sheffield.

Farmstar director Mark Benn commented: "This year, we've had a spate of thefts and attempted crimes, which led us to consider moving our headquarters out of the area with the resulting loss of local employment. However, with the grant and our own investment and efforts, we now feel confident in continuing to manage affairs from Marr. In fact, we're now adding a further purpose-built branch in Nottinghamshire to trade alongside our other depots in Brigg and Market Weighton."

BCRC adviser Ian Smith commented: "All our grants are important and in this case, doubly so, in that it has persuaded a successful company to continue trading in the area on a secure basis."



Notes to Editors:

The BCRC is part-financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund delivered through the South Yorkshire Objective 1 Programme. The scheme, which is also supported by Yorkshire Forward, has a £1.8m budget for the next three years.

Major threats faced by all companies include various types of fraud:

- phishing
- pharming
- identity theft
- viruses
- hacking

Additionally, companies face the threat of losing valuable ICT equipment and data through burglary, arson, criminal damage, internal theft and staff leaving, complete with IT records that help them set up in competition.

How The Business Crime Reduction Centre Works

- The BCRC identifies business related crime in particular hot spots and repeat victims and works with the business and other partner organisations to offer solutions to tackle specific problems identified
- The BCRC also assists businesses by prioritising ICT users and recent victims of fraud, e-crime or computer and related equipment theft. This is designed to increase the company's confidence in e-business and move it progressively towards the safer use of technology
- The BCRC assists companies with physical and virtual security
- The BCRC develops self-assessment and other diagnostic tools that assist in the introduction or upgrading of physical security and virtual secure ICT practices
- In addition to on-site visits and self-diagnostics, BCRC offers staff training and grants to qualifying companies
- BCRC is staffed by a team of eight, six of whom are Business Advisers (BAs) who visit companies throughout South Yorkshire with advice and support
- Four BAs will be stationed in the Chamber of Commerce offices in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield
- The BCRC works in partnership with South Yorkshire Police and a wide range of organisations, including Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Business Link South Yorkshire, e-business initiatives and others with an interest in business crime reduction and the encouragement of the uptake of ICT solutions for business.

Further information on this release from:

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