

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR HISTORIC WOOL TRADE SITE

Jobs boost as firms flock to restored mill

By Beverley Hawes

A HISTORIC woollen mill has been given a fresh lease of life and is set to generate 300 new jobs for the Stroud area.

Bonds Mill in Stonehouse, near Stroud, dates back to 1797 when the area was a thriving centre for the woollen trade.

The Wheelhouse building, which has been refurbished, was originally a mill with two giant waterwheels powered by the River Frome to drive the looms.

Leaders

Bonds Mill Estate Limited is a sister company to digital tape technology leaders Cristie Electronics which occupies 15 per cent of the mill site.

"Although the 24,000 square feet building is not yet finished a quarter of it has been let to three companies with a fourth in the offing," said an estate spokesman.

"These companies already employ 85 people and due to the considerable interest it is anticipated that some 300 jobs will be attracted to the building."

About 400 people are already employed by the 25 other companies on the nine acre estate.



Site manager Rupert Burton with administration manager Helen Ratcliffe at the mill site yesterday