



● David Drew cuts the tape at the opening of The Wheelhouse at Bonds Mill in Stonehouse. Also pictured are administration manager Helen Ratcliffe, managing director John Hardcastle and site manager Rupert Burton.

300 JOBS PLAN FOR OFFICES

AN ESTIMATED 300 new jobs could be created by the opening of a new £500,000 office building in Stonehouse.

Business chiefs hope The Wheelhouse, located on the thriving Bonds Mill Industrial Estate, will almost double the numbers of people employed by the 25 companies already on the nine-acre site.

Although not yet finished, three companies have already moved into the former wool mill, and work is well underway on furnishing a training and conference centre for Midlands-based Lycett Industries, who are due to move in soon.

These companies already employ 85 people, and with managers confident of filling 90 per cent of the building by the end of next year, more good news for the local economy seems certain.

The estate is the sister company of Cristie Electronics Limited, which occupies 15 per cent of the site, and is still expanding.

The building was officially opened by Stonehouse district and town councillor David Drew, who praised the company for restoring the mill, which dates back to 1797, to its original character.

He said: 'This is a superb example of how you can use an old mill building to maximum benefit, bringing jobs and people into the area.'

The building, which was adapted for Britain's defence efforts during the Second World War, has been turned into 13 self-contained business units.

Its centre has been developed to make a striking resemblance of one of the mill runs.