In**Brief**

Funding packages to help enterprises cut emissions

ENERGY: CO2Sense Yorkshire has announced two new funding packages available to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

CO2Sense is a not-for-profit company funded by Yorkshire Forward and the European Regional Development Fund.

Their Greenhouse Gas Savings Capital Investment Fund and Innovative Resource Efficiency Projects Fund will help SMEs in the Yorkshire and Humber region to compete in a low-carbon economy.

Companies can bid for funds to improve waste reduction and recycling, as well as energy and water savings, from the Greenhouse Gas Savings fund. The Innovative Resource Efficiency Projects Fund is designed to support projects breaking new ground in resource efficiency.

For more information about the scheme, visit www.CO2Sense.org.uk

Visit **Chumberbusiness.com** Our online business news and information service

Set up your own business

EVENTS: Aspiring entrepreneurs can get advice on setting up their own business at a free workshop on Monday. Exploring

Self-Employment will run from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at the Goodwin Centre in Icehouse Road, west Hull. There are eight places remaining. For more information or to book, visit www.businesslink vorkshire.co.uk

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We'll help put fighter jet through its paces

Engineering firm produces key components to test Royal Navy aircraft

A HULL engineering company is supplying crucial components to help test a fighter jet that will be used on by

the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers. Helix Precision Machining Ltd, based at Sutton Fields industrial estate, produced key parts for BAE Systems' testing of two F-35 Lightning II jets. Helix signed the contract

with BAE in January last year to produce four vertical tails and completed the work in December.

The F-35 aircraft were made by US defence giant Lockheed Martin for the Ministry of Defence, which employed BAE to carry out trials on the planes at its Brough plant. Now another F-35 jet is

about to start testing with Lockheed Martin at its Fort Worth facility in Texas. The vertical tails are needed as dummies to test the strength of the plane's tail attachments. InShort Parts to help test the F-35 fighter jet have been made by an engineering firm based at Sutton Fields industrial estate, Hull.

BY MIRANDA PRYNNE m.prynne@mailnewsmedia.co.uk

Helix Precision was set up in 2003 by Matthew Branton and Lee Sansam after their former employer, AP Engineering PLC, went into liquidation.

They started out in a small unit at Courtney Street industrial estate and within 12 months had doubled the size of their premises and took on their first employee.

The recent contract with BAE enabled Helix to take on another two permanent members of staff and one temporary worker.

The firm has completed a number of projects for BAE over the past four years, but this is their biggest contract with the company.



CONTRACT: Helix Precision directors Matthew Branton, left and Lee Sansam check a component. Picture: Peter Harbo

Helix was chosen in a competitive tender above some much larger companies from across the UK. Mr Branton said: "The

deal arrived in perfect time just as things were about to get bad in the recession." Alan George, project man-

ager for the F35 Lightning II full-scale fatigue tests at BAE Brough, explained what the trials involved.

mponent. Picture: Peter Harbour a He said: "They will check the durability of the aircraft by applying loads on the aircraft that replicate the e stresses and strains it will

experience during take-off, landing and flight." Links Helix Precision www.helixprecision.co.uk BAE Systems www.baesystems.com F-35 facts



THE F-35 Lightning II is also known as the Joint Strike Fighter.

It is the biggest defence production programme of its type spanning a 30-year period and potentially delivering more than 3,000 F-35 aircraft worldwide.

If all goes as planned the "in service" dates for the jets is 2012 in the US and 2017 in the UK.

The F-35 is being bought by the Ministry of Defence to replace the Royal Navy's Sea Harrier FA2 and the RAF's Harrier GR7.

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