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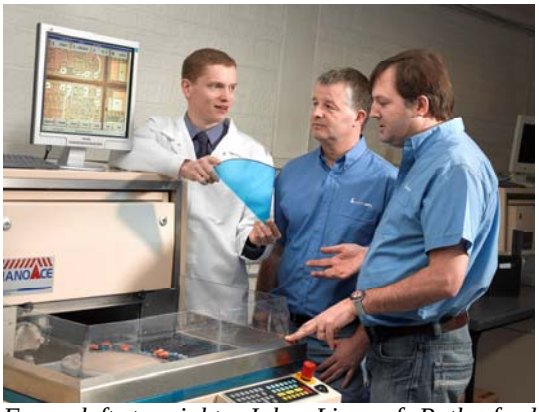
Loadpoint: The Wiltshire business helping keep the UK at the forefront of research and development.



From left to right: John Lipp of Rutherford Appleton, with Trevor and Andrew Saunders of Loadpoint, demonstrate a glass wafer and the NanoAce machine used in production.

A small high technology business based in rural Wiltshire is involved in ground breaking research to aid scientists studying the formulation of materials ranging from the make-up of wood and ceramics to proteins found in bio-molecules and features within DNA.

Loadpoint, with manufacturing, research and development facilities at Cricklade, Wiltshire, UK, provides cutting technology for manufacturing wafers of glass through which X-ray detectors can probe the most complex of structures.

Their work, for the Science and Technology Facilities Council, is used in the beamlines of Diamond light source at the UK's synchrotron facility on the Harwell Science and Innovation campus at Harwell, Oxfordshire, where brilliant beams of light ranging from infrared to ultraviolet and x-rays are utilised to research material structures at atomic and molecular levels.

John Sweet, a director of Loadpoint, explained that they have already processed specialist glass wafers for use in examining how plastics deform under stress. This work is specifically for detectors called HOTSAXS and HOTWAXS. Their use within Diamond will help to provide greater understanding of structures and lead to large and wide ranging improvements in both product development and surgical equipment.

The Diamond light source site at Harwell

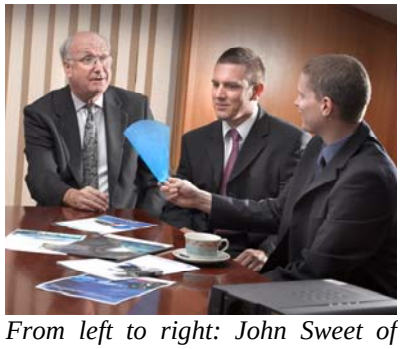
John Lipp, detector systems engineer at Rutherford Appleton, said it was an excellent example how small to medium enterprises and large research organisations can work together as the glass cutting requirement for such projects is very demanding from several aspects, especially as no other company in Europe was able to undertake such work.

John Sweet said: "The benefits to UK society and industry are enormous. Many everyday commodities from chocolate to cosmetics, and from the drugs of tomorrow to surgical tools, are being improved thanks to the use of these brilliant beams of light which can 'see' inside almost any structure of material, down to measurements of nanometre sizes.

"We are delighted to be associated with a project that will have far reaching good results for the public at large. Our work recognises the outstanding team we have at Cricklade and is the latest in a series of high technology research projects from around the world".

John Sweet, whose family set up Loadpoint and its sister company Loadpoint Bearings in Dorset, said their understanding of technology had put them at the forefront in finding solutions to complex requirements by research and manufacturing organisations, throughout the world, including China.

The activities of Loadpoint can be found on their website: www.loadpoint.co.uk



From left to right: John Sweet of Loadpoint, with Ed Spill and John Lipp of Rutherford Appleton.

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