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**TOTAL CARBIDE LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME
AND GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Total Carbide, the leading European manufacturer of Tungsten Carbide wear parts, has recruited its first two engineering technical apprentices through its newly launched Engineering Technical Apprenticeship Scheme. The two new apprentices are joining a workforce of 52 at the company's Princes Risborough manufacturing headquarters and will be trained to NVQ Level 3 standard over three years.

The company has also launched a one year graduate training programme for which it has recruited its first engineering graduate. A further graduate engineer has also been appointed as Total Carbide Quality Engineer.

In response to increasing customer demand from Europe, the company has also created a new position of in-country Field Sales Engineer for Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The post is being advertised and recruitment is underway.

Neill Ricketts, Managing Director of Total Carbide commented: "We are adopting a progressive approach to recruitment so that we can attract and develop the best people for the range of positions that we will need as our business grows.

"We are looking beyond the immediate economic challenge and making sure that we have the people in place to deliver superior performance to our customers. We are beginning to see some stability returning to our markets and are gearing up to meet the medium and long term needs of our business.

"The apprenticeship scheme is an important route to attracting enthusiastic and motivated young people by providing a structured and high-quality standard of training. Similarly, the graduate training programme provides a framework for personal development that is firmly aligned to our business objectives."

www.totalcarbide.com

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Note to Editors:

Total Carbide, formerly Howle Carbides, is one of the European leaders in the design and manufacture of tungsten carbide wear parts. The company has more than 50 years of experience in tungsten carbide grade and product development and provides wear part solutions to many of Europe's major companies and industries. Together with Titman, the UK's largest manufacturer of industrial and professional tungsten carbide router cutters, the company forms the Hard Metals Division of Elektron plc (EKT:AIM).