

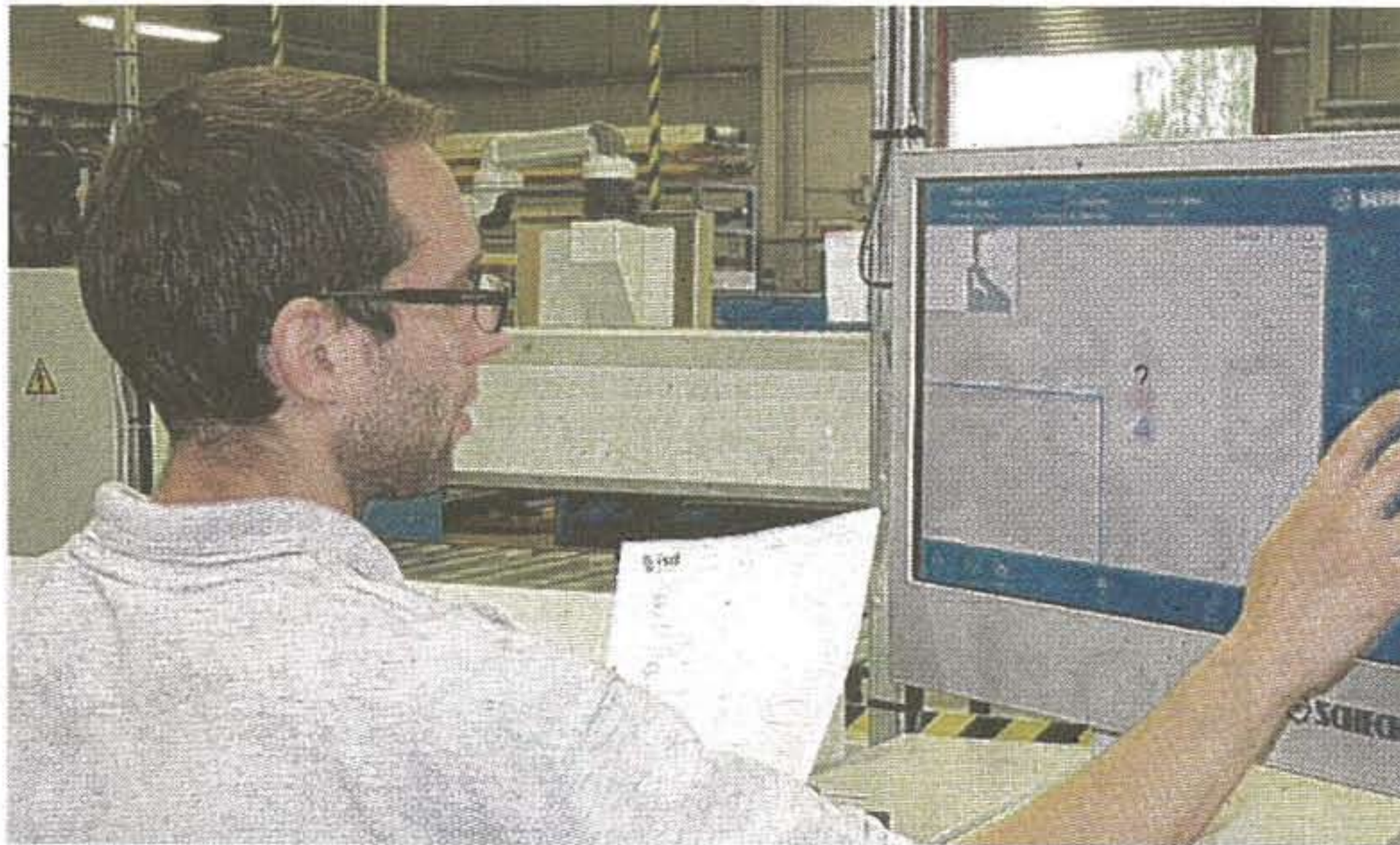
No economic chill as manufacturer expands

BY BUSINESS REPORTER
ANDREW MERRELL

NEW jobs, an apprenticeship and £300,000 investment in its Gloucestershire manufacturing base are all part of cold storage room maker ISD Solutions' plans to freeze out its competition.

The Gloucester-based firm has revealed an avalanche of good news which starts with the above investment, includes six new jobs, a new apprenticeship, and Investors in People VI Generation award - and some serious backing from the Gloucester Growth Hub. All of which gives the

manufacturer of insulated panels and doors for cold room storage good reason to shout about itself. Andy Moon, chief executive officer of the P&M Group, whose major trading division is ISD Solutions which has customers including Ocado, Aldi, Partner Logistics, Waitrose and Sainsbury's, said: "It's an exciting time for ISD. The Investors in People accreditation is an important aspect of the company's development. "This follows a significant investment we have made to improve total company efficiency, to deliver innovation in customer



A worker at ISD Solutions and, right, Richard Bowden who will be heading up a new division

service and to reduce overall waste. We are very pleased with this result and are already working with all our employees towards gold and platinum level accreditation."

In what we are told is another key development, Richard Bowden, who has been with the company for 22 years, will be heading up a new amalgamated division responsible for special projects and cold stores. The firm not only successfully met the Investors in People Standard accreditation at silver level for the new Investors in People VI

Generation (something achieved by just six per cent of organisations) it also had to let staff loose on an online survey asking what they thought of the business.

Ninety-two employees out of 110 participated and 86 per cent of staff agreed the city company was "a great place to work and has a bright future".

ISD Solutions has been manufacturing insulated panels and doors for cold room storage solutions for 70 years. The £300,000 investment is a move to beef-up its manufacturing capability.

According to the firm "investment in machinery and more personnel means that ISD will no longer need to import modular cold rooms from Europe, but instead will champion UK expertise and design and build these here in Gloucester".

The Gloucester Growth Hub has pledged £35,000 assistance towards new machinery which was delivered and installed in June. As part of the investment, ISD is creating six new jobs in manufacturing, with at least one apprentice.