

WELL DONE

First Minister heaps praise on factory team set to create up to 50 new jobs

WE'RE proud of your success.

That was the message from First Minister Alex Salmond to workers at a growing Ayrshire manufacturing company.

He heaped praise on the business and was impressed by an ambitious 60,000 sq ft expansion plan, which could create up to 50 new jobs.

Mr Salmond met with staff during the visit to SAS International in Maybole on Monday morning.

He learned first hand of the commitment that the business has had to the community for the past 25 years.

And he was clearly impressed by the workers themselves.

He spoke at length to several employees during an extensive tour of the office and factory floor.

He said: "I am pleased to see first hand the work being undertaken by SAS staff here in Maybole and to hear about plans for expanding the business.

"Job creation is very welcome in this part of South Ayrshire and the fact the facility manufactures bespoke architectural metal products for the worldwide market is something of which to be proud."

The Maybole plant is one of three in SAS's UK manufacturing group and its facilities rank among the most modern in the world.

It produces architectural metal-work products for customers across the globe.

And it has been involved in numerous high profile developments including, BAA London Heathrow



STAND PROUD: Claire Harper and Kirsty Wood with Mr Salmond.



COMMITTED: Operations director John Gemmell is congratulated on the success of the firm by Mr Salmond.

Terminal 4, London's Waterloo Station, Chek Lap Kok airport in Hong Kong and The Souk in Abu Dhabi's Central Market.

With a current workforce of around 100, SAS is the biggest employer in the community, in some

cases providing jobs to generations of the same family.

John Gemmell is operations director at the Maybole facility.

He insists that the First Minister's visit reinforces the need for businesses to continue to flourish in communities like Maybole.

He explained: "This visit highlights the importance of manufacturing companies within Scotland obtaining support from government to continue operating in the UK and the need for such companies to be situated within communities like Maybole.

"The expansion of SAS International here not only secures existing jobs at the site but we also expect to recruit around 50 additional staff once the site is fully operational; we remain committed to playing our pivotal role within the local community."



WELL DONE William Wallace and Gavin Hamilton meet Mr Salmond at the Maybole manufacturing plant.



DOING GREAT: Mr Salmond with Michael Thomson.

Man refused to hand