

PRESS RELEASE – 31st MAY 2007

**JOHN LAWRENCE APPOINTED AS H GOLDIE & CO LTD's
SPECIAL BENEFICATION AND MANUFACTURING
CONSULTANT**



Mr John Lawrence is one of the world's most experienced experts in manufacturing. Having joined Piermatic Machines Limited in 1975 in London, he worked closely at the DTC with the inventor Alec Liebowitz and acted as a training manager in installing machine-polishing in Israel and Belgium. Visits to Gujarat in 1976 profoundly inspired John to consider how technology and modern production-management could be beneficial to the Indian Cutting Industry.

Whilst maintaining regular visits to the cutting centres as Manufacturing Advisor at the DTC, there followed a long relationship interacting between Research and Development funded by the DTC and the large preparation factory of LDI in Belgium. Responsibilities included managing a pre-production automatic bruting unit, development and evaluation of stone-planning technology and the application of laser sawing to replace cleaving.

Against a background of factory auditing visits since the 1980's, to Botswana and the RSA, John worked closely with Gareth Penny on planning and creating DTC Joint-Venture Factories with the Governments of Botswana and Namibia. Recognising the intention of the DTC to cease direct involvement in manufacturing and associated R&D John resigned after an exciting 23 year career at the DTC and became an independent consultant in 1996.

Since becoming an Antwerp-based consultant John has been a member of the Government Diamond Valuation team contracted to the Republic of the Government of Botswana. His specific responsibilities were monitoring and advising on local and world manufacturing developments and market trading movements. He has also provided consulting services to the Government of Namibia and various DTC sight-holders on matters of factory management, technology and head-hunting management and artisanal skills.

Chairman, Mark Boston, said

“Everything my colleagues and I have achieved in this industry has been based on partnership in excellence and I don't know of anybody in the world who has the same breadth of knowledge and experience in the field of manufacturing in traditional and non-traditional centres. I believe India will continue to be the world's pre-eminent diamond cutting centre, based largely on the critical mass of expertise that exists in Mumbai and Surat, and our commitment to our Indian clients and the Indian industry remains total.

Having said that, we live in a changing world and we fully understand the political and economic rationale in producing countries will be a factor in how the industry develops into the future. That makes it all the more important that our clients receive the right advice so that whatever they do, they do it for the right reasons, in the right way.

I have had the pleasure of working with John over the years on a number of very important projects (including the first diamond cutting laser installation in India at the Shrenuj factory in 1986). I think the transformation of the industry from its cottage industry roots to the extraordinarily successful locomotive it has become is something both John and I are very proud to have been associated with.

We are proud that we represent 12 leading Indian Sightholders, amongst the most dynamic in the industry, with a strong commitment to manufacturing. We believe that John joining our team enriches the considerable experience that we offer our clients in all aspects of the industry from marketing, traditional broking expertise and now manufacturing and beneficiation advice also.

I believe that our clients now benefit from having the most multi-talented and genuinely experienced team in diamond broking”

This appointment takes effect on 1st June 2007.