

**6 November 2001**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Microblade Limited announces the purchase of SIMCO of Sheffield**

Microblade Limited is pleased to announce that on November 5, 2001 it concluded a transaction purchasing Sheffield International Machine Knife Company Limited -- SIMCO.

SIMCO was owned by Pen Cutting Tools Limited also of Sheffield. John Shaw, Managing Director of Pen Cutting Tools, commenting on the sale said: "Pen Cutting Tools has been enjoying excellent growth in a difficult economy. SIMCO just did not fit into our long range plans at Pen so we felt that a sale was in Pen's best interests."

David Fitzgerald, General Manager of Microblade remarked: "SIMCO has been a good and tough competitor for five years. We were happy that when the decision was made by Pen to sell SIMCO we were contacted. Both parties are happy that the work is remaining in Sheffield."

John Shaw added: "I know that our employees, customers, and suppliers will be in good hands at Microblade. Now that I am no longer a competitor I can say that they make an excellent product with superb service. Keeping the log saw tradition in Sheffield was very important to Pen Cutting Tools."

SIMCO's customers will be immediately contacted by Microblade to ensure a very smooth and seamless transaction.

Microblade's sister company, The Kinetic Co., Inc., of Greendale, WI, USA supplies a wide range of complimentary products sold to the tissue converting industry worldwide. Together, they provide "one stop shopping" for knife requirements in the tissue industry.

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