

# Laboratory case study

Metalube Irlam, Manchester

Contractor | Innova Design Solutions  
Timescale | 2 Weeks  
Architect | Innova Design Solutions



Metalube, based in Manchester, is a global manufacturer of specialist industrial lubricants, exporting to over 80 countries across the world. As an award winning innovator, the company were keen to expand their research and development laboratory facilities at their Manchester headquarters.



## Brief

Metalube were looking to more than double the size of the existing laboratory facilities to reach a capacity of 126m<sup>2</sup>. Having recently increased the number of chemists by 25%, the company wanted to create a 21st century laboratory facility for both quality control, research and development.

Innova worked closely with the Metalube team to deliver the very latest specialist laboratory furniture to meet the requirements of a modern day lubricant developer. We provided a full turnkey solution including design, manufacture and install of furniture as well as M&E, utilities, flooring and decoration.

*“ Thanks to Innova we can now give our chemists an outstanding 21st century laboratory to work from*

*Chris Nettlehip, Technical Director*



Carcase | Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF  
Worktops | Trespa Toplab  
Edging | ABS Colour matched edging

Seating | Ergonomic laboratory chair  
Handles | Zinc alloy inset handles  
Hinge | 240° pivot safety hinges



## Solution

The laboratory was split into 3 areas; the main R&D lab, an open plan hot desk area for project work and a separate office area. The R&D lab was designed with a bay layout to provide generous working space and storage facilities. This configuration promotes flexible operations, allowing chemists to work on multiple samples as well as write up and review test results at the same time. A hot desk area with fixed benching, adjacent to the R&D lab, created space for non-test tasks.

Trespa Toplab was selected for the worktops to provide long lasting chemical, scratch and wear resistance surfaces. The storage units were manufactured from high quality MF MDF, providing Metalube with durable furniture built to last. A mixture of open shelving, tall units and base unit, allows the flexibility to store a variety of chemicals and equipment.

Metalube are delighted with their new laboratory and it will provide the company with a platform to supply first class products that meet 21st Century demands.