



Kinna company has its sights on the future

When a company grows and aims at new markets, it creates new jobs. That's what brings Sweden's Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt, to Kinna in the province of Västra Götaland.



Fredrik Reinfeldt visits TST Sweden in Kinna. Foto: Government Offices of Sweden

TST Sweden AB develops and supplies protective equipment to users throughout the world. The fact that the operation is based in the small industrial society of Kinna, at the heart of Sweden's textile area, is no coincident.

- This is a modern company which has succeeded in bringing the basic textile industry into the 21st century. They are right at the cutting-edge in materials development in their niche, says Fredrik Reinfeldt.

The company's founder, Jörgen Lillieroth, is convinced that one of the keys to their success is their proximity to customers. Part of their mission is to spend time with customers to see where they are today, where they are going and what demands they will make on the company's products in the future.

Business and education need each other

Jörgen Lillieroth also believes that another crucial factor in their success is the close partnership between research and business.

- Resources have to be dedicated to bringing together academic research and education with the business sector. Of course it's great to have financial help, but the real requirement is for good brains, good ideas and people who are prepared to take risks. Then the money is put to good use, he says.



Jörgen Lillieroth launched TST Sweden in 1990
Foto: Government Offices of Sweden.

A challenge that TST Sweden does face is finding people skilled in textiles and sewing. In Sweden, the average age of skilled craftspeople is high, and the young people are just not signing up for the courses available today.

- This lack of craft skills is not unique to the textile industry. I'm constantly meeting companies in a wide range of industries who are finding it difficult to recruit skilled people, while so many of our young people have no jobs. This is the gap we are trying to close with our investment in vocational training and apprenticeships, says Fredrik Reinfeldt.

New jobs are created here



The Prime Minister tries on a cooling vest. TST promise it will keep him cool in the heat of political debate. Photo: Governments Offices of Sweden

Throughout the autumn, the Prime Minister will be visiting people and operations that are proving that Sweden is growing with an eye on the future.

- In a labour market in a state of flux, it is important to meet businesses which are at the cutting edge in their fields, and are seeking out new markets. Listening to these companies gives us a much better idea of where the new jobs can be created, says Fredrik Reinfeldt.

The visit is part of the Prime Minister's frequent travels throughout Sweden. Since he became Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt has made over 160 trips all over the country, with the aim of seeing how political decisions affect people's everyday lives.

Prime Minister's Office
Published 11 October 2011
Updated 11 October 2011

Regeringskansliet
103 33 Stockholm
Växel 08-405 10 00
Kontakt och besök