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Pan factory to come on stream

METAL Industries Ltd (MIC), in the Trincity Industrial Estate is to establish a commercial steel pan factory to produce the entire range of fully tuned and chromed pans for the local and export market.

The announcement was made by Industry, Enterprise and Tourism Minister, Ken Gordon as he formally launched MIC's Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Advanced Machining Facility yesterday.

Gordon toured the plant at Century Drive, Trincity and complimented the company on commercialising an aspect of local culture that had suffered from industrial neglect.

According to a release from the company the

production of steel pans by the spin-forming process, came as a result of the research and development work carried out by MIC over the past three years and the positive response from tuners and panmen.

The board of directors

decided last week to go ahead with the project with the first phase being the establishment of a fully integrated steel pan factory. This phase will extend to the end of 1990 and will involve the manufacture of spin-formed blanks to be supplied to pan tuners, as well as continued development work in the areas of heat treatment, grooving and tuning of pans.

Gordon said: "This is undoubtedly a major achievement for Trinidad and Tobago" and

that "while there still remains continued development work to be done on this project, this represents an achievement for which the entire country has been waiting for a long time." He said he welcomed the project, since in spite

of the many public statements that have been made for the past 15 years, "Trinidad and Tobago is today in danger of losing its claim on the steel pan, as other countries have already started to produce pans on a limited scale."