

## PDS Engineering show Promising Results Thanks to BIT Training with Preston College

P D S Engineering based in Nelson is one of the UK's leading specialists in high precision detail machining of components and prototypes. They have made parts ranging from Hot Air Balloon components for Sir Richard Branson, to wheel components for the Thrust SSC, which holds the world land speed record at an amazing 766Mph. In March 2007 P D S saw value in starting a Business Improvement Techniques Training Programme (BIT) with Preston College. BIT Training 10 employees and a further 11 to gain BIT NVQ Level 2. Through relations with the Northwest Aerospace Alliance and Automotive Northwest and utilizing funding from ESF.



Above is a picture of the storage shelves that contained tools in PDS's workshop. This picture was taken before the BIT Training. As you can see there are a lot of different compartments and tools are everywhere. Many of the tools were broken or old making it difficult to find the tool the employee needed.

BIT is a course that is designed to enhance business performance as a whole. It helps to ensure that all activities add value and are standardised. BIT creates a robust quality system that eliminates the risk of defective products reaching the customer. It also aims to reduce manufacturing costs and improve the overall profitability and competitiveness of the company. This qualification enables employees to gain recognition for quality, cost, and delivery improvements in the workplace.

Below is a picture of the same wall space as the previous picture after the BIT training. The broken and old tools have been removed so the other tools are more accessible. The work tops are clear creating a more organized working environment.



"The main impact of the BIT training has been the creation of a lean culture where all employees have pulled together to create a more productive and organised environment."  
Annette Getty PDS Engineering

The business has seen immediate benefits and increased productivity from the training. For example there has been reduced tool retrieval time, and increased motivation of staff throughout the factory. There is a more organised environment and every tool has an assigned place making it easier to find! They have introduced different working zones. The employees have better communication and boards are helping them to be more productive.

P D S is constantly working on different projects so they had previously believed BIT might not have been sustainable due to P D S's need for a flexible environment. However the BIT Training was flexible enough to deliver customized training that catered to these needs, and adapted with P D S to create a sustainable environment. P D S was extremely pleased with the learning material provided by NSAM and is willing to recommend it to other employers.