

# Preston College



**Preston College is one of the largest providers of training the North West. It currently has more than 30,000 students. It believes employers need training that is relevant, up to date and industry specific and offer flexible, responsive and cost effective solutions that deliver immediate performance improvements.**

**'I am delighted with the outcomes and the achievements of our staff. The approach taken by Preston College has been first class and enabled us to focus on identified targets and this has paid dividends. It is excellent to see our staff taking ownership of the project, from identifying the problems to offering solutions and implementing the changes.'** (Bosal UK)



## Preston College: Change companies with BIT Expertise

**Established in 1977, Bosal (UK) Ltd is one of the UK's leading exhaust system manufacturers. In a highly competitive market, Bosal recognised that the way forward for their business was to develop and harness the skills of their workforce in identifying and implementing the changes. Thanks to Preston College over 60 of their staff have now gained a NVQ level 2 or 3 in Business Improvement Techniques, many of which were funded through the Employer Training Pilot (now Train to Gain).**

**Areas of achievement for Bosal following the program are:**

- Equipment Effectiveness improved by over 50%**
- Set-up times were reduced by 40%**
- Unit cost of selected product was reduced by 30%**
- Cycle time reduction 23%**

# Preston College & PDS Engineering Case Study



Annette Getty and Preston's BIT Trainer Steve Hughes

**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.**

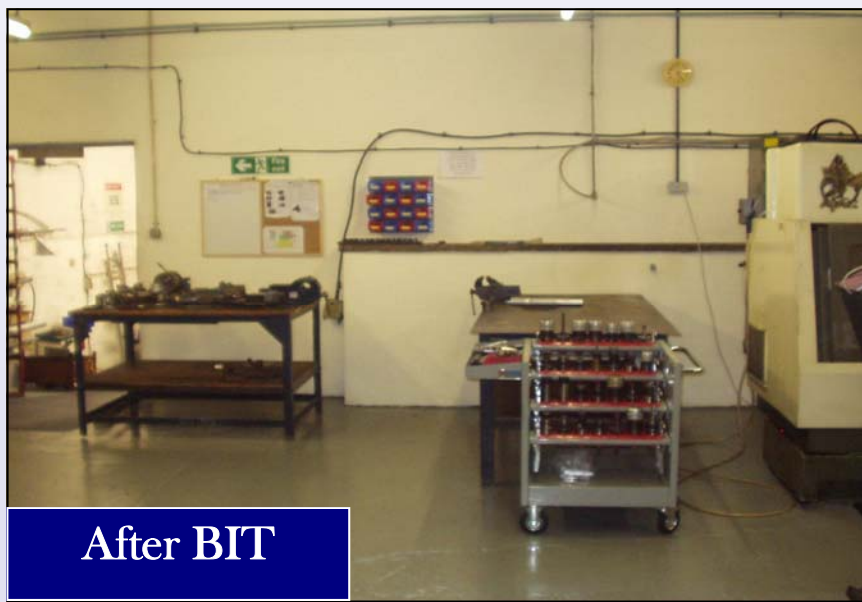
**In March 2007 P D S saw value in starting a Business Improvement Techniques (BIT) Training Programme with Preston College. The aim of BIT is to minimize waste, increase company profitability, and drive employee development.**

**Through relations with the Northwest Aerospace Alliance and Automotive Northwest and utilizing funding from ESF, PDS has moved its business forward and won't be looking back. 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. Above are pictures taken of the workshop before the BIT training and after the training. It is clear to see the impact the training has had.**



Before BIT



After BIT

**"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."  
(PDS Engineering)**

**P D S is constantly working on different projects so they had previously believed BIT might not have been sustainable due to the 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.**

## Contact Information

[www.preston.ac.uk](http://www.preston.ac.uk)

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