



PROUD TO SUPPORT MAKERS, CREATORS AND INNOVATORS

“We’ve modernised our business and Make UK has been there as a core part of the journey and will continue to be there in the future.”

Mike Hague-Morgan,
Co-owner & Commercial Director, Autocraft Solutions Group

AUTOCRAFT SOLUTIONS GROUP

Autocraft Solutions Group aim to be Europe’s OEM preferred partner for the manufacture of outsourced engines, niche drivetrain products, future propulsion solutions and services to a global market. The business has been under the careful ownership of Mike Hague-Morgan, Commercial Director, and his partners Steve Harris and Brian Barr since 2010, when their Management Buy Out secured 98 jobs.

Mike is no stranger to Make UK, having personally utilised their training services for more than 20 years. After graduating from university, he chose Make UK (formally EEF) to develop his management skills and happily admits that they have made him who he is today. “Having Make UK with me throughout my career journey has helped me to set my habits, from my management philosophy to honing my leadership skills. It is true to say that a large part of me is ‘Made by Make UK’,” he said.

As well as co-owning Autocraft, Mike is now Vice-Chair of Make UK’s Advisory Board in the East Midlands and the relationship is as strong as ever.

A STABLE PLATFORM FOR GROWTH

Over the past nine years Autocraft's management team has rebuilt and grown the company which now employs over 200 people, across 3 locations with an annual turnover of £25 million. Outlining their strategy, Mike observed, "We wanted to drive quality and productivity using hi-tech processes that moved away from working practises which were both manual and labour intensive. The raft of support available from Make UK has been invaluable."

Faced with massive restructuring challenges to turn the business around, the team at Autocraft used several Make UK services to guide them through this period.

Mike continued, "In the early days of the restructuring the most valuable support came from our designated Employment Law expert at Make UK, as well as training for the management team to ensure they had the right skills and knowledge to implement the changes that were needed.

"Since those difficult days, Make UK has supported the growth of the team with Health and Safety advice and training, the creation of a new Employee Handbook, as well as delivering comprehensive ILM Management training courses from Supervisor to Senior Management Levels."



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SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING

For Mike, at owner level, Make UK's networking opportunities have assisted him greatly. "In a world that feels quite isolated at times, Make UK has provided me with a foundation from which to network with customers and suppliers alike," he said, "be it meetings, technical forums, breakfast get-togethers or the prestigious awards dinner."

He added, "Sharing best practice and benchmarking with other manufacturers in a safe, controlled environment is great for our young engineers as it allows them to participate and swap ideas with manufacturers from different sectors without risking trade secrets to our direct competitors.

"Make UK has opened up the opportunity for us to explore technologies from other market sectors that can be adopted into our business. For example, we have identified technology used in the food sector, an area that we have no contact with or knowledge of, which can be applied to engines.

Mike enthused, "There's not a week that goes by without us turning to Make UK for some sort of support, be it policy, legal updates, lobbying or exposure to senior politicians. And that's not forgetting the help needed to navigate planning for Brexit, the Apprenticeship Levy and all of the legal changes we have to comply with as we grow to being a large company from an SME."

EXCITING NEW PROJECTS

Now operating from a successful place Autocraft is looking to the future, with exciting new projects in the pipeline. They are currently engaging Make UK in the background to identify funding and the mechanisms, departments and organisation through whom they can apply.

Autocraft believe that now is a very exciting time to be involved in UK manufacturing and a very different world to 20 years ago. Mike summarised, "Make UK is a company with 100 years' experience but is not stuck in the past. It is leading the UK's transformation of our manufacturing industry into an extremely high tech and knowledge-based sector, that is vital to the future success of the UK's economy."

At Make UK we've been providing our members with the influence, insight and connections to help them grow for more than 120 years.

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