



PROUD TO SUPPORT MAKERS, CREATORS AND INNOVATORS

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G&B ELECTRONICS

Run by Managing Director, Laura McBrown and her sister Kate, G&B Electronics provide comprehensive electronic manufacturing solutions across a range of industry sectors including medical, aerospace and high-end audio markets.

With the objective to grow and modernise a well-run family business, G&B Electronics joined Make UK to take advantage of the regional networking opportunities on offer.

Early on Laura believed that membership of Make UK could help them explore new ideas and was impressed by the organised tours and factory visits arranged for them with other Make UK members. “It was really helpful to get our team out to see how we could adapt and build on processes and practices being used elsewhere.”



USING LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO BUILD PRODUCTIVITY

For Laura a new leadership style has also meant a drive towards increased productivity and the development of a Manufacturing Excellence Strategy to enable change. “The expectation of our customers is that we create smaller, lighter and more capable products at a lower cost. We need to be able to respond to opportunities whilst maintaining the highest quality and regulatory standards and then support our products once they are in the field.”

G&B Electronics’ Manufacturing Excellence Strategy has drawn on the generosity of the Make UK community and its willingness to open its doors. It’s all very well to read about LEAN processes in books, which is brilliant if you’ve got a big factory making lots of the same things, but manufacturing isn’t necessarily like that.

Spending time with other manufacturers and discussing industry issues and challenges at Make UK’s Regional Membership Boards, has contributed to G&B Electronics pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones; and now their strategy is delivering results, Laura is keen to share their successes back into the industry via Make UK.

UNEXPECTED DIVERSITY IN THE WORKFORCE

Laura, who has worked in manufacturing for over 18 years, has been recognised at the Make UK Future Manufacturing Awards for her leadership skills. Judges were impressed with how Laura worked hard to develop the business and maintain its success in a challenging environment.

Having found herself to be the only girl on her engineering course 20 years ago, she decided to just get on with it. With the engineering and manufacturing sector still facing a diversity challenge today, Make UK is working with industry to address the issue.

However, having strong female leaders at the helm of G&B Electronics seems to be having a potentially unexpected side effect. A shift in the male/female balance has seen the ratio realign to approximately 50/50 throughout the management team, and the business as a whole.

Laura commented, “We are surprised that this ratio has been achieved without any real effort. It seems to have come about since the leadership team has been female. Having women in leadership positions seems to attract other women, we seem to have set a silent ball rolling.”

A FASCINATING CAREER CHOICE

Manufacturing is a fascinating career choice and the strategic challenge and problem solving nature of the industry just isn’t being sold to the next generation, male and female alike.

Sharing a love of manufacturing with like-minded people via membership of Make UK is demonstrated by the quality of information that is communicated freely throughout the network, better than any news channel, and relevant.

For this reason, G&B Electronics is keen to put back into the community by sharing the results of their Manufacturing Excellence Strategy, via the Make UK family.

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

Join us and be part of the community.

makeuk.org/join



Laura McBrown, Managing Director, G&B Electronics

