



# Penny Hydraulics Reaching new heights

**Sector:** Design and manufacture of lifting & handling solutions  
**Location:** Clowne, Bolsover

## Support Accessed

Digital Upscaler • Innovate UK • Peer Networks

## About the Business

Penny Hydraulics is a family-owned business that designs and manufactures vehicle-mounted lifting equipment, goods lifts, winch systems, nuclear equipment and tyre presses. Its end-to-end services also include installation and aftercare.

Its 100-strong team work on projects as far afield as Australia, the Middle East and South America.

As a regular supplier of chandelier and baggage lifting systems to the Royal Households, it proudly carries the Royal Warrant of Appointment.



## Challenges

What started some 40 years ago as a ‘backstreet’ engineering company servicing the coal industry is now a £10 million business.

A major challenge to this ambitious company lies in replacing its ageing workforce. This has been achieved, in large part, by its apprentices, who make up an impressive 10% of the workforce.

A second challenge is maintaining its position at the cutting edge of technology, and forever improving on its impressive lead times and quality standards.

## The Solution and Impact

Knowing that the best apprentices are attracted by state-of-the-art machinery, the business applied for a D2N2 Business Investment Fund grant to support the purchase of a new CNC machine.

The Digital Upscaler project funded bespoke training on CAD Autodesk, which has helped automate the business’s goods lift design process, in turn reducing the wasted time and material caused by manual errors.

When the business acquired another local business, further significant investment was needed. Support from the Digital Upscaler project has brought new cyber security measures to this new division, a D2N2 Capital Growth Fund grant has supported the installation of a new IT system and computers, and a Green Entrepreneurs grant from Derbyshire County Council has aided the purchase of solar panels, LED lights, a ventilation system and a heating management system. Support has not ended with funding.

HR Director, Martha Penny, has benefitted from D2N2’s High Growth Women in Business peer network, as well as workshops on international trade such as shipping to and from Northern Ireland and post-Brexit international trade.

[www.pennyhydraulics.com](http://www.pennyhydraulics.com)



“Penny Hydraulics’ roots in this proud coal-mining heritage run deep, but its future has always been in its bold expansion plans. With every project it undertakes, it has considered how grant funding might support it. This has allowed it to continue to develop at pace and sustain the livelihoods of so many local people, 95% of whom live in Clowne village.”

**Prashant Gandabhai,**  
**Digital Upscaler & Made Smarter Technology Specialist**

“Since 2014, we’ve secured no less than £265,000 in grant funding. The support D2N2 Growth Hub partners have offered is immeasurable. Not only in pointing us to the right funding at the right time, but in their training and guidance on practical matters such as setting up Letters of Credit, and completion of post-Brexit import and export documentation.”

**Ashley Holmes,**  
**Finance Director**

