



TDP Furniture fit for a King!

Sector: Manufacture of recycled plastic garden furniture
Location: Wirksworth, Derbyshire Dales

Support Accessed

Business Adviser support • Digital Upscaler • Business Peak District • East Midlands Manufacturing Network • Funding: Business Investment Fund; East Midlands Accelerator; and Made Smarter • East Midlands Chamber Member services

About the Business

TDP is a family-run business that designs and manufactures sustainable, environmentally friendly recycled plastic furniture. Its customers include schools and care homes seeking to provide attractive and easy-clean, easy-maintenance outdoor seating areas, as well as home owners.



Challenges

The Covid pandemic served to pique the interest of the nation in its outdoor spaces. The business’s sales rocketed as a result, and its team of eight doubled in a very short space of time.

If this level of growth were to be sustained post-Covid, the business knew it needed to tap into external support – not least making the step change needed in both machinery and process.

The Solution and Impact

Its first port of call was D2N2 Growth Hub which supported the business in its application for an East Midlands Accelerator grant. This financial support helped the business develop its sustainability reporting, not simply to promote its own credentials but to lead the way as a green champion. It also funded attendance at environmental management and accreditation training with the University of Derby.

The close working relationship developed with the Growth Hub, and through membership of East Midlands Chamber and East Midlands Manufacturing Network, put the business in prime position to learn about further opportunities.

A capital grant from the Business Investment Fund (BIF) has enabled the business to invest in a new CNC machine. Now in situ, the machine is helping to accelerate production. A further BIF grant has supported the launch of a new ‘My Place & Story’ initiative, whereby the addition of QR codes to TDP’s memorial benches allows visitors to discover more about the life being celebrated and the place itself.

With a burgeoning order book, it was clear the business’s processes needed improvement. Support from Digital Upscaler Adviser, David Dobson helped prepare the groundwork for a Made Smarter grant. Funding secured is being spent on streamlining the business’s order processing system, digitising its product assembly line sheets, and on AutoCAD training.

www.tdp.co.uk



“TDP was one of the first in the East Midlands to receive Made Smarter funding. It’s a pleasure to support this family-run business on their digital transformation journey. A recipient of the King’s Award for Enterprise in 2023, this ethically-driven business has sustainability at heart. They have an exciting future ahead.”

David Dobson,
Digital Upscaler & Made Smarter Technology Specialist

“We knew we needed to increase our profile, both locally and nationally. Support from the Growth Hub, Digital Upscaler and Innovate UK teams has been on hand to put in place everything needed to give us the best possible chance of funding and awards success.”

Rob Barlow,
Marketing Director,
TDP Garden Furniture

