

E&S BUSINESS & FINANCE

A guide to Midlands commerce, industry and money matters

Precision firm claim over tax succeeds

Wolverhampton based R&D Tax and Grants has helped a Tamworth precision engineering company successfully reclaim research and development tax from HMRC.

Brown & Holmes, based on Apollo Park on the Lichfield Road Trading Estate in Tamworth, was established in 1939 and was family owned until March 2001, when it was sold.

The company later fell into administration, and in 2003 was taken over by two employees, Kevin Ward and Carl Baker, in a management buyout. As co-directors, Kevin and Carl had a three week window to organise the successful MBO, and enjoyed an £850,000 turnover in their first year. The company now has 47 staff and a 2009 turnover of £3.6m.

R&D Tax and Grants was set up in April 2009 to assist companies who invest in research and development by helping them claim back extra tax relief on every pound the business spends in developing new products or introducing new and improved processes.



Kevin Ward with Mark Evans, R&D

The company works with SMEs like Brown & Holmes – manufacturing companies with up to 500 employees and a turnover of less than 100 million euros – to help them receive tax refunds quickly, as well as similar annual reductions on their corporation tax bills in the future.

Kevin Ward, joint director of Brown & Holmes said: "I'd heard about R&D Tax and Grants. I wasn't sure that we would be a qualifying company, but if you don't ask, you don't get.

"I thought we might not be eligible because we weren't sure of where the parameters of research and development start and finish for our company.

"So, we sat down and analysed our business with the team from R&D Tax and Grants and discovered that around 35-45 per cent of our work is in research and development, and we were actually already marketing our research and development strengths.

"When you are familiar with what you've always done, you don't realise that what you are carrying out is research and development, but over the years our company has grown to dedicate itself largely to R and D."w