

Ashley Kingston, CEng MEng MIMechE

Operational Turnaround | Manufacturing Modernisation | Supply Chain Resilience | Interim Leadership

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Profile Summary

Operations Consultant & Chartered Engineer specialising in operational turnarounds, manufacturing modernisation, and supply chain resilience. Proven ability to reduce arrears, accelerate throughput, and deliver strategic capital plans across heavy engineering, EV drivetrains, test equipment, and luxury goods manufacturing.

Consultancy & Professional Experience

AMK BUSINESS CONSULTING LTD — Director / Principal Consultant

Manufacturing, Engineering & Operations Consultancy Services | 2017 – Present

- *Deliver operational turnarounds and manufacturing modernisation programmes that reduce arrears, increase throughput, and stabilise supply chains for SMEs and global engineering organisations.*
- *Provide interim leadership (Operations Director, Head of Operations, Production Manager) to restore control, embed planning discipline, and accelerate output.*
- *Lead strategic planning and capital equipment renewal programmes that improve reliability, reduce cost, and support long-term operational scalability.*

Renold Couplings — Interim Operations Director & Resourcing Consultant (2023 – 2026)

- **Operational Turnaround:** Reduced production arrears by over £1M by introducing KPI frameworks, redesigning cell structures, and modernising assembly processes.
- **Strategic Planning:** Devised and presented a 3-year Operations Strategy to the Renold Group CEO covering capital equipment replacement, stock rationalisation, planning system upgrades, and the productionisation of a unique military contract product line.
- **Critical Supply Chain Re-sourcing:** Led the successful re-sourcing of a business-critical rubber product range following sole-supplier cessation of business. Secured IP from outgoing supplier, updated legacy specifications/drawings, and established testing regimes for family-wide product approval.
- **Commercial Savings:** Negotiated £125k in direct cost savings while securing final production stock to maintain a seamless 2-year transition window without operational disruption.

James Purdey & Sons Ltd — Engineering & Operations Project Consultant (2021 – 2024)

- **Material & Process Innovation:** Researched and sourced new barrel materials to prepare for lead shot regulatory sunset clauses; specified surface technologies, testing regimes, and supply chain

updates to combat corrosion.

- **In-House Manufacturing & Modernisation:** Delivered in-house choke design/manufacturing capabilities and conducted a comprehensive feasibility study on renewing a failing machine shop (including detailed cost-benefit analysis, payback modelling, manning requirements, and CAPEX planning).
- **Process Upgrade:** Modernised legacy steel blackening production processes for enhanced quality and consistency.
- **Digital & Logistics Infrastructure:** Specified and designed a custom customer service web application with an external software house; performed 3rd-party logistics (3PL) scenario planning to mitigate post-Brexit supply chain risks.

Magtec — Interim Production Manager & Interim Head of Operations (2018 – 2021)

- **Interim Production Manager (2020 – 2021):** Led the battery and electronics assembly lines during rapid scale-up, providing operational stability, finite production planning, and process control during transition to full productionisation.
- **Interim Head of Operations (2018 – 2019):** Re-established HS&E frameworks, unblocked delayed bespoke engineering projects to restore customer trust, and established core production engineering functions. Standardised routing, formalised operational timings, and shipped 6 vehicles in 6 months (£800k revenue).

PREVIOUS OPERATIONAL POSITIONS

James Heal Ltd — Operations Manager (2014 – 2017)

- Managed overall operations and over 60 multi-disciplinary staff for a leading textile testing equipment manufacturer.
- Spearheaded HS&E cultural shift resulting in proactive risk management and record near-miss resolutions.
- Drove factory efficiency up by 10%, reduced scrap by 80% (£55k savings), and raised OTIF delivery from 60% to ~90%.
- Doubled weaving department output without expanding headcount; led £400k CAPEX mill-turn machine installation (slashing cycle times by 40% with a 3-year payback).

Renold Hi-Tec Couplings — Manufacturing Manager & Production Controller (2009 – 2014)

- **Manufacturing Manager (2013 – 2014):** Directed site manufacturing operations, achieving 2+ years without a RIDDOR event. Delivered continuous improvement projects saving £100k+.
- **Production Controller (2009 – 2013):** Boosted OTIF performance from 75% to 96%+ and reduced lead times by 8 weeks. Implemented statistical safety stock to free up £200k working capital and negotiated £18k/year savings on shipping terms with overseas suppliers.

Career Summary

Period	Company	Role	Sector/Scope
2017 – Present	AMK Business Consulting Ltd	Director / Principal Consultant	Manufacturing & Operations Consultancy
2014 – 2017	James Heal Ltd	Head of Operations	Textile Testing Equipment
2013 – 2014	Renold PLC	Manufacturing Manager	Heavy Engineering
2009 – 2013	Renold PLC	Production Controller	Heavy Engineering
2006 – 2009	CCL	Operations Engineer	Heavy Engineering
2003 – 2006	Crosslee	Planning Manager	Fast Moving Consumer Goods

Qualifications & Affiliations

- **Chartered Engineer (CEng MIMechE):** Institution of Mechanical Engineers / UK Engineering Council (Registration number 589721) (2011 – Present).
- **Chair of Governors & Finance Link Governor,** Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School (2024 - Present).
- **IMechE Yorkshire Region Committee Member & Publicity Officer:** (2011 – 2017).
- **IOSH Managing Safely:** Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (2014).
- **MEng (Hon) Automotive Engineering (Class 2:1):** University of Leeds (1999 – 2003).