

## Mark Hixon

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### **Managing Director, Consulting Associates Worldwide Limited**

BSc Physics (1983); PhD Metallurgy & Materials Science (1987)

I commenced as research scientist with Lucas Research. Transferred internally to become a Business Systems Engineer (implementing new manufacturing approaches e.g. Cellular Manufacturing, JIT, TQ etc.); joined Coopers & Lybrand as a Management Consultant in 1989 and then KPMG in 1996. Started own business in 2001.

### **What is the best thing about what you are doing now?**

It is the autonomy and control of my own destiny. I am now semi-retired and also own a B&B in Padstow [Coswarth House] so work is gradually becoming a thing of the past!

### **What was the best thing about your time as a PhD student here?**

Gaining more ability to work on my own and increasing my ability to think analytically.

### **In what way did living and studying in Birmingham live up to your expectations?**

In every way...it made be the person I am. I also made a few lifelong friends.

### **What advice would you give to current PhD students?**

Try to determine if what you are doing will make a difference to your life. If not, consider if you are doing it for the right reasons.

