

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2019

Medium Business Executive of the Year

Firm behind first jet engine flying higher

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**Winner: Mick Jenney,
Managing director of Harrison Castings**

A FORMER apprentice who went on to become the company's managing director is the winner of the Medium Business Executive Award sponsored by Lawson-West Solicitors.

Mick Jenney was recently involved,

along with fellow directors Lee Webster, Adrian Burton and Carly Kicks, in a management buy-out of Harrison Castings – a foundry that helped build Frank Whittle's first jet engines.

Having worked for the firm for 33 years, Mick is managing director of the



Mick Jenney, managing director of Harrison Castings (left) receives the Medium Business Executive of the Year Award, sponsored by Lawson-West Solicitors.

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company based in Gough Road, Leicester, and which is said to be the biggest aluminium sand foundry in the UK, employing more than 100 staff.

Three generations of the Harrison family had previously managed it during its 108-year history. In 1941, the Gloster-Whittle E28/39 – the first turbojet powered aircraft to fly successfully – used compressor casings cast in the foundry.

Annual turnover has hovered around the £12 million mark for the past few years and the business

exports its products to Europe and the United States.

Main customers include diesel engine manufacturers and makers of excavation machinery and gas turbines.

Mick said: "I have 33 years with this business. I finished my apprenticeship here and have spent the last 12 years as a director and the last six as managing director.

"We now want to grow exports, go into new markets and diversify a little bit to establish ourselves as a flexible business."

Runners up

Pankaj Panchoili, Just Egg: Pankaj runs a company which makes 1.2 million boiled eggs every week and is currently reinventing breakfast with his pre-cooked poached egg range complete with runny yolks. Just Egg, based in Hamilton, Leicester, is now investing £300,000 in a new factory to cook, chill and vacuum pack the free-range eggs. The firm employs 65 people preparing around 200,000 boiled eggs along with around 20 tonnes of mayonnaise a week, as well as pickled eggs and boiled eggs to Scotch egg makers and for the past two years has had a turnover of around £8m.

Paul Robinson MD at Alltruck: Paul is the managing director of an HGV leasing business which saw its profits grow 40% last year hopes to create more jobs in the months ahead. Alltruck provides truck rental, fleet services and contract hire for clients across the UK including the NHS. From its base in Leicestershire, it oversees a fleet of around 2,000 vehicles. The firm has seen strong growth in recent months which was reflected in the business recently gaining a platinum Investors In People (IIP) Award. The business, which saw pre-tax profits of almost £1m, has its headquarters in Croft, just outside Leicester.