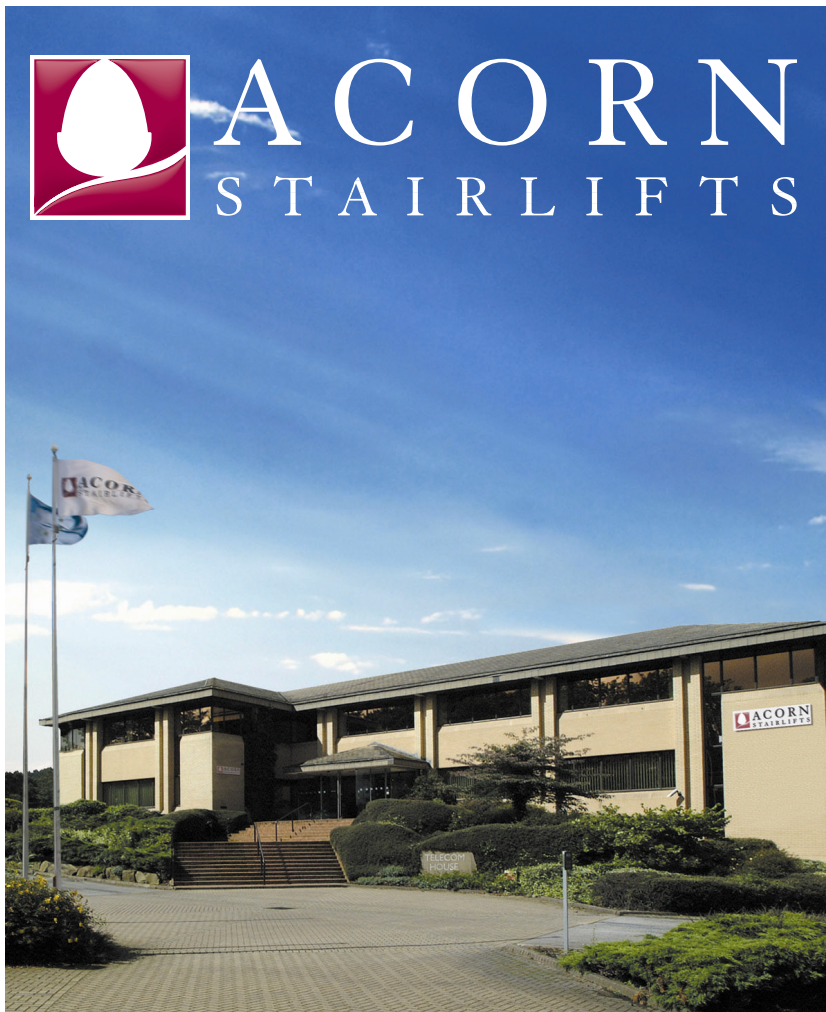


## Acorn Stairlifts



Acorn's continual growth has been spurred on by the entrepreneurial vision of the founder and chairman. This drive and determination has seen the company acquire both competitors and component suppliers. Acorn has also been at the forefront of advances in innovative design, product safety and the quality of stairlift production. Acorn pioneered the use of DC battery power which allows the stairlift to continue working in the event of a power cut, which has since become the industry standard and as technology evolves is constantly developing its product range.



## About the Company

Acorn Stairlifts is an international, privately owned company whose headquarters and manufacturing facilities are located within the Bradford district. Acorn has sales and distribution centres in Orlando (Florida, USA), Ontario (Canada), Sydney (Australia) and Düsseldorf (Germany). Following further expansion in 2009, the company now operates in 22 US states, and has added a new office in Queensland, New Zealand. The company also has a global network of dealers which enables Acorn Stairlifts to be distributed to over 90 countries worldwide.

Acorn's core business is the manufacture and sale of stairlifts and the company has over 1,000 employees worldwide with over 500 employees based within the Bradford district, and a group turnover of £70m. The present operation has grown significantly from Acorn's humble beginnings in the early nineties when the company had just a handful of employees operating from a small Bradford office.



## Key Facts

**Turnover: Over £70m**

**Local Jobs: Over 500**

**Location: Steeton, Bradford**

[www.acornstairlifts.co.uk](http://www.acornstairlifts.co.uk)

In 2008, Acorn acquired Bison Bede Stairlifts and in 2009 the company fully integrated the production of stairlift models which operate on non-standard and curved staircases. This has resulted in an expansion of their Steeton factory with the introduction of a new production line including a fully automated powder coating plant. This investment has resulted in the creation of 85 new jobs including CAD technicians, skilled machine operators and production operatives.



*The new powder coating plant in Steeton*

## Project Objectives

Invest in Bradford provided Acorn with ongoing advice and support to help their continued expansion. This included the initiation of a new skills programme through Train to Gain as well as an introduction to the local Knowledge Transfer Partnership at the University of Bradford.

## Company Feedback

Acorn Stairlifts Company Secretary Dave Belmont commented 'We very much appreciate the assistance provided by Invest in Bradford in the past and look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future'.

**'...we very much appreciate the assistance provided by Invest in Bradford ...'**

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## Key Facts

**Jobs Created: 85**

**Key partners:** Train to Gain via Bradford College, Local Impact, Bradford University and the Knowledge Transfer Partnership

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