# Success Story: Forged through UK Backing

## UK Catalytic Support Transforms Springs and Bolts into a Regional Manufacturing Success

*CEO Derrick Asamoah displays a U-bolt produced by Springs and Bolts.*

*Factory worker operating equipment at the Springs and Bolts original facility where the company's growth journey began.*

In Kumasi's Asokwa Industrial Area – Ashanti Region, about 250 km from Ghana's national capital, Accra – Springs and Bolts is demonstrating how, with targeted support from the UK, Ghanaian manufacturers are unlocking investment, expanding production, and competing across regional markets.

Springs and Bolts is a Free Zones-registered company that manufactures automotive aftermarket components, including leaf springs, U-bolts, and industrial fasteners used in trucks, buses, and other heavy-duty vehicles. The company exports around 70% of its outputs across West Africa. Today, it employs 28 workers, up from 19 a year earlier, and is preparing for a major expansion that could create at least 200 additional skilled jobs.

The company's journey began with founder **George Asamoah Amankwah**, who started as an automotive parts trader. Recognising a gap in the market for durable heavy-duty vehicle springs, he began developing products tailored to local operating conditions. However, despite strong technical expertise and growing demand, Springs and Bolts faced challenges familiar to many Ghanaian manufacturers: limited access to market intelligence, capital, and modern production technology.

***By 2024, that trajectory began to change.***

The UK Government's flagship **Ghana Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) Programme,** which works to unlock private capital, unblock policy constraints and create jobs in priority manufacturing sectors, partnered with Springs and Bolts to support its growth ambitions as the novelle automotive component manufacturer for leaf spring and U-bolts in West Africa.

The first intervention focused on generating critical market intelligence. JET supported a detailed market study that revealed significant untapped demand for automotive components across West Africa, much of which was being met through imports. The research also identified opportunities to improve product finishing, strengthen competitiveness, and increase market penetration.

"*We realised how large the market actually was and that many potential customers were not even aware of Springs and Bolts*," **says Derrick Asamoah Boahen, CEO of Springs and Bolts**.

The findings became the foundation for a broader growth strategy.

*Chief Strategist and Founder, George Asamoah Amankwah at the new state-of-the-art factory under construction when the JET team visited in February 2026*

The UK-backed support through JET was subsequently expanded to include strategic networking. Through the programme and its industry partners, Springs and Bolts participated in learning and market exposure activities, including a study tour to South Africa facilitated by the **African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM)**. During the visit, the company signed a memorandum of understanding with leading automotive component manufacturer **Supreme Springs**, creating opportunities for technology transfer and skills development.

*CEO Derrick Asamaoh (right) inspecting newly manufactured leaf springs during a JET programme team visit.*

As the business refined its growth strategy, JET also helped prepare the company for investment. The programme worked with Springs and Bolts to develop investment materials and a pitch deck that clearly articulated its business model, market opportunity, and expansion plans. In June 2024, these materials were shared with potential investors, including **Ghana Investment Support Platform (GhISP)** and **Growth Investment Partners (GIP)**, both part of the wider UK-backed investment ecosystem.

This investment readiness support helped position Springs and Bolts to secure growth capital. As a result, the company attracted a **US$1 million investment from Growth Investment Partners (GIP) Ghana Ltd**, an investment platform established by **British International Investment (BII)**.

The funding is supporting the establishment of a modern manufacturing facility that will triple production capacity, expand production lines, improve workplace safety, and create new employment opportunities.

Once operational, the expansion is expected to establish Ghana's first dedicated fasteners manufacturing plant, increase regional exports, and create at least 200 skilled jobs.

Former British High Commissioner to Ghana, **Harriet Thompson**, captured the broader significance of the investment:

***"This factory is a great example of how British investment is helping to grow strong local businesses, create good jobs, foster innovation, and strengthen the partnership between the UK and Ghana."***

*H.E. Harriet Thompson, former UK High Commissioner to Ghana (right) and Springs & Bolts CEO Derrick Asamoah during a factory visit.*


*Springs and Bolts team welcomes a UK-Ghana JET Programme colleague during a monitoring visit.*

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*The transformation is already visible. Monthly production has increased from **15 tonnes to 45 tonnes**, driven by steady raw material supply and higher machine efficiency. Customer numbers have grown from **80 to 95**, including **five additional high-value clients**.*

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"*Today, with better systems and consistent input supply, we are producing more efficiently, meeting larger orders, and confidently serving customers across the region*," says **Ebenezer Darko, Production Manager.**

The company has also strengthened its internal systems, introducing enhanced management practices, workplace organisation, and staff development programmes with support from the **Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders (SMMT) Industry Forum**, the UK's leading automotive industry body.

Today, Springs and Bolts exports to Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Côte d'Ivoire and is positioning itself to expand into additional African markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Its growth demonstrates how the UK is supporting Ghana not only as a longstanding development partner but increasingly as a **strategic investor and economic partner**. Through a combination of market intelligence, technical assistance, technology transfer, and investment mobilisation, the UK-

Ghana partnership is helping businesses build productive capacity, create jobs, and expand regional trade.

For Springs and Bolts, the journey from a small family-run operation to an emerging regional manufacturer shows what is possible when local entrepreneurship is connected to the right expertise, networks, and investment.

More broadly, it offers a compelling example of how UK-backed support is helping to drive Ghana's industrial growth, strengthen regional value chains, and deepen UK-Ghana economic cooperation.

*CEO Derrick Asamoah at the new factory site during a monitoring visit in February 2026 | automated spring and fastener manufacturing machine procured for the expansion project.*

*CEO Derrick Asamaoh (right) meeting auto mechanics from Mali placing leaf spring orders*

*HR Manager Akosua Asamoah (left) interacting with workers on the factory floor*