

## East Kilbride & District Engineering Group Training Association Ltd.

### Mission Statement

"EKGTA aims to serve the training needs of employers, whilst offering individuals the chance to develop the knowledge and skills necessary in employment"

### Editor's comments

**Impact**, the in-house newsletter from EKGTA is intended to keep member companies and other customers informed about the latest innovations and developments being undertaken by the Association.

We hope that the news, views and updates contained herein have real **impact** on our readers and we welcome feedback from you, along with any contributions for future issues.

### Apprentice Recruitment 2010

As most of our regular readers will be aware East Kilbride Group Training Association (EKGTA) has been providing training and vocational assessment to local employers for over forty years particularly in relation to Modern Apprenticeships in:

- Engineering (production, maintenance, mechanical, electrical, fabrication, etc)
- Polymer Processing and Related Operations
- Management
- Distribution & Warehousing



August 2009 Intake

Modern Apprenticeships are nationally recognised training pathways designed to attract bright, able young people to industry and provide them with the high level of work based skills required by many employers and with a wide range of available qualifications.

For the last three years we have been very successful. 2009 was again a successful year which resulted in a total of 93 apprentices from 19 different companies commencing their training through EKGTA.

Throughout 2010 EKGTA will be supporting companies in a variety of locations to source and recruit apprentices with the main drive already commenced for 2010 Intake. The Association is already in consultation with some companies regarding their apprenticeship recruitment needs and we can help in the following aspects:

1. Contacting all local Careers Offices to inform them of vacancies and to encourage them to promote the vacancies throughout their Career Office network and co-ordinating advertising if needed.
2. Placing an electronic application form on the ekgta website and accept letters of application; responding with paper based application forms and issuing test interview dates.
3. Conducting relevant tests at EKGTA for applicants: (Numeracy / Mechanical Ability / IT Skills).
4. Conducting first 'screening interview' at EKGTA with each applicant and completing a feedback sheet for each company.
5. Providing the company with short list for interview in their premises.
6. Assisting with in-company interview, if required.
7. When the applicant has been selected by company assisting with relevant paperwork if required.
8. Sourcing grant funding from Skills Development Scotland to help offset the cost of an apprenticeship training programme.

If you are an Employer who is considering offering apprenticeship opportunities throughout 2010 and are interested in finding out more about how EKGTA can help you in this process, contact the under named for further information on Recruitment / Training of Apprentices.

**For more information Contact Brian Boyle 01355 229985 or e-mail [bb@ekgta.com](mailto:bb@ekgta.com).**

### Special points of interest

- Scottish Businesses benefiting from Scot Action
- Andy Kerr visits EKGTA

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A company incorporated in Scotland

No 54257

VAT Reg No: 361 3186 67

A Charity registered in Scotland:

No SC014997

## Company Spotlight

**INDEPENDENT *ig* GLASS CO. LTD.**



As one of the UK's largest independent toughened glass manufacturers and glass merchants, Independent Glass processes and supplies weekly, over 400 tonnes of flat toughened safety glass for architectural, automotive, transportation, marine and rail applications. This covers everything from conservatory windows to high speed trains. With access to the most diverse range of glass available in the UK, the company are able to supply worldwide trade with all types of glass ranging from domestic picture glass to specialist fire resistant glass.

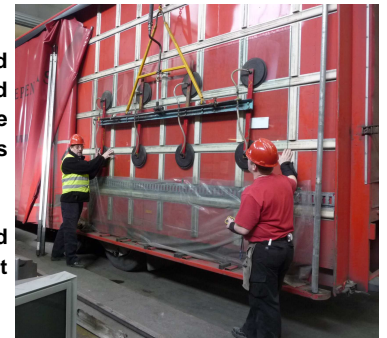


Because of the nature of their business, quality and safety are paramount. To that end they are a leading member of the Glass and Glazing Federation and place great emphasis on experience, expertise, capability, reliability and the continual improvement of their staff through their fully developed quality control system. To meet these exacting standard. They have achieved ISO 9002 plus a range of other British and International standards for their products.

Operating from their purpose-built factory and distribution facilities their Toughened and Merchant Divisions are equipped with state of the art horizontal glass tempering furnaces and heat soaking facilities, with full forklift and crane facilities on site. Orders from the warehouse are delivered by their fleet of purpose-built, specialist toughened glass transportation vehicles with carrying capacities ranging from 1.5 tonnes to 24 tonnes.

As a member company of EKGTA Ltd, Independent Glass utilises many of the services provided by the association, including apprenticeship training, fork lift truck operator training, specialist lifting appliance operator training and general health & safety training.

For further information on Independent Glass and their products; Contact Alistair McKillop, on 0141 429 8700, or e-mail [hr@independentglass.co.uk](mailto:hr@independentglass.co.uk)



Specialist lifting training being provided by EKGTA staff

## Scottish Businesses benefiting from Scot Action

On November 2009 the Cabinet Secretary for Lifelong Learning announced that the Scottish Government would provide funding for Skills Development in Business Improvement Techniques (BIT) during the 2009-10 financial year.

The first successful candidates to be presented with their SVQ Level 2 BIT Award are pictured here.

The first Company to benefit from this initiative is the Defence Support Group (DSG), one of the largest defence equipment support providers in the country.

They employ 3800 personnel at 12 sites throughout the UK, dedicated to the core mission of providing high-quality and cost effective support to the UK Armed Forces.

Their wide range of capabilities play a key part in the provision of cost-effective through life capability management. They have the in-house capability to strip, replace, repair, rebuild and assemble equipments ranging from binoculars and small arms through to large aircraft and armoured fighting vehicles. From maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrades of key air and land equipment, mobile and in-barracks equipment support, fleet management, calibration, electronics, components, logistic support solutions to spares procurement and provisioning their primary objective, coupled with extensive expertise gained over several decades, remains to extend the in-service life of equipment.

At the heart of DSG are their people; they are pivotal to their reputation and success. Their skills and expertise make DSG a lean and forward thinking business with an impressive pedigree of military capabilities. With this in mind EKGTA recently undertook to deliver an SVQ Level 2 in Business Improvement Techniques to three Supervisors from the Stirling facility. As part of the DSG Stirling Operational Excellence Team Barry McIntyre, James Mulvenna, Steven Campbell had undergone specific training. Their need to put this training into practice presented the opportunity to develop evidence for the SVQ. Working closely with their EKGTA Assessor, Jim Lewars and each presented a portfolio for assessment and verification in a period of just 3 months.

The achievement of this qualification has put them firmly on the road to Business Excellence.



From left to right Barry McIntyre, James Mulvenna and Steven Campbell with B.I.T Assessors Jim Lewars

## Level 1 BSC Certificate in Health & Safety at Work

EKGTA prides itself in being an organisation that takes the Health & Safety of staff and trainees seriously and is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.



Part of this commitment is to ensure all staff obtain relevant Health & Safety Qualifications. As long standing members of the British Safety Council the Association is approved to train, examine and certificate in a number of H&S qualifications.

The importance of Health and Safety training can sometimes be underestimated, but we at EKGTA see it as the foundation to all types and forms of training delivered by our staff. During the induction which is delivered to new staff and trainees, a comprehensive programme has been developed to deliver the underpinning knowledge to participate, work and maintain a healthy and safe environment. Being able to test that this knowledge has not only been imparted but is also able to be "lived out" is vital to the success of the Association.



EKGTA 2009 cohort with their certificates

Over the last four years the Training Unit has utilised the Level 1 BSC Certificate in Health & Safety at Work exam as an additional means of measuring the effectiveness of the Health & Safety training delivered during induction. A total of 248 trainees and staff have now taken the exam. We are delighted to report that to date we have achieved a superb 100% pass rate. The success has meant that this qualification has now been adopted into the Foundation Training for all Apprentices who attend the EKGTA Training Centre.

The qualification has now been added to the portfolio of training offered by EKGTA and can be used as a measurement tool for companies who are looking to improve health and safety awareness in the workplace.

For more information on this and other Health & Safety courses, please visit our web site [www.ekgta.com](http://www.ekgta.com) or contact Derek Syme on 01355 229985

## Primary Schools K'nex Challenge

In a process similar to EKGTA's Chairman's Award competition, the Junior Engineers for Britain K'nex Challenge requires the pupils (approximately aged 8 - 11 years old) from primary schools to work in pairs and involves them in building a design solution to a problem that has been set by Young Engineers. The challenge encourages the pupils to develop and demonstrate their problem solving skills, their imagination, creativity and ingenuity as well as early project management skills. The pupils start the challenge by drawing their ideas first and then building their solution, adapting their initial designs as they learn what works and what doesn't.

The Junior Engineer for Britain K'NEX Challenge has a long and established history with thousands of pupils taking part each year. Following a series of regional finals, a National Final will be held in June 2010 and it is expected that over 30 teams will be invited to attend.



Blacklaw Primary 2010 K'nex Challenge Winners

Having gained experience in this area through EKGTA's Chairman's Award competition, Jim Holmes EKGTA's IT Instructor, assisted in this years K'nex Challenge as one of the judges at the regional cluster recently held at Calderglen high school. The level of design and engineering skills demonstrated by all of the numerous teams provided the judges with considerable difficulty, but with their innovative design of a moon buggy the winners were the pair from Blacklaw Primary school.

We look forward to seeing many of these young engineers passing through EKGTA's doors in the future, Well done to all of them!

## **Andy Kerr (MSP for East Kilbride) visits EKGTA**



*Derek Syme and Stuart Waugh with Andy Kerr during his visit to EKGTA in April 2010*

EKGTA has always prided itself on its “open door” policy and this was once again evident by a recent visit of Mr Andy Kerr MSP, member for East Kilbride, who is currently the Labour Party Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance. As a local MSP and someone who was brought up and educated in East Kilbride, Andy was interested in learning more about the Association and the companies it works with. He kindly accepted the invitation to be the principal guest of honour at EKGTA’s Annual Awards Ceremony which is scheduled to take place on the 20th May this year.

Prior to this Andy decided to enhance his knowledge and understanding of Apprenticeships in general and engineering in particular and this prompted him to visit the centre on 16/04/2010. During his visit he was given a presentation on the services offered by the Association and a comprehensive tour of the centre’s facilities. He then had the opportunity to talk directly to staff and trainees and seemed impressed by the experience gained by trainees during their Foundation Training. We look forward to welcoming Andy again at the awards ceremony.

## **EKGTA– Short Course Provision**

With the recession diminishing and economic activity improving it is a good time to review your training requirement. The following open courses have been scheduled and are therefore recommended for your attention:

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>AutoCAD Essentials</b>	<b>17-05-2010</b>	<b>3 Days</b>
<b>Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)</b>	<b>24-05-2010</b>	<b>3 Days</b>
<b>17th Edition IEE Regulations</b>	<b>21-06-2010</b>	<b>3 Days</b>
<b>17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-Date)</b>	<b>28-06-2010</b>	<b>1 Day</b>
<b>Basic Electrical Skills for non-electrical personnel</b>	<b>28-06-2010</b>	<b>5 Days</b>
<b>AutoCAD Essentials</b>	<b>05-07-2010</b>	<b>3 Days</b>

*17<sup>th</sup> Edition up-date courses are also available however there are strict criteria for attendance laid down by City & Guilds for attendance:*

In order for candidates to enter this qualification they must hold one of the following qualifications, which address the requirements of the 16th Edition June 2001 BS 7671:

- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in the Requirements for Electrical Installations (BS 7671: June 2001) (2381), or*
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology Installation (Building and Structures) (2330-07), or*
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology Electrical Maintenance (2330-08), or*
- *City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Electrical Installations Part Two (2360) (from 1 January 2004 onwards only)*

**Candidates must produce evidence that they have one of the above qualifications and are also required to provide photographic ID. Certification from other providers is not acceptable.**

**For full details of the above courses and to view our full prospectus please visit our web site [www.ekgta.com](http://www.ekgta.com)**

**Also if you have a specific training requirement, not listed, please don't hesitate to call to discuss your needs. Please note that we also offer extensive Health & Safety training which is tailored to meet client's specific requirements.**

**Places are available on all courses; call Derek Syme, Training Manager, on 01355 229985 or e-mail [drs@ekgta.com](mailto:drs@ekgta.com). to secure your place.**