

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.

Special points of interest

- Recruitment 2007
- Changes at EKGTA
- Short Course Provision

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Newsflash

Supported Learning
(See Attachment)

Apprenticeships – 2007 Intake

By the end of September 2007 over 100 Apprentice's from more than 40 different companies will have started their engineering foundation training at EKGTA's Training Centre. This is the culmination of 4/5 months work between EKGTA and employers to source and recruit interested and suitable individuals for the apprenticeship vacancies.



2007 Intake of Apprentices

The apprentices will be the first group to undertake the new combined Vocational and Academic foundation training programme as described in the Engineering Change article on page 2.

Some of the Companies who have recruited apprentice's for 2007 intake with EKGTA include: Anderson Precision Gears, Baker Oil Tools, Carclo Technical Plastics, National Semiconductor, Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Convertteam UK, Devro, Machine Tool Engineers, Honeywell Building Services, McAlpines, Philips Lighting, Rolls-Royce, Stannah Lifts, Star Refrigeration, Thales Optronics, Valve Component Ltd, WES Alloa, Clyde Pumps (incorporating Weir Pumps Glasgow), Nampak Plastics, GCC Lifts, BMI Healthcare, RDT, MB Aerospace, AG Barr. AU Automation, Bausch & Lomb, T-Square, Tunnocks, First Engineering, Clansman Dynamics

Open Evening

As a part of our commitment to the development of these apprentices EKGTA holds an annual Open Evening to which we invite the parents of all trainees both employed and non-employed to inform them of the programme being undertaken by the trainees. The event is intended to be informative and yet fairly informal. It will start with presentations by key members of staff. Stuart Waugh the General Manager will introduce the Association and its standards. Derek Syme the Training Workshop Manager will focus on the Foundation Training programme and the requirements of the awarding bodies. Jim Lewars, one of the Training Advisors, will concentrate on the on the job component to achieve an SVQ Level 3 qualification and the in-company monitoring and assessment of trainees. The presentations will be followed by a short tour of the centre where parents will be able to meet members of the Instructional Team. The evening is concluded with a short question and answer session in which parents are encouraged to ask questions and raise any concerns or issues they might have

The event will also be open to representatives of companies who have apprentices at the Centre and this gives the parents the opportunity to talk directly to the employer. At the time of publication dates for this years Open Evenings have still to be confirmed. Invitations will be sent out shortly and we will extend a warm welcome to all who decide to attend.

Engineering Change at EKGTA



2007 has seen major reviews of the Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering Framework in Scotland and the structure and content of the SVQ Level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations coming to a conclusion and the approved changes will now be implemented from summer of this year for all new engineering apprentices.

Many of our clients may be aware that the various units for the SVQ L2 in PEO, which is the foundation training element of the modern apprenticeship, have been updated and re-structured and the all-new units will have to be in place for the new intake of apprentices in August 07. The main difference is each apprentice will now have to complete 5 technical units and 3 mandatory units as a requirement of the SVQ and the MA programme and the technical units are more detailed than ever before.

This change, coupled with an upturn in the engineering industry and an increased interest by companies to take on new apprentices, has presented EKGTA with the opportunity to make some major changes to the approach and form of our delivery of apprenticeship training and to reorganise and improve the training facilities at our Training Centre.

The first challenge was to consider how we could increase our overall training capacity for apprentices within the resources available and this has required developing a whole new approach to our delivery. This new approach will have a duration of 36 weeks (off the job) training and assessment at EKGTA, encompassing 20 weeks on the PEO and 16 weeks on the further education component, both on a full time basis. This will enable us to have 2 main intakes per year each capable of handling over 50 trainees. In 2007, the first intake will start on the 6th August in the training workshop for 20 weeks foundation training. The second intake will start on the 27th August at the centre on the further education component for 16 weeks. In January 2008, both intakes will swap and the programmes will end in May 2008. Our F.E. partners at Langside College have also risen to the challenge and have planned to be able to deliver the National Certificate programme in the 16 weeks on a full time basis, instead of on day release over a 2 year period. This will all be achieved without compromising the number of learning hours for trainees or the high standards that we work to.



The second challenge has been to reorganise the engineering training workshop to make the most of the space and the training resources available. All areas have had a makeover; the milling section now has a CNC suite with the programming and machining areas adjacent to each other making it easier to network the machines, the conventional machines have been relocated and a further 2 machines purchased; the turning section has had some machines relocated and an additional 2 lathes have been purchased; the electrical section has had its space and resources increased to enable staff to address the increased requirements for the electrical units; the fitting section has been cleared of surplus equipment which has freed-up valuable space and improved the lecturing facility; finally the whole workshop has been redecorated and new flooring has been laid.



These developments have involved an enormous amount of hard work by everyone at the Training Centre and throughout we have been able to maintain a training capability for our customers. The end result is a pristine training facility, which is fully functional and capable of meeting the challenges for many years to come.



We look forward to our client company representatives visiting our new facilities

EKGTA Long Distance Work Experience



David MacLeod

Regular readers will be aware that each year EKGTA takes part in South Lanarkshire School's Work Placement Scheme. Approximately 3500 students are placed on work experience every year and it is reported that their overwhelming opinion is that the experience is most worthwhile and that it frequently helps them to see their future more clearly.

As a direct result of our growing reputation. EKGTA was asked to support a placement of a student from the Isle of Lewis who is interested in pursuing a career in Engineering.

This resulted in the placement of David MacLeod who is in his 6th year at Nicolson Institute, Stornaway. David has already achieved Highers in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Technological Studies, and English and recently sat Highers in Information Systems and Gaelic and Advanced Highers in Physics and Technological Studies and is considering furthering his learning through a career in engineering.

David is looking to move to the mainland to either take up a Course at University or to secure an apprenticeship with a company. He is interested in Electrical/Electronic Engineering. During his time at the centre he worked in the CAD, and in the Fitting and Electrical sections learning the basics of what training an Apprentice Engineer requires. David stated that the experience he gained has had helped him to understand the different types of Engineering and given him an appetite for pursuing this as a Career.

David's hobbies include playing and watching football and he plays for Western Thistle Under 18's and Carloway Senior Clubs.

Margo Retires

The Association is sad to announce the retirement of our Administration Supervisor Mrs Margo Muir on 24th March 2007. Margo started work with the Association on 23rd January 1995 and during her time at EKGTA made a significant contribution to the work undertaken within the administration unit and the development of the Unit as a whole.

At a presentation held on 22nd March 2007 the Chairman presented Margo with a token of appreciation from the Association. Margo said that she would now be able to spend more time indulging in her hobbies which included gardening and travelling, she stated that she had thoroughly enjoyed working at EKGTA and would miss all her colleagues.

We at the Association would like to acknowledge Margo's contribution to the success of EKGTA over the years and would like to wish Margo and her husband Iain good health and a happy retirement.



Chairman Hugh McKinnon and Margo

AutoDesk Approved Training Centre

Autodesk
Authorized Training Center

As AutoCAD is playing an ever increasing role in design and manufacture, EKGTA is pleased to maintain its partnership with AutoDesk as one of only 4 Authorised Training Centres in Scotland, and has recently achieved '2008 Ready' status. During the spring and early summer months our AutoCAD Suite has been very busy providing a wide range courses to customers such as Star Refrigeration, PS Autogrinding, BAE Systems, Thales Optronics and large groups of structural, civil and electrical engineers from Inverclyde, North and South Lanarkshire Councils. The level of training provided during these courses varied from the essentials foundation course, customised courses, and upgrade or transitional courses from previous versions of the software to the latest versions. Demand is rising for these courses to the extent we have now scheduled at least one course per month for the coming year.

To enable EKGTA to keep pace with the recent developments in parametric and solid modelling we evaluated a range of 3D packages, including SolidEdge and Pro/ENGINEER. With our close relationship with AutoDesk the decision was an easy one, AutoDesk Inventor software with the fastest and easiest migration path to 3D, has outsold all competitors four years running and is possibly the best choice for AutoCAD users. Plans are in place to allow Jim Holmes, our Approved AutoDesk Instructor to add the Inventor range of software to his accreditation and a range of new Inventor courses will be published in the near future.



Some recent AutoCAD 2008 trainees

New Kid on the Block

EKGTA is pleased to announce a new addition to its training team.

Tom Sloan joined EKGTA on 30th April 2007 in the role of Training instructor/ Assessor. Tom served his apprenticeship as a toolmaker in a small sub contract press shop in Ayrshire where he attained a City & Guilds MEC parts I and II. This was mainly working in press tool, jigs & fixture manufacturing.

Over the years Tom has worked in many different manufacturing industries throughout Scotland ranging from Aircraft components, combine harvesters, water/sewer valves, ball/roller bearings, in Ayrshire. In Aberdeen he worked in drill bit manufacture, and in Lanarkshire he was employed by a Medical Device Manufacturing company.



Tom Sloan

During the 1980's Tom made the decision to return to full time education and he went back to study at Paisley University where he attained a Bachelor of Engineering degree with distinction. For the past 3 years Tom has been working in the Further Education sector and most recently was employed by Forth Valley College as an Engineering lecturer.

Tom is married to Janice and has a son and daughter, 5 Grandchildren and waiting on a sixth (boy). He states that his main hobby is bowling. Presently he holds the position of Secretary of Strathclyde Bowling Club in Hamilton. During his time in Aberdeen he also represented the Bon Accord Bowling Association in the Counties cup competition.

His other hobbies include reading, mainly fiction and admits to having a wide and varied taste. He also enjoys relaxing by spending time in his garden. As a member of the Scottish National Trust he also enjoys visiting the excellent gardens they have. He lists his favourite as Pitmedden Gardens in Aberdeenshire.

Tom has settled in well at EKGTA and is currently training apprentices and helping them to gain their Level 2 Scottish Vocational Qualification in Performing Engineering Operations.

Short Course Provision Sept 07–Jan 08

EKGTA constantly strives to satisfy the training requirements of our clients throughout the year and presently the Training Workshop is heavily committed to Apprentice Training. Regular readers will know that the apprentice programme lasts mainly August to May each year.

Although the training centre at EKGTA is extremely busy with core training there are still opportunities available for short courses. The following open courses have been scheduled and are therefore recommended for your attention:

During September – January we will also be running the following course which have not yet been scheduled, please call if you are interested:

- Abrasive Wheels - Mounting & Dressing
- Abrasive Wheel Regulations
- Manual Handling
- MS Office courses
- AutoCAD Essentials (All Revisions through to 2008, inc LT Versions)

Also if you have a specific training requirement, not listed, please don't hesitate to call to discuss your needs.

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

Date	Duration	Course Title
13-09-2007	1 Day	Risk Assessment
05-11-2007	3 days	16th Edition IEE Regulations
15-11-2007	2 days	Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)