

## 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

- Calling all Bright Sparks
- CEED
- Apprenticeship Recruitment 2008

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## Calling all "Bright Sparks"

### (17<sup>th</sup> Edition IEE Wiring Regulations)



BS 7671 (The IEE Wiring Regulations) are the national standard to which all domestic and industrial wiring must conform. The 17<sup>th</sup> Edition IEE Wiring Regulations is a long overdue update on the 16<sup>th</sup> Edition Wiring Regulations.

Many of you will be aware the new Wiring Regulations come into effect for all new installation after the 1st July 2008.

Some electrical contractors may ask why we need another Edition of the Wiring Regulations.

A combination of new technologies, products and continuing harmonization mean that the Wiring Regulations have to incorporate many changes; and we can expect no let up in this progress as time goes by.

The regulations have now been published and EKGTA has been working hard in conjunction with the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) to design the high standard courses that our clients expect from us in this subject matter.

There are 2 new courses available:

1. 17<sup>th</sup> Edition IEE Wiring Regulations BS7671-10 which will be the full 3 Day course for individuals who do not have the 16<sup>th</sup> edition.
2. 17<sup>th</sup> Edition IEE Wiring Regulations (Up-Date) BS7671-20 which will be a 1 Day course for individuals who can provide proof that they hold the 16<sup>th</sup> edition.

Both courses end with a multiple choice PC based examination and successful candidates will receive the City & Guilds Level 3 certificate in the requirements for electrical installations.

As part of our commitment to provide a high quality learning experience EKGTA has invested in an exam simulator which will help our candidates to familiarise themselves with the multiple choice PC based examination.

As this qualification is a requirement for anyone involved in Electrical Installations we anticipate a high demand and to that end we will be running at least one course per month. The first course took place on the 15-17<sup>th</sup> April and was well received.

Places on our course will be on a first come basis and we are taking bookings now.

To view full course outlines and future scheduled courses please visit our web site at [www.ekgta.com](http://www.ekgta.com) or contact Derek Syme, Training Manager on 01355 229985

## Unfinished Business



From Left to Right Chris Edmiston (Lead Engineer), Jim Spiers (Chief Engineer), Hugh McKay (Engineering Manager) Alan Thornton ( MD )

Jim Spiers started an Engineering Apprenticeship with Govan Shipbuilders in 1987. But not long into his apprenticeship Jim was concerned about the decline in the Shipbuilding Industry and therefore he accepted an offer of employment from Caledonian Industries Ltd, a newly established company which specialises in the packaging industry. Despite this position not being a recognised Apprenticeship, it did offer a variety of opportunities to him in the manufacturing sector.

Over the years Jim developed many skills in the different departments of the organisation and this did not go unnoticed, resulting in his promotion to Supervisor.

A merger took place in 2000 with a company called Ferguson Timpson which operates in the Oil and Gas industry.

This merger opened up further opportunities for Jim to develop other skills, particularly in Precision Engineering.

As a consequence this resulted in Jim embarking on a Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering programme through EKGTA in 2004. He recently successfully completed the programme, which included the achievement of an SVQ Level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations, SVQ Level 3 in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering and a National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering from the SQA.

Jim has commented that he was delighted to complete the Modern Apprenticeship programme and saw it as “unfinished business” from his Shipbuilding days. He went on to thank Alan Thornton (Managing Director) and Drew Alexander (EKGTA Training Advisor) for all their support, help and guidance throughout the programme.

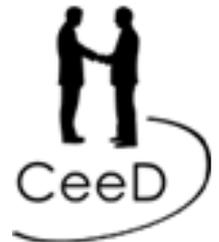
Alan Thornton commented on Jim’s achievement as being great news for the company, which is not only investing in plant and equipment but also its staff. It also demonstrates that there are no barriers to learning and developing and this should be an encouragement for all of our staff.

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## Centre for Engineering Education and Development (CEED)

Over the last couple of years a small group of industrialists and academics in Scotland have been exploring the benefits of businesses working together in clusters to identify and facilitate technical enhancements that can significantly improve their individual business performance.

As a result of this several of Scotland’s leading companies have formed themselves into a group to share knowledge and experience. The companies involved span many sectors including engineering, science, technology, IT and manufacturing. Their aim is to identify practical solutions to business issues that allow improvements in the operational efficiency, competitiveness and profitability of these companies.



Cluster Groups have been formed in the following strategic areas:

- Modern Apprenticeships
- Lean Manufacturing
- Environmental Issues
- Supply Chain Management

The experience of those participating so far has reinforced their conviction of the business value of cross-sectoral cluster interaction, with academic participation.

Non members can attend any of the bubble group meetings by invitation, but companies wishing to participate in any of the cluster groups must join as members.

EKGTA is proud to be a member of CEED and plays an active role in the Modern Apprentice, Lean Manufacturing and Environmental Clusters

*If you wish to learn more about how CEED operates and the benefits for your company visit their Website at [www.ceed-scotland.com](http://www.ceed-scotland.com) or contact Keith Sparshott on 0141 800 5103*

## Graduate Training Programme



A trio of graduates currently working under the Engineering Graduate Training Programme with Rolls-Royce recently undertook, as a part of their continuing development, a Design and Build Project.

This project consisted of the graduates completing the design and planning schedules to enable the manufacture and assembly of all parts of an reciprocating air engine to a design specification within the given timescale within a specified research and development budget.

The graduates were exposed to and gained skills in the various workshop practices such as milling, turning, fitting, welding, surface grinding and assembly processes. In addition to these 'hard skills' they reinforced their training with the use of CAD systems, Project Management, Spreadsheet and Word Processing programmes in the development of a report outlining the design and build process. The final stage of the project was a presentation, using PowerPoint, on the success of their project. Geraldine, Catherine and Glenn thoroughly enjoyed their time in the training centre.



The Finished Article

*If you are an Employer who feels your Graduates would benefit from this type of experience Contact Jim Holmes on 01355 229985 or e-mail [jdh@ekgta.com](mailto:jdh@ekgta.com).*

## Apprenticeship Recruitment 2008



As most of our regular readers will be aware East Kilbride Group Training Association (EKGTA) has been providing training and 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

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.

2007 was a particularly successful year which resulted in a total of 97 apprentices from 37 different companies commencing their training through EKGTA.

Throughout 2008 EKGTA will be supporting companies in a variety of locations to source and recruit apprentices with the main drive beginning early spring of 2008. The Association is already in consultation with some companies regarding their recruitment needs and we can help in the following aspects:

1. Contacting all local Careers Office 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. Accepting letters of application; responding with application forms and issuing test interview date.
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 assist with relevant paperwork if required.
8. Source grant funding from Scottish Enterprise to help offset the cost of an apprenticeship training programme.

If you are an Employer who is considering offering apprenticeship opportunities throughout 2008 and are interested if finding out more about how EKGTA can help you in this process, contact the under named for further information.

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

## Apprenticeships help small businesses

Running apprenticeship schemes can help improve the competitiveness of small businesses, new figures suggest.

In a survey carried out by the Learning Skills Council (LSC), eight out of ten small firms that responded said that apprenticeships made their business more competitive, while seven out of ten believed apprentices raised productivity. Some 86 per cent of smaller employers also thought that apprenticeship schemes helped provide them with the skilled workforce they needed for future development.

Apprenticeship schemes were also considered cost effective. Nearly two thirds of SMEs said that training apprentices made more financial sense than recruiting fully skilled employees. Stephen Gardner, director of apprenticeships at the LSC, said: "These survey results confirm the significant benefits that all employers achieve from apprenticeships, from increased competitiveness and overall productivity to improved staff retention and motivation."

To mark the first ever Apprenticeships Week, the TUC and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) have called for apprenticeships to be given greater recognition for the role they play in business and employment.

The FSB is backing the TUC's call for an increase in the minimum weekly wage for apprentices from £80 to £110, once legislation has been passed to extend wage contributions to small employers who are taking on an apprentice. Both organisations want to see an improvement in the numbers of apprenticeships that are completed. With research suggesting a link between poor pay and completion rates, it is hoped that better pay will encourage more apprentices to stay the course.

The TUC and FSB also said they support more diversity and quality within apprenticeships.

John Wright, the FSB's national chairman, said: "Apprenticeships provide employees with the tools to lead an active and rewarding working life and employers can only benefit from this. We are delighted that the Government is promoting apprenticeships, and feel it is right for a 35 hour working apprentice to be paid £110 a week so long as the Government extends the offer of wage contribution towards apprenticeships through Train to Gain."

Brendan Barber, the TUC's general secretary, added: "Apprenticeships are a great way for people to earn and learn, while employers benefit from skilled workers. The quality and diversity of apprenticeships must improve if they are to grow over the next decade. Completion rates are an important indicator of quality, and improving pay is crucial to ensuring that people can afford to complete their course."

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## EKGTA – Short Course Provision

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:

Course Title	Dates	Duration
21-04-2008	AutoCAD Essentials	
29-04-2008	PUWER Regulations (1998) as applied to Power Presses	
30-04-2008	17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-date)	
19-05-2008	Abrasive Wheel Regulations	
19-05-2008	Abrasive Wheels - Mounting & Dressing	
20-05-2008	Manual Handling Techniques	
20-05-2008	Safety with Industrial Gases	
21-05-2008	Engineering Drawing Skills	
27-05-2008	AutoCAD Essentials	
29-05-2008	17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-date)	
02-06-2008	17th Edition IEE Regulations	
09-06-2008	Basic Electrical Skills for non-electrical personnel	
16-06-2008	Basic Electrical Skills for non-electrical personnel	
23-06-2008	Basic Electrical Skills for non-electrical personnel	
30-06-2008	17th Edition IEE Regulations	
03-07-2008	17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-date)	

*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.*

*Places are available on all courses; To secure your place.*

*see EKGTA's Website or contact Derek Syme, on 01355 229985 or e-mail [drs@ekgta.com](mailto:drs@ekgta.com)*