



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

- V.I.P Visit
- Scottish MA Awards 2008

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Christmas Message 2008

The Board of Directors, General Manager and all the staff at EKGTA wish to extend the compliments of the season to all our readers. As we look forward to 2009 we hope it will be a happy and prosperous New Year for all.



Apprentice Intake 2008



August 2008 Intake outside the centre

In August 2008 a total of 102 Apprentice's from 39 different companies and a further 10 Non-employed apprentices commenced their foundation training at EKGTA. They are undertaking a 36-Week training programme, which includes both practical training and vocational assessment over a 20 week period, culminating in them achieving a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) at Level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations. To enable them to meet the Academic requirement of the Apprenticeship framework, they also have to complete successfully a 16 week further education course run by our partners Langside

College and achieve a National Certificate (NC) in either Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

The apprentices have been divided into 2 groups with one group starting in the Training Workshop on the SVQ and the other starting on the further education component. Both groups should achieve certification in their respective disciplines by end of December 2008 and in January 2009 they interchange and move onto the second stage of their development programme.

During their time in the Training Workshop Apprentice's are trained and assessed on the Mandatory Units of Health & Safety, Working Effectively and Efficiently and Using and Communicating Technical Information. They also undertake training and assessment on a further 5 technical units in their own respective skill area. These units may include Maintenance Electrical and Mechanical, Conventional and CNC Machining, Fitting again either Mechanical or Electrical and Fabrication/Welding.

Project based training is an integral part of the whole programme and this is designed to consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding, and to develop soft skills such as, Team building, Leadership, Communication and Time management.

For more information on how your apprentices are getting on or to arrange a visit to the centre please contact: Derek Syme, on 01355 229985 or e-mail drs@ekgta.com

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Company Spotlight—Babcock Rail

Babcock Rail is a leading UK rail business with a reputation for delivering high quality, safe rail engineering solutions for its customers. Its approach is based on openness and honesty, adding value to its customers by using specialist engineering skills to guide and advise them. Babcock Rail manages the complete range of engineering services from feasibility, through design, installation, and construction to testing, commissioning and on-going maintenance.



Babcock Rail's services are supported by excellence in project management, commercial and planning expertise in the following areas: Track, Signalling, Telecommunications & Control Systems, Power Systems, including Overhead Line Electrification, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Property Management, Consultancy Services, Civil and Structural Engineering.

The business continually challenges itself to design new and innovative ways of improving performance and delivery, investing in the latest plant, equipment and technology as well as sourcing the most experienced and skilled employees to supply the best possible service. Its 2,000 employees operate from regional offices in London, York, Birmingham, Swindon, Manchester and Hamilton, supported by depots throughout the UK.

EKGTA works very closely with Babcock Rail, particularly with the management of their apprenticeship scheme in Scotland covering:-

Rail Engineering (Track Renewals)

Apprentices are taught how to survey, plan, install and test rail track renewals. This will include an appreciation of welding, signalling and overhead line and signalling systems. At the end of their training apprentices will be appointed to a technical or junior supervisory post.

Rail Engineering (Signalling)

Apprentices are trained to install, test and commission a range of signalling systems. The underlying qualifications are electrical and all training will be in accordance with IRSE (Institution of Railway Signalling Engineers) principles.

Rail Engineering (Telecommunications)

Apprentices are trained to install, test and commission a range of communications and information systems across the rail network. This could be anything from remote monitoring systems to passenger information displays. As with the signalling apprentices, the underlying qualifications are electrical and all training is in accordance with IRSE (Institution of Railway Signalling Engineers) principles.

V.I.P's visit EKGTA



Hugh O'Donnell MSP during his visit to EKGTA

EKGTA has always prided itself on its "open door" policy and this was once again evident by recent visits of two high profile guests. Mr Hugh O'Donnell MSP, member for Central Scotland, is the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Schools and Skills and is a member of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee. The remit of the committee is to consider and report on (a) further and higher education, lifelong learning, schools, pre-school care, skills and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. It was in this capacity and to further his knowledge of the training and skills sector of Engineering that Hugh decided to visit EKGTA's centre on 15/8/2008.

The second high profile visitor was Mr Damien Yeates Chief Executive of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Co Ltd. This organisation's role includes facilitating a real and positive change in Scotland's skills performance. It aims is to help individuals realise their full potential, whilst helping employers be more successful through skills development, and working partnership to enhance Scotland's sustainable economic development. EKGTA works closely with SDS to help support the development and delivery of Apprenticeship programmes for companies across Scotland. It was to enhance his knowledge and understanding of Apprenticeships in general and engineering in particular that prompted the visit from Damien on 7/10/2008. He was accompanied by members of the senior management team from SDS, namely Mr Gordon McGuiness and Mr Peter Campbell. Also present was Mr Brian Humphrey Regional Manager, SEMTA, the Sector Skills Body for Engineering.



Pictured right to left
Stuart Waugh, Damien Yeates, Brian Boyle and Brian Humphrey

During the visits both gentleman were given a presentation on the services offered by the Association and a comprehensive tour of the centre's facilities. They had the opportunity to talk directly to staff and trainees and both visitors seemed impressed by the experience gained during the visits.

Qualification Refreshment



Coca Cola Enterprise Ltd. and EKGTA continued their good relationship in training and development recently with the presentation of an engineering award to one of Coca Cola's engineering Staff. A SVQ Certificate in Engineering Maintenance was presented to Graeme McIver by the Operations Manager John McCafferty at the Coca Cola facility in East Kilbride in November 2008.

Graeme started his career with Coca Cola in August 1997 on the Skill Start programme. This programme was aimed at providing candidates with knowledge and skills in engineering disciplines. Graeme successfully completed the programme which resulted in the award of the B-Tech diploma in Manufacture and Distribution.

Graeme receiving his certificate from John McCafferty along with Drew Alexander from EKGTA

Since this achievement, Graeme has developed a broad range of skills and experience.

He was keen to continue his development and approached the training department with a view to undertaking some form of vocational study.

Coca Cola Enterprises who are current members of the Association set up a meeting to establish a suitable development pathway towards a qualification for both Graeme and the company. Plans were drafted and agreed with his Training Advisor Drew Alexander and this enabled Graeme to participate in the vocational qualification programme which started in July 2007. Graeme worked with his training advisor through a series of planned visits and subsequently he demonstrated competence consistently over the planned review period which resulted in successful completion of the qualification in the Summer of 2008.

Graeme commented on the successful achievement of his award by saying "It was challenging and demanding at times, however very worthwhile and interesting" Drew Alexander added that "Graeme's level of competence was already present, but he did work very well in recording and presenting evidence which confirmed this competence "

Graeme is continuing to investigate the availability of other qualifications in the series of Vocational Awards.

Scottish Modern Apprenticeship Awards 2008

EKGTA was successful in having two apprentices nominated as finalists in this years prestigious Scottish Modern Apprenticeship Awards. The awards recognise the achievements of individuals, businesses, training providers and colleges within the successful Modern Apprenticeship programme. The awards showcase those who have demonstrated initiative, enterprise, and outstanding commitment to the improvement of skills development for the Scottish economy.

EKGTA's nominees were:-

Apprentice of the Year traditional Sector 16-19 : Alasdair MacLean – Scottish Water

Apprentice of the Year Non Traditional Sector Over 20: Ailsa Scott – ClydeUnion



Ailsa receiving her award from Dr Janet Brown from SQA along with Minister for Lifelong Learning Fiona Hyslop MSP and compare Stephen Jardine

Ailsa was successful in becoming the overall winner of her category. In order to attain this prestigious award Ailsa who completed a Modern Apprenticeship in Management through EKGTA, had to prove competence in an SVQ Level 4 Management Qualification and attain the ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) Award in First Line Management.

Ailsa who works for ClydeUnion had to submit evidence of competency covering all aspects of the performance criteria and underpinning knowledge for the SVQ Level 4 units, illustrating detailed reflection of the understanding of the requirements for Management.

Her attitude and motivation for the attainment of these qualifications was excellent. Not only did Ailsa fully comprehend these requirements but illustrated through her submission that the competences for each unit did not stand alone but were generic to her role in management. Ailsa said:" I'm totally shocked- I didn't expect to win but I'm absolutely thrilled that I did. The MA scheme is fantastic and I'd say to anyone who's thinking of applying – just do it you'll love it!"

Alasdair McLean an Engineer with Scottish Water who is based in Stornaway was unfortunate that he did not win his category. Nevertheless being nominated as a finalist was a significant achievement in itself. Alasdair has shown tremendous commitment to his learning and has had to overcome issues of remoteness whilst undergoing his training. EKGTA managed his programme which saw him leave home at 18 to be based in Inverness to complete his foundation training.

I am sure all readers will recognise that for both candidates to be nominated for their respective awards in such a high profile and prestigious event with the volume of apprenticeship candidates that could be considered in Scotland is outstanding and reflects highly on the two individuals, their respective employers and of course EKGTA as their training providers / assessors. EKGTA congratulates both finalists.

Coordinated Measurement at EKGTA (C.M.M)

EKGTA's latest acquisition closes the integrated manufacturing loop. We have over the years invested in AutoCAD, CNC and now completing the loop is our Coordinate Measuring Machine.

As part of this acquisition there is a training package to be undertaken by our staff. The initial training will take place at our Centre and will be attended by Martin Sweeten from the Training Unit along with Jim Lewars from the Training Support and Consultancy Unit. The comprehensive training will be conducted by the machine supplier Mr Tony Smith of Northern Metrology. Once the training is complete the two "experts" will work towards producing our own skills development module for an anticipated launch in early 2009.

EKGTA hopes to be able to provide a number of training options, from short introductory courses to a programme to achieve a Certificate of Unit credit from the Engineering Technical Support suite of qualifications - most likely to be Unit 9 Checking components using co-ordinate measuring machines (CMM). Our target audiences are post foundation apprentices, existing employees with our client companies and there may also be the possibility of SMEs hiring the facility for their own use.

For further information on this article please contact Derek Syme on drs@ekgta.com or telephone 01355 229985.



EKGTA CMM

AutoDesk Inventor



Following the addition of Inventor to EKGTA's list of accredited AutoDesk programmes, and the recent launch of the 2009 versions of both Inventor and AutoCAD, the range of available courses provided by EKGTA has been developed and expanded. Early January 2009 brings the first of these courses in Inventor, with delivery of a course to the British Geological Survey, which is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users.

AutoDesk Inventor 3D mechanical design software provides a comprehensive set of 3D mechanical CAD tools for producing, validating, and documenting complete digital prototypes. The Inventor model is a 3D digital prototype that helps users visualize, simulate, and analyse how a design will work under real-world conditions before a product or part is ever built - helping manufacturers get to market faster with fewer physical prototypes and more innovative products.



To view full course outlines please visit our web site www.ekgta.com or call either Jim Holmes, CAD Instructor or Derek Syme, Training Manager on 01355 229985

EKGTA – Short Course Provision

With the start of a new training year approaching it is always a good time to review your training requirement. The following open courses have been scheduled and are therefore recommended for your attention:

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Duration</i>
17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-Date)	12-12-2008	1 Day
AutoCAD Essentials	15-12-2008	3 Days
17th Edition IEE Regulations	19-01-2009	3 Days
17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-Date)	06-02-2009	1 Day
17th Edition IEE Regulations	16-02-2009	3 Days
17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-Date)	27-02-2009	1 Day
17th Edition IEE Regulations	16-03-2009	3 Days
17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-date)	27-03-2009	1 Day

For full details of the above courses and to view our full prospectus please visit our web site 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 offer extensive Health & Safety training which is tailored to meet client's specific requirements.

Places are available on all of the above courses; if you are interested or want more information regarding these courses please call Derek Syme, Training Manager, on 01355 229985 or e-mail drs@ekgta.com.