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 2009

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

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. 2008 was a particularly successful year which resulted in a total of 107 apprentices from 43 different companies commencing their training through EKGTA.

Throughout 2009 EKGTA will be supporting companies in a variety of locations to source and recruit apprentices with the main drive beginning early spring of 2009. 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 2009 and are interested if finding out more about how EKGTA can help you in this process, contact the under named for further information on Recruitment

For more information Contact Brian Boyle 01355 229985 or e-mail bb@ekgta.com.
Star Learning Solutions and East Kilbride Group Training Association (EKGTA) have partnered to deliver City & Guilds 2079 F-Gas assessment and certification. This collaboration harnesses the experience and reputation of two organisations with a combined experience of 80 years in their specialist fields of expertise.

This unique solution meets the requirements of the City & Guilds Level 2 award in F-Gas and ODS Regulations (2079) and can enable contractors and engineers to meet the requirements of F-Gas certification. Formal assessment to City & Guilds standards can be carried out at any one of Star’s nine branches around the UK. In preparation for delivering the high standards required by City and Guilds, Star has invested in first class resources. These include 14 fully qualified assessors and a fleet of 18 fully approved assessment rigs.

Good preparation is important. For many engineers, despite a wealth of field experience and previous formal study, the process of certification will require thorough advance preparation, especially in refreshing and updating theoretical knowledge of processes and regulations.

A flexible range of packages are available to suit individual requirements and engineer experience;
- Gold £425 online theory preparation course, GOLA test and practical assessment.
- Silver £250 GOLA test and practical assessment only.
- Bronze £225 online theory preparation course only.

Registration & certification fees of £60 and VAT at 15% are additional. These packages offer several valuable benefits during both the preparation phase and the assessment day;
- Advance preparation at your own pace in your own place.
- Minimise travel time, subsistence and expenses.
- Minimise time away from the workplace.
- Demonstrate full compliance to your customers….and your competitors!

The qualification went live on the 6th March 2009. The first two candidates Kevin Fraser and Bruce Davidson successfully completed their Assessment at the Aberdeen Branch of Star Refrigeration. In attendance along with the Star Assessors, John Fraser and Brian Geddes were EKGTA Internal Verifier Derek Brown and the City & Guilds External Verifier (EV) Mr Peter Longville. The EV was extremely complementary on every aspect of the Assessment process and we are sure this new qualification will prove to be a valuable addition to the portfolio of services offered by the Association and our partner Star Refrigeration.

Regular readers will be aware of the partnership with Langside College developed over a number of years. In conjunction with Langside, EKGTA has developed an innovative and novel approach to the delivery of Further Education programmes / qualifications required as part of the Modern Apprenticeship Framework. This arrangement involves Lecturers from the College using the Association’s premises in Law Place to deliver the SQA National Certificates in both Mechanical and Electrical Engineering over a 16 week block of learning with continuous attendance at the Centre.

To further the partnership and to explore new areas of business for both parties, a delegation of the Senior Management Team from the College that included Principal Mr Graeme Hyslop, Vice Principal Elaine Proudfoot, Head of Faculty (Maths/Engineering) Margaret Hamilton and Head of Engineering Mr Raymond Lyon, visited the Centre on the 26th February 2009. The College team were impressed with the facilities at the Centre and the importance to both organisations of the continuation and development of the partnership was expressed by Mr Graeme Hyslop.
Congratulations’ on maintaining your Investor in People recognition status and on demonstrating that you meet a range of requirements from the wider IIP Framework at higher levels. That was the message to East Kilbride Group Training Association Ltd from the Chief Executive of Investors in People Scotland following a formal review carried out on 5th February 2009.

Investors in People is a Nationally Recognised Standard and Framework, which is a highly respected business improvement tool supported by employers organisations, CBI, employee organisations like STUC, professional bodies and of course government. It is about continuous improvement and helping organisations meet their business objectives through a framework of good practice. It is a fully flexible tool, which can be tailored to suit the individual needs of any company.

The IIP reviewer who visited EKGTA on 5th February 2009 and interviewed the majority of our staff, commented, “overall I found the Association to have a strong sense of direction with robust processes and a staff team who are developing in line with business priorities”. Stuart Waugh the General Manager of EKGTA added “In achieving and maintaining the Standard EKGTA has not only demonstrated an ongoing commitment to developing its staff, but also has established a framework for growth and organisational development and in this context is continuously striving for excellence and business improvements, ultimately for the benefit of those who use our training services.

EKGTA’s first client to take advantage of the recently purchased Coordinate Measuring Machine was Converteam UK Ltd of Thornliebank.

The company, who are members of the Association and have worked with EKGTA for many years, they recently had a particular production issue whereby components, which were supplied by subcontractors, were thought to be out of specification.

Colin Robb, Quality Control Engineer with Converteam, approached EKGTA looking for help in identifying the problems. Colin explains, “because the components were so complex it was essential to gather accurate measurements to determine where the problems were in the process.” With EKGTA’s help and advice I now have a much clearer picture and feel confident to go back to our suppliers with “actual data”.

Colin went on to explain that “this has saved us a lot of time. The issues could have been identified using conventional means but the CMM is able to provide comprehensive detailed inspection reports and drawings, which I can now take to our suppliers”. Colin is now recommending that the company have a couple of engineers trained on the CMM machine with a view to hiring the facility in the future.

Jim Gillan is the Fabrication and Welding Instructor/Assessor at EKGTA but he has another interesting role to fulfil. Jim enthuses that from Mon-Fri within EKGTA I am an Instructor, but at weekends I wear a different cap and I become Staff Sergeant Gillan (SQMSV) with the Royal Signals Regiment of the Territorial Army based at Whitemoss in East Kilbride. Jim has had long service with the Territorial Army and has been re-enlisted on three occasions.

He has been fortunate during his army career to train in many countries; France, Germany and Cyprus to name but a few. He has been involved in many high profile deployments including one not so nice within the UK. This was in relation to CJD outbreak in 1996, (mad cow disease) that culminated in the mass culling of livestock. More recently Jim was also heavily involved with joint security forces at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles. His Regiment is currently on peacekeeping duties with the UN in Cyprus until April 2009. Over the years, thanks to understanding and committed employers Jim has been able to fulfill his commitment of 2 weeks Annual camp training. He states that unfortunately his family life does suffer as he has to use personal holidays to cover part of the camp, which does not go down too well with (her in doors). Jim comments that his most rewarding memories are of Twenty-six years of unbroken attendance on Remembrance Day at the East Kilbride Cenotaph with his Squadron and the East Kilbride Royal British Legion.
The Weir Group

The Weir Group PLC employs over 9,000 people worldwide across three divisions, focused on key market sectors, with closely aligned, independently successful companies, each with leading brand name products. Throughout their history, the success of The Weir Group PLC has been founded on the ability to deliver engineering solutions that improve the quality, safety and value of their customers’ activities. Today, their pedigree is demonstrated through the skilled people and exceptional new products they are bringing to market. Their business is to deliver the benefits of value engineering and innovation to their customers, extending the lifespan and enhancing the performance of processes and equipment in many of the world’s most challenging environments. These businesses are supported at Group level by management, marketing, training, and research and development resources, through their Scottish headquarters and through regional, product-focused centres of excellence around the world. Across the Group, they are committed to collaborating, co-operating and integrating their offering. Crucially, they are working as one in the journey towards operational excellence.

The Weir Group is structured in three sector-focused divisions –

- **Weir Minerals** includes all Group operations with primary sales to the mining, flue gas desulphurisation and oil sands markets, supplying pumps, valves, cyclones, mill liners and de-watering products.
- **Materials Technology** provides a distinct competitive advantage and the division’s geographic footprint is unparalleled in the industry with operations and service centres in the most important mining regions.
- **Weir Oil & Gas** includes our upstream and downstream businesses and substantial oil and gas service operations across the globe. Upstream, Weir SPM, acquired in 2007, provides pumps, flow control and after market service for unconventional drilling of onshore oil and gas. Downstream, Weir Gabbioneta, the Italian specialist pump business, acquired in 2005, supplies pumps for refining markets, mainly in Europe and the Middle East. The oil services businesses enjoy an extensive footprint in the Middle East, North America and the UK and have a growing presence in the emerging markets of the Caspian and Former Soviet Union.

Weir Power & Industrial includes the Group’s valves operations, a speciality pumps business in North America, and power related service facilities in Canada, the UK, India, Middle East and Africa. The division specialises in nuclear applications supplying critical safety valves as well as producing commercial valves for conventional power along with subsea oil related activities, with products closely aligned to the power portfolio but engineered to petrochemical specifications. A global network of service operations specialises in the maintenance, upgrade and management of power and industrial assets at major customer sites, including hydro power upgrades and plant outages in both the UK and Canada. The division includes a number of businesses whose specialist products are sold into other industrial applications including pulp and paper, water and wastewater and steel.

The Weir Group has been a member company of EKGTA for over ten years and during this period EKGTA has advised on the management of their apprenticeship scheme for some fifty Engineering Modern Apprentices. These apprentices have been initially trained in either our East Kilbride Training Centre or in Tullos Training Centre Aberdeen, then assessed by EKGTA Training Advisor before being employed as Tradesmen for The Weir Group - Alloa and Aberdeen Service Centres.

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:

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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>TIG Welding Course</td>
<td>23-03-2009</td>
<td>3 Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Edition IEE Regulations (Up-Date)</td>
<td>27-03-2009</td>
<td>1 Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Edition IEE Regulations</td>
<td>06-04-2009</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Edition IEE Regulations</td>
<td>15-06-2009</td>
<td>3 Days</td>
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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.*