



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.

Christmas Message 2014

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 2015 we hope it will be a happy and prosperous New Year for all.



Sign of the Times

EKGTA is delighted to announce that two of its apprentices are among the first in Scotland to complete the Modern Apprenticeship in Signmaking. Regular readers maybe aware that since 2011 the Association has been the only Training Provider in Scotland delivering the Modern Apprenticeship in Signmaking.

Signmaking is an important sector within the Scottish economy. Presently there are over 300 companies in this sector. Almost every town and city has at least one Signmaking company.



The two trailblazing apprentices who have just completed are Kirsty Donald of OPG Ltd and Andrew Halliday of Ecosse Signs Ltd. Kirsty has been employed at OPG since 2011 and during her apprenticeship she was, and continues to be a key member of two departments within OPG splitting her time between the design and digital print functions. This means that she very often works on jobs from cradle to grave, having been involved in the design aspect and the production process. The knowledge and experience Kirsty gains as a result of this provides a major contribution to the most vital areas of the OPG business on daily basis.

Andrew has also been employed by Ecosse Signs since 2011 and has been involved in the full range of work undertaken by Ecosse including Commercial vehicle graphics, vehicle wrap, vehicle signs, digital printing banners, customised car decals, van graphic. He has proved to be an invaluable member of the team and is capable of taking all jobs from design through to completion.

Both Apprentices have been supported during their apprenticeship by the staff at EKGTA and in particular their Assessor Drew Alexander. Over the last three years Drew has seen both apprentices flourish and mature into key members of staff for their respective companies. He commented that "it is very rewarding working with young people and to see them develop and become vital to the companies that employ them". He added "the drive and enthusiasm shown by both Kirsty and Andrew is a credit to not only themselves, but also their companies and their parents". I firmly believe that both will go on to bigger and better in the coming years.

The companies state that the support provided by EKGTA means that they can concentrate on the business while EKGTA facilitates the MA programme. The structured and on the job approach provides a tailored training environment where the apprentices quickly gain an understanding of not only their role, but of their contribution to the business as a whole. This allows for some quick gains as they become effective members of staff. Stuart Ritchie Commercial Operations Manager at OPG commented "customers are encouraged and comforted by the fact that our staff are working towards a recognised qualification."

At this historic time EKGTA would like to congratulate both Kirsty and Andrew for their significant achievement. We would also like to thank both companies and in particular the Managers of the apprentices, namely Stuart Ritchie of OPG and Tom Thomson of Ecosse Signs without their support the achievements and dedication of the apprentices would not have been possible. We would also like to thank the external agencies, Skills Development Scotland, Sector Skills Council Cogent and Awarding Body PAA/IVQ-SET for their continued assistance.

Inside this issue

Company Spotlight	2
Out in Africa	2
Meet the Parents	3
IOSH Health & Safety Courses	3
Roll of honour	4
Calling all members	4
EKGTA-Short Course Provision	4

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Company Spotlight - Oil States Industries (UK) Ltd

Oil States Industries (UK) Ltd (a subsidiary of Oil States Industries, Inc) are a leading design and manufacturer of advanced connector systems for offshore tubulars, high pressure drilling, marine and completion risers and bend restrictors. Also specialising in the refurbishment, service, repair, manufacture, maintenance and re-certification of surface and sub-sea well control equipment. Oil States also specialise in the design, manufacture and operation of tubular expansion connection systems for jacket installation and caisson repair; abrasive water jet cutting systems for maintenance, abandonment, removals and more.



The new Oil States central Scotland "Heartlands" development will be an impressive 27-acre, purpose built site with state-of-the art facilities and ideal infrastructure links to a global marketplace. We are very excited about this both as the means to serve existing clients to our high standards, an also to allow for anticipated, long-term growth going forward.



Oil States joined as members of the Association in 2006. Since then EKGTA has been working in partnership with the company to deliver their Modern Apprenticeship programme. To date there have been a number of Apprentices who have completed the programme. The skill areas required by the company include; Mechanical Manufacture (Conventional Turning & Fitting & Assembly) and Fabrication & Welding.

Oil States have an on-going, rolling apprenticeship programme and they recruit apprentices on an annual basis. This is viewed as an integral part of the plan to develop the skills required for the new facility.

'Out In Africa'

EKGTA thought that impact readers would like to hear about altruistic exploits of one of our apprentices. Amy Keenan of Rosti UK Ltd has just completed her Apprenticeship programme through EKGTA. During her apprenticeship Amy excelled in her training by winning several awards and achieving recognition in many disciplines. So focused is she on continuous personal development that she has now enrolled at Glasgow Caledonian University and is currently working towards a University degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In the summer of 2014 Amy committed to participate in a Volunteer programme based in Ghana. This programme demanded that all volunteers were required to raise sufficient funds and arrange time off from their jobs to enable them participate in the programme. Amy personally used her annual holiday allowance from Rosti to enable her to travel. To help raise the necessary finances she held several fund raising events including bingo and race nights. She also approached individuals and companies to seek donations. EKGTA was pleased to support Amy in her ventures and provided a donation of £1200 towards her costs.



She set off on her adventure to the Eastern Province of Ghana in late June 2014. She was allocated a building project in a small village called Asempanaye, the locals there live in mud huts and have to walk 3 Kilometres to the nearest shop to buy essential supplies. The main section project allocated to the group that Amy was part of was to build a brick wall around the perimeter of the volunteers accommodation area. This was required as local bylaws enable anyone to lay claim to the land as their own if it is not properly enclosed. To build the perimeter wall involved the manufacture of the blocks, preparing the foundations, laying the foundations and the laying of the blocks to form the wall. As an Engineer these skills were clearly not what Amy had been trained in, however her background did help with the planning and organising of the tasks. Her day would start at 8.00am through to midday when a break was required from the searing heat. Then another few hours in the afternoon after a lengthy break.

In addition to the work done on the project, Amy visited the local School and the Orphanage. It was in these premises where Amy made some very worthwhile donations from her funds. This assisted both establishments with purchasing essential items such as uniforms, shoes, school bags, basic medical supplies, clocks and lots of stationary items.

All of the money raised by Amy was spent on the three main areas that she was involved in. She had a big impact on the lives of so many people there, despite her modest claim "I made a microscopic difference to the people of Ghana". All the people who supported her involvement in this life changing experience are extremely proud of Amy. Her achievements over in Africa, she is a credit to her parents, her company and of course all of us here at EKGTA.

Meet the Parents

As a part of our commitment to the development of young people EKGTA holds an annual Open Evening. We invite the parents and company representatives of all employed trainees to this event, to inform them of the programme being undertaken by the trainees.

The latest of these events took place at the Training Centre on two separate evenings the first took place on the 24th of September 2014. A total of 47 parents and representatives of 7 companies attended this event. The second open evening took place on the 1st of October 2014 and a total of 46 parents and representatives of 4 companies attended this event evening. Over the two evenings EKGTA played host to no fewer than 93 parents and 11 companies.

The main focus of these events is intended to showcase and demonstrate the Associations commitment to the development of the individual trainees. They start off with presentations by key members of staff. Tom McBrearty the General Manager introduces the Association and its services / standards. Derek Syme the Training Workshop Manager focuses on the Foundation Training programme, the group project, and the requirements of the awarding bodies.

Mr Raymond Lyon Head of Engineering at Glasgow Clyde College spoke on the Academic requirement of the Apprenticeship and the partnership approach between the College and the Association. Jim Lewars one of the Training Advisors concentrates on the SVQ Level 3 and the in-company monitoring and assessment of trainees.

The presentations are followed by a short tour of the centre when parents are able to meet members of the Instructional Team. The evening concludes with a short question and answer session in which parents are encouraged to seek clarification on any issues relevant to their son / daughter.

As stated earlier the events are also open to representatives of all companies who have apprentices at the Centre, and this gives the parents the opportunity to talk directly to the employer. The evening event was extremely well received and many positive comments were forthcoming from the parents and company representatives.

If you have comment relating to the Open Evening or any other matter relating to the Apprenticeship training programme please contact: Derek Syme Training Workshop Manager, on 01355 229985 or e-mail drs@ekgta.com.



IOSH Health & Safety Courses



With workplace Health and Safety playing an evermore increasing role in companies operations it is vitally important to ensure that all staff are up to date in terms of their responsibilities and and the need to comply with current Health and Safety legislation.

We remind companies that EKGTA can assist in ensuring that staff are not only trained but are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities under current Health and Safety Legislation. EKGTA is approved to run two of the UK's most popular and sought after Health & Safety courses, namely 'Managing Safely' and 'Working Safely'. These courses are accredited through the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) which is the biggest health and safety membership organisation in the world. It has more than 40,000 members in 99 countries and is the only Chartered body for health and safety professionals in the world.

Managing safely course

Managing safely is for managers and supervisors in any sector, and any organisation. It's designed to get managers up to speed on the practical actions they need to take to handle health and safety in their teams. This Managing safely course is unlike any other. Full of step-by-step guidance, and with a sharp business focus, they will find that the highly innovative format and content inspires delegates – critical to getting essential health and safety messages across. Managing safely won't turn delegates into safety experts – but it will give them the knowledge and tools to tackle the health and safety issues they're responsible for. Importantly, it brings home just why health and safety is such an essential part of their job. Successful delegates are awarded an IOSH Managing safely certificate.



Working safely



Working safely course

Working safely is for people at any level, in any sector, needing a grounding in the essentials of health and safety. Everyone at work should have an understanding of why they must 'work safely' – and this course offers exactly that. Working safely isn't supposed to turn delegates into safety experts.

Delegates who successfully complete the written and practical assessments can choose between IOSH's Working safely certificate or a credit card-sized 'passport' card. The Working safely course meets the government's guidelines for introductory health and safety training and is a 100 per cent match to the Health and Safety Executive's 'passport' syllabus.

Courses are scheduled regularly through the year. For further information visit the EKGTA website at www.ekgta.com and visit the course calendar section, or alternatively contact Derek Syme, Training Manager, on 01355 229985 or e-mail drs@ekgta.com.

Roll of Honour

Congratulations to the following trainees who all successfully completed their Modern Apprenticeship between September and December 2014:-



Signmaking:- Kirsty Donald of OPG Ltd and Andrew Halliday of Ecosse Signs Ltd

Engineering:- Darren Mooney of Aeron Automation Ltd, Nathan Coats of Au Automation Ltd, Ross Cloughley of Clansman Dynamics Ltd, Philip Reilly of Consult Lift Services Ltd, Graeme Meechan of Dawnfresh Foods, Christopher Hill and Martin Degnan, Devro (Scotland) Ltd, Robbie Brown and Jordan Marshall, FMC Technologies Ltd, Fraser Neil and Andrew Wolf, Forbes Technologies Ltd, Ross Crichton and Ryan Stewart, Glasgow City Council (Land), James McBride of Green Brothers (UK) Ltd, William Mason and Connor McPhee of Ichor Systems, Jay McCloy of Independent Glass Co Ltd, Alec Wards, of Konecranes Service Ltd, Josh Burton, Sean Carroll and Christopher Paterson of Lift Maintenance Ltd, Dylan Hunter of Lindvale Plastics Ltd, Scott Gray of John McGavigan Ltd, Ross Burns of Rosti UK Ltd, Sean Duffy, Martin Jones, Ross McLean and Iain Nimmo of SPX ClydeUnion Pumps, Connor Milne of Star Refrigeration Ltd (Aberdeen), Ross Hamilton, Callum King and John Ross Morrison of Star Refrigeration Ltd (Glasgow), Shaun Young of Swietelsky International, Ryan Dunn of Tata Steel, Ruairidh Whitecross of Valve Components Ltd, Lee Alexander, Anthony Cartwright and Kieran Murphy of Walker Precision Engineering, John Ogg and Matthew Stewart of Weir Oil & Gas, Matthew Ford, Alan Gemmell, Fraser Millar and Craig Tasker, Weir Power & Industrial

Railway Engineering:- Mark Rankin of Babcock Rail

Customer Service:- Gillian Hicklin of Chivas Brothers

SVQ Level 3: Engineering Maintenance:- Darren Collin of Lift Maintenance Ltd

SVQ Level 2 Engineering Maintenance:- David Gillies, Daniel Haggerty, Peter Lamont, Paul Smith and Ryan Watson of McVities (UK) Ltd

SVQ Level 2: Performing Engineering Operations:- Arthur Love of Comac Precision Engineering Ltd, Sam Hughes of Dale Farm Ltd, Nathan Watson of Lindvale Plastics Ltd, Jordan Higgins of Metallo and Greg Stevenson of Thales UK

SVQ Level 2: Signmaking:- Ryan Smith of OPG Ltd

“Your Association needs you”



It is that time of year again when all Member Companies of our Association will be receiving a visit from their friendly EKGTA Training Advisor (So get the biscuits and coffee ready). The representatives of member companies should be aware that the continual success and growth of EKGTA is dependant on a strong and active Membership and customer base. We hope that all current Members take the decision to rejoin this year and that other client companies identified as potential members can be encouraged to join the Association as members for the benefit of all concerned. Membership visits will focus on:- Recruitment, Advice/Guidance,, Training Services, Health & Safety Information and other matters relevant to Member companies.

If you are interested in or would like further information on the benefits of Membership of the Association contact Brian Boyle 01355 229985 or e-mail bb@ekgta.com

EKGTA – Short Course Provision

Presently EKGTA can offer the following open courses, which have been scheduled for January – March 2015 and are therefore recommended for your attention:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Duration</u>
<u>AutoCAD Essentials</u>	20/01/2015	3 Days
<u>17th Edition IEE Regulations (including 3rd Amendment)</u>	10/02/2015	3 Days
<u>Code of Practice for In-Service Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment (PAT)</u>	03/03/2015	2 Days
<u>IOSH Managing Safely</u>	10/03/2015	3 Days

(For full details of the above courses and to view our full prospectus please visit our web site www.ekgta.com)

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