

Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB)

Scottish Regional Forum - 14

21 May 2008 – Stirling Management Centre

Attendees

J Mellon (JM), Chair
K Dow (KD), MetTECH UK
R Wilson (RW), Unite
S Murphy (SM), SPS Glenochil
J McMillan (JMcM), SPS Glenochil
A Burns (AB), SPS Glenochil
P Carruthers (PC), Doosan Babcock
B Negus (BN), GMB
A Johnston (AJ), Doosan Babcock
J McManus (JMcMa), Doosan Babcock
G Napier (GN), Wood Group HIT
K Dow (KD), MetTECH
S Collins (SC), Interserve
K Evans (KE), Skills Development Scotland
W Jack (WJ), Watson Norie
C Miller (CM), Forth Valley College
D Halley (DH), Doosan Babcock

Apologies

A Cadenhead, AMEC
J Wallace, Forth Valley College
I Sloan, GSI
L McCulloch, MetTECH
B Joyce, Scottish Enterprise
J Marmion, Wood Group
R James, ECITB
J Welsh, PSN

ECITB Representatives

T Featherstone (TF)
B Barclay (BB)
R Stewart (RS)
J McAlpine (JSM)
M Weir (MW)

	<u>Actions</u>
<p>1. Introduction, Welcome & Apologies JM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new attendees, and noted that apologies will be recorded in the notes of the meeting.</p> <p>2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and accepted by the Forum.</p> <p>3. Matters Arising <i>Ex-Forces</i> – SC asked how ex-military people are approached and would a more targeted approach be best? BB noted that careers fairs had been attended in the past but that contractor support would be needed in the future to take this forward. BB noted that the skills conversion should be streamlined to suit conversion. TF noted that possible basic training could be done before leaving the forces but a commitment would be required to ensure there were jobs available. It was agreed to pilot this in Scotland and interested parties should contact BB in the first instance.</p> <p>PC asked if SMTD courses could be used for the ex-forces? TF noted that this could be done nationally as Scotland is currently oversubscribed.</p> <p><i>Apprentices</i> - TF noted that funding in Scotland is different to England and this causes problems but hopefully Skills Development Scotland would help to address these problems.</p> <p>4. Regional Chair Feedback JM noted that there has been good progress with the Skills and Training Charter and the liaison with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS).</p> <p>JM noted that there are more pledges for apprentices than the region can fund but the final outcome will be agreed after the Main Board Meeting on 10 June 2008.</p> <p>JM and BB met with John Park MSP to discuss the Apprenticeship Bill. A conference on this Bill will be held on 18 June and Jim Kinnell will be attending. JM noted that he had brought up the problems with funding to Mr Park.</p>	<p>BB to set up a working group</p> <p>TF & BB</p>

5. Andrew Johnston Presentation

Andrew was presented with an iPod and a Quaich for winning Welder Scotland and being runner up in the national SkillWeld Competition. Andrew is a third year apprentice with Doosan Babcock. The winner of Skills Weld was also a Doosan Babcock apprentice for the Yorkshire and Humberside region. BB noted that the ECITB recognised the support from Doosan Babcock to get Andrew to this level.

6. SPS Presentation

SM gave a presentation on the Offender Outcomes Programme being run at Glenochil and the potential use of TECSkills in this programme. This programme will help offenders readdress their employment which will in turn lead to less re-offending.

TF, JM and BB have visited SPS Glenochil and agree that there is a potential to use TECSkills to help with the skills shortage. SM

BB noted that contractors have been approached on this issue and no barriers have been put up.

PC noted that the presentation was very good and asked if a shorter version or flyer would be available to pass to contractors.

The forum agreed to support this initiative to move it forward, and the Unions asked to join the partnership.

7. Regional Activities

BB noted that the Account Managers are working with companies and giving information about the ECITB products and services.

BB has attended the PJC and Grangemouth Council meetings.

Supervisory Management learners are progressing well and completion and retention are at above 90%. There have been changes to the funding for Skills Development Scotland (SDS); however, ECITB will work with MetTECH and SDS to ask for more funding for future Supervisory Apprentices.

Additional funding from Scottish Construction Plan has been awarded and ECITB will administer claiming this funding.

8. Skills and Training Charter Update

JM noted that the launch of the Skills and Training Charter will be on 18 June 2008 at the Scottish Parliament and that invitations would be sent out shortly. JM noted that Bobby Burids would be giving a talk on the Charter to the ECIA conference in June. TF noted that he hoped the Charter would be embraced in other areas of the UK.

9. Qualifications Strategy Presentation

BB gave a brief overview of the Workshop which is being held on the 4 June 2008 at the Falkirk Stadium on the Engineering Construction Qualifications Strategy Project Consultation, which is being undertaken by the Government to review vocational qualifications in the UK. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact the Regional Office in the first instance.

10. Online Survey

As the government has initiated a fundamental review of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and Vocational Qualifications, which may impact on ECITB products and services, an online survey has been launched for companies to influence the direction of skills development within the industry. BB urged all companies to go online and complete the survey.

11. Regional Discretionary Grants

BB noted that there is still money available for in-scope companies and application forms are available from MW.

SM/SPS

BB & SM

BB

ALL

<p>12. Apprentice Programmes BB noted that all ECITB apprentices are doing well at the Training Providers.</p> <p>There have been 101 pledges for apprentices in Scotland for 2008 but only funding for 64 available. The ECITB Main Board will make a decision on 10 June to agree the funding availability. TF and JM and will both be attending to fight for a positive outcome.</p> <p>BB noted that Lindsay McGregor-Simpson, an ESF apprentice who had been long-term unemployed has recently been awarded her NVQ Level 3 and Modern Apprenticeship certificate. BB thanked MetTECH and TTE for their input in getting Lindsay through. ECITB will be looking for opportunities for Lindsay when she decides to return to work after the birth of her baby.</p> <p>13. Career Activities JSM noted that the main careers event this year had been a jobs fair at Falkirk Town hall in March, which had been well attended and had generated a lot of interest.</p> <p>Adverts for recruitment had been placed in local papers, online and on the radio.</p> <p>Theatre And is now called – Construct Your Life, Engineer Your Future. The timetable of schools being visited will be available shortly. iPods as prizes have been incorporated into the cost of the event, but freebies for the goodie bags would be appreciated, please contact JSM.</p> <p>Young Engineers Competition is being held in June and JSM will be attending with ECITB apprentices who have built an oilrig this year.</p> <p>14. TECSkills TECSkills monitoring is going well. 178 learners have achieved Levels 2 and 3. The process is now tighter to ensure success.</p> <p>MetTECH are running a Knowledge Course in June and interested companies should contact KD as soon as possible.</p> <p>The next TECSkills Industry User Group Meeting is on 24 June 2008.</p> <p>15. ACE 100 funded places are now available from the Scottish Construction Plan, and these are being administered by JSM and we must ensure that these places are all used. Funding unfortunately has been reduced to £800.</p> <p>JM gave a brief history of ACE for the benefit of the SPS visitors and BB agreed to send information to them on ACE.</p> <p>It was noted that a £50 registration fee has now been adopted for out of scope approved centres. TF noted that Training Providers need to incorporate this cost into the commercial arrangements and noted that if there was an existing arrangement ECITB will ensure Providers are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>12. AOCB There was no other business.</p> <p>14. Dates for 2008 Forums 22 October 2008</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
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