



**REGIONAL FORUM
NORTH EAST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Wednesday 15th October 2008

Commencing at 10am

Held at Middlesbrough College, Dock Street, Middlesbrough

Present

Mr. John Hornby (JH) - Aker Solutions - **Chair**
Mr Don Atkinson (DA) - ECITB
Mr. Brian Marchant (BM) - ECITB
Mr. Alan Roberts (AR) - C&A
Mr. Martin Foster (MF) – NETA
Mr. Grahame Bell (GB) - NETA
Mr. Ian Muscroft (IM) – Aker Solutions
Ms Ann Waldon - Aker Solutions
Ms Lynn Mitchell (LM) – Cordell
Mr. Colin Myers (CM) – Studsvik
Mr. Martin Hottass (MH) – Siemens
Mr. Mark Corry (MC) – Aker Solutions
Mr. Peter Mudie (PM) - R. Blackett Charlton
Mr. Mark Heslin (MH) – IMH
Mr. Peter Bianchi (PB) – Phoenix Training
Mr. Neil Watson (NW) – AMEC
Mr. John Stoddart (JS) – AMEC
Mr. Mike Walden (MW) – EI-WHS
Mr. Rick Tunney (RT) – EI-WHS

In Attendance

Mr. David Edwards - ECITB
Mr. Dave Marley – Middlesbrough College
Miss Linda Young - Forum Secretary

Apologies

Mr. Tony Featherstone– ECITB
Mr. Russell Coleman (RC) - TTE
Mr. David Bilton – David Bilton Engineering
Mr. Richard Vart – Whessoe Oil & Gas
Mr. Geoff Wilson – EEF Northern
Mr. Alan Dixon – A & J Dixon
Mr. Ian Brown – Cavendish Northern
Ms Lynne Day – Cleveland Bridge
Mr. Kevin Raper – DK Steel
Mr. Neil Guest – Matrix
Mr. Steve Robinson – Ovalway
Mr. Bill Armstrong – Pipetawse
Mr. John Bailey – Sulzer
Mr. David Hall – Hertel
Mr. Shaun Muir – F.J. Booth
Mr. Gary Milne (GM) – Hydratight

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

JH/DA welcomed all present to the Forum and to the new building and Mr. Dave Marley – Head of Engineering at Middlesbrough College.

Minutes of Last Meeting for Approval

The minutes were approved and passed as a true record.

Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

Regional Discretionary Awards

DA reported that the first Project Control apprentices were presented with their awards at the MLTC on 10th July, 2008.

MINUTES

1. Regional Discretionary Courses

DA reported that all invoices must be submitted by 31st December, 2008.

2. Apprentice Programmes

DA reported that Watson Norie went into liquidation in October, which left approx. eight electrical apprentices in the NE at various stages of apprenticeships who are now unemployed. We need to get them employed to gain their full apprenticeships.

We also still had two apprentices awaiting placements - the ECITB are prepared to pay their training allowance for a short period of time, before being employed.

James Bray (Mechanical) – Never been on site.

Kimberley Richmond (Mechanical) – In final year – has been on a few sites.

Ben Jones Ex Watson Norie – Started with EI-WHS.

DA reported that 115 apprentices had started in September 2008 for inscope companies.

3. TECSkills

DA explained that we would like more companies to get involved with TECSkills to take their skill levels up to L3.

BM reported that it is best to train people outside of shutdown projects. If anyone needs to register anyone, please contact DA/BM

TECSkills is not only for craft trades, but is also available for Project Control. The ECITB still have the capacity to take more people on.

JH reported that the take up in 2008 has left a substantive amount of budget money under-used. Everyone has been pushed over the last 12 months and it was difficult to release people but we should look positively at 2009. There is approx £200,000 outstanding. If any members have people for TECSkills they can be registered now.

Further information is available on the website. www.tecskills.org.uk

4. TS&MP Programmes

A paper was tabled showing current TS&MP courses available - if anyone wishes to participate please contact BM or DA.

Dates for programmes are available on the website.

5. Levy Proposals

JH gave an overview of the proposal for a three-year levy. This three-year levy guarantees that we are focused on events for training, and that keeping the levy at its current 1.5% is a way forward. We are looking for support so that we can convert this into a three year exercise rather than going back every 12 months.

DE reported that last year we launched “Bridging the Skills Gap” what does the future look like? Feedback from Forums is very positive about how the ECITB is helping Industry. There is much more engagement and understanding as to what is going on. The general mood is “up”. We still need to put more people into industry. The ECITB Board took the view to keep the levy rate as it was. We are negotiating with Government to access more Train to Gain money. We are proposing that we keep the model as it is, so that we can all plan ahead.

IM asked the question about over training

DA said that he was aware of it and that we are in conversation with the LSC.

Action: DA to find out more information and issue to members

DA asked for a vote on the proposal from the floor. Each company had one vote.

“Do you support these proposals as being necessary to encourage adequate training in the engineering construction industry”.

For	8 votes
Against	1 vote
Abstentions	Nil

6. Budgets

DA reported on the NE budget - £1,723,255 + LSC £145,710 = £1,868.965 and that all NE levy now comes to the region.

DA was now asking companies what their needs are for 2009.

There was a slight increase on budgets for 2009 and he was looking to the floor for any ideas for any course(s) that would be different.

Not all of full budget will be spent this year. We should be looking at spending it all. We should look at what we need to target. We need to look at those companies that don't pay the levy as there is funding available for them.

7. Supervisors Academy

Further discussion took place regarding the Supervisors Academy.

It was reported that a lot of work was going on with Teesside University to take people onto the Foundation degree – this then almost exclusively directs people towards middle management.

We are talking about progressing strong and competent Site Supervisors to the next level (NVQ4) for SITE.

We will seriously look at combining certain Training Courses/Modules with Teesside University as it is a useful funding route.

Mtgs are already in hand to develop this potential

JH showed an outline model of what he would like based on previous discussions and agreements - we now need a structured framework approach.

DA said that if we are committed, we have the infrastructure within the ECITB to create this.

Some concerns were expressed :

- Supervisors leaving their company once trained.
- Supervisors losing the flexibility to return to the tools if necessary.

The whole success of this initiative will depend on the commitment of the employing companies and the perception that the "Senior Supervisors" get a far better deal than just a better rate – staff conditions, medical cover, transport, bonus potential, holidays, Boro season tickets etc!

The ECITB supports this (local) initiative.

An initial cohort of 10-15 Supervisors would seem about right. .

Action: JH to call a mtg of Forum members to establish the content, protocol, programme and funding route to allow us to start the first cohort.

8. ACE

As there was little to discuss at the ACE meeting it was agreed that we will incorporate any information at this Forum. The ACE Industry Steering Group still meets in London to keep the momentum going.

DA reported that there were 1,126 registrations in 2008.

The total number of Ace cards issued to date is 5,511.

GB reported that most ACE activity at present was in the Humberside region.

9. Any Other Business

ECITB Active Cup

Two very successful Active Cups were held in 2008 one in January and July and DA would like to congratulate Aker Solutions who came 2nd and AMEC who came 3rd in the July competition we are looking for teams to participate starting on the 23rd January 2009 at Cranfield. We need to encourage company's to get their teams in as soon as possible.

EMP Post Graduate Certificate (Bath University)

It has been announced that Bath University will cease to run the programme after October 2009. No more registrations are being taken.

Norman Harrison is speaking with Bath University regarding the possibilities of additional help for students, who are unable to complete their studies by October, 2009 and is also looking for similar programmes elsewhere.

The new NAECI two day course is now available please contact DA/BM for more details.

Awards Ceremony

An Awards ceremony will take at Middlesbrough Football Club on the afternoon of Friday, 23rd January, 2009 for people who have completed programmes in 2008 (apprenticeships, TECSkills, SMTD programmes).

Ray Mallon, Mayor of Middlesbrough will be presenting the awards. More information soon.

Construct your life/Engineer your Future

It was reported that the Theatre and schools road show had taken place in September 2009 with great success and very good feedback. The feedback from the schools on the website is excellent.

DA has DVD copies of "Construct Your Life – Engineer Your Future" Road show available to members.

Schools Diploma

It was reported that the Schools Diploma started in September, 2008. Engineering and Construction programmes have started in Middlesbrough. The Diploma is a new means of learning, geared towards certain disciplines. One of the challenges is get to the actual work experience for these learners.

An Employer conference will take place at Middlesbrough Football Club on the 6th November, to get companies engaged in diplomas.

60 students in the Middlesbrough area are following the Engineering diplomas.

IM reported that, McMillan and Ormesby School are involved with the Engineering Diploma in Middlesbrough and Stockton Schools will be running it from 2009. Aker Solutions have committed to work experience, but will not be able to support 60 students over 10 days per year.

DA reported that a survey is taking place on the Evening Gazette. website regarding the diploma.

Action: DA to send out link. More companies need to get more involved.

Contact DA/BM or Jan Marciniak for further information.

10. Date of Next Meeting

DA hopes to get the 2009 dates for the Forum out as soon as possible and was looking for new ideas for future venues. The 2009 Forums will be held on a Wednesday in March, June, and October.

Action: DA to encourage more North East companies to get involved with the Forums.

The next Off-Site Forums will take place in Aberdeen on 6th November and London on 12th November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon and JH thanked everyone for attending.