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### GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



INSIDE:  
ACTING ON AN  
INDUSTRY CAREER

# REGIONAL REVIEW

The Newsletter from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

South East & East Region

November 2007

## STEELY OLYMPIANS

### IMPROVING APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE SOUTH

A London-based Training Provider has been approached to run steel erector apprenticeships. The College of North West London is hoping to begin training 16 ECITB apprentices who will be finished in time for them to work on some of the major Olympic construction projects.

Historically it's been extremely difficult to find training projects in the London area. The College of North West London trained steel erectors for Heathrow's Terminal 5 project, but the apprentices had to do their practical training in the North East. As Regional Account Manager Dug Harrison explained, the Olympics has led to greater demand for local skills. "We approached the College who were keen to run the whole thing from their premises in Kilburn. However, this will involve a lot of investment to set up an outdoor rig to teach apprentices hands-on skills in a safe environment. The ECITB will help by putting funding

forward to help the College set up these facilities – we're hoping to use the Regional Discretionary Grant to help towards the rig. The new training centre could be instrumental in enabling the ECITB to fulfill its objectives to recruit locally, train locally and employ locally."

Hugh McPhillips is the Head of the Engineering Department at the College. "The hope is that we'll become the centre for steel erecting in the south. There are a lot of major building projects, such as the Olympic Village infrastructure in the South East. We had a very successful pilot scheme and are willing to do all of the options that ECITB apprenticeship courses involve."

ECITB Director of Operations Tony Featherstone added, "I'm delighted the College of North West London is willing to begin the scheme and am confident this years apprentices will be working on Olympic and all other related projects in the London area."



### SAFETY CENTURY

The ECITB has reached an ACE milestone! Plate worker William Matthews became the 100th candidate based at the Isle of Grain LNG site in Kent to achieve this qualification.

William is employed by CB&I, the main contractor. Regional Account Manager Dug Harrison said, "The 100th certificate on-site is a terrific milestone for ACE at the LNG site on the Isle of Grain. CB&I have been very supportive of ECITB products and services, including ACE."

CB&I's Steve Franklin said the ACE card is a good way of confirming competence. "We are keen to encourage all staff to develop to the best of their abilities which is why we have supported individuals who wish to achieve the ACE card. Confirming competence is a key part of selecting and developing staff and the ACE card is an important part of that development for us. In this respect I'd like to thank John Harris's team at Eastern Training Services who work regularly and faithfully to drive the individuals through to completion and ensure everyone gets their ACE card."



PICTURED ABOVE:  
Plate worker  
William Matthews  
(second from left)  
receives his ACE  
safety certificate

# A SECOND CHANCE

## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

The ECITB is developing a pilot programme to find training opportunities for young offenders within the engineering construction industry. Account Manager Duncan Weeks is talking to local employers and staff at Reading Young Offenders Institute in the hope of setting something up in the near future.

"The idea is gaining such an interest from employers that a meeting took place on 26 September between the ECITB, local employers and staff at Reading YOI. Interested parties had some questions answered and also met some of the young offenders. We will also take the Promoting Engineering Roadshow to Reading YOI on the 27th of November to get the young people themselves thinking about a good career."

Tim Millard is Business Manager at SEC. "Our head office is in Reading and we wanted to do something to support people in the area. We had discussed the links with Reading YOI at the Regional Forum and I wanted to get involved. I believe in giving people a second chance – some of the young offenders are in the Institute simply because they made a mistake which, given the right support, won't happen again. The industry is short of people so if we can help solve the skills shortage at the same time as giving young people a second chance, then it'll be a success!"



Please contact Duncan Weeks for more information about the pilot programme and attendance at the Roadshow.

PICTURED RIGHT: ECITB apprentices Tony Haydon, Louie Johnson and Luke Greaves with the fabricated steel cage

## WELDED TO AWARDS

Congratulations to Leigh Everleigh who won the Welding Institute prize for Best Welding Apprentice on completion of training at SETA. Leigh is now going to site with CHB-Jordan in Southampton to continue his N/SVQ Level 3, along with two other apprentices. Dave Headington, Operations Manager said, "Special congratulations are extended to Leigh Everleigh on winning the award from the Welding Institute. It's a good achievement that should inspire him and others to become competent tradesmen."

## A HELPING HAND

Earlier this year, EAGIT fabrication apprentices in Norwich were asked to help out a local scout group. The scouts asked the apprentices for help after hearing how they helped set up EAGIT's new fabrication facility earlier this year. To secure a Health & Safety certificate for their Great Yarmouth HQ, the scouts needed a cage to secure the gas bottles used to heat the building.

ECITB Regional Account Manager Dug Harrison said it was an ideal opportunity for the apprentices to put their learning into action. "Normally they'll make test pieces which end up on the skip. This was a chance for them to make something with a real application and they did it to a very high standard. They made the cage out of spare material from a previous task assignment, doing an extremely good job on a project which everyone benefits from."

## CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

Tony Featherstone, ECITB Director of Operations, provides an overview of the region.

"The main focus has been on securing pledges for the 2007 intake ensuring the number of apprentices recruited was double that of 2006. This proves the importance of the SE&E as one of the biggest Onsite regions and, with new projects coming on stream, the number of new entrants into the industry will increase further.

The new format of the Regional Forums has been very successful. They are now held in both the east and south east of the region to take account of the number of companies active in those areas. Attendance has significantly improved, with clients and public sector organisations also attending.

Overall, the SE&E region is on course to meet and, in most instances, exceed the demanding targets set at the start of the year. This proves the relationship between the ECITB and industry continues to grow and that by working together, we can ensure the future needs of companies in the area continue to be met.

Account Manager, Nick Thomas has taken on a new role within the Builders Merchant Federation. We'd like to thank Nick for his hard work and commitment shown during his four years with the ECITB and wish him good luck with his new position."

# SOUTH EAST AND EAST REGIONAL FORUM UPDATE

The most recent Regional Forums took place on the 11 July at EAGIT, Norwich and 18 July at SETA, Southampton. Please find below the highlights of the Forum:

- Appointment of three new Training Providers
- Intake of apprentices doubled
- The launch of new short courses
- An update on the Regional Discretionary Fund

For more detailed information view the minutes from the Forum at <http://www.ecitb.org.uk/southeast&eastregion-forum2007>

## REGIONAL FORUM 2007 DATES\*

Norwich	7 November 2007
Southampton	14 November 2007

\*Please note these dates may be subject to change.

## SOUTH EAST AND EAST CONTACTS

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