



INSIDE:
GO WEST

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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

Scotland Region

November 2007

CHALLENGING CONSTRUCTION THE ANSWER IS BLOWING IN THE WIND!

The ECITB were involved in the annual Young Engineer Competition last June. Both the Scottish and Offshore regions assisted in sponsoring this event.

This is a schools competition for teams from all over Scotland, and is designed to raise awareness of the engineering construction industry.

This year, children of all ages were given the challenge of constructing a wind turbine in just three minutes. They were assessed on team work, communication and, of course, solving the challenge.

This year's challenge was set up by a group of 16 ECITB apprentices from MetTECH. Robert Russell is the Instructor and explains the competition, "The apprentices had to come up with the idea for something which could be stripped down and rebuilt for the competition. They produced the project complete with a manual of instructions and photos showing the students how to assemble it. The apprentices were using all the skills they'd learnt on their course – machining, fitting, measuring – and it helped them complete their portfolio."

"Five apprentices had the main involvement: four designers – Andrew Parry, who was the team leader, Richard McCluskey, David Robertson, Ian Fulton; and Claire Lee who made the electrical box with the lights. The rest of the group made parts for the turbine which they constructed from

scratch, sourcing the parts from materials which were lying around."

The competition was run in conjunction with the Scottish Council for Development & Industry to give the young people an insight into the opportunities, challenges and rewards of a career in engineering. Sandy Moggach is the coordinator for Young Engineers and has seen a rise in interest from students over the years, as she explains, "We also run clubs where kids tackle fun projects which expose them to science, engineering and technology, beginning with just five in 1987. We now have 239 clubs with 3,800 members. The ECITB have been very supportive over the past few years and I hope this continues so the young people get the information they need. We find we get better results if there are links with industry, and the anecdotal feedback about people going on into an industry career has been very positive."

Some of the major ECI companies get involved in the competition, setting up stalls at the event so they can talk to students about what it would be like to work in the industry.

PICTURED BELOW:
Scottish students
participating in the
Young Engineer
Competition



MANAGING SUCCESS

The ECITB has sourced enough funding to train over one hundred Supervisors. These learners are trained and assessed by ECITB Training Provider MetTECH, and have now completed their course with nearly a 100% success rate.

Regional Account Manager, Blair Barclay, said, "This is a partnership with Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, MetTECH, the contractors and ECITB. It has enabled us to utilise Scottish Enterprise funding to develop Supervisors through the apprentice route to achieve N/SVQ Level 3, the Modern Apprenticeship Certificate in Management and the ECIAS Gold Card. Due to the on-going success of these projects, Scottish Enterprise is making another 37 funded slots available between now and January 2008."

Marie Logan, National Training Manager at MetTECH attributes the success to work done by the ECITB in sourcing good candidates as well as the course itself and explains, "The good thing about this qualification is that the candidates can fit their study in with work and personal commitments. They can also choose the way of learning which suits their own style and, importantly, they receive a certificate recognising competence as a manager."

BACK TO WORK

APPRENTICESHIPS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Apprentices trained on a grant provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) have successfully entered the workforce. The ESF provided the money in order to help people who had been unemployed for a year or two get back into training and work.

Originally, 24 apprentices started the scheme, though there have been a few drop outs. Account Manager, Joanne McAlpine, said, "The apprentices were a bit older than you'd usually expect, so it provided an unusual but excellent opportunity for them to be trained. We're really pleased with the progress they've made and their attitude towards the course."

The first two apprentices to complete the training were Mark Dickson and Colin Smith. Both have been placed with Wood Group Heavy Industrial Turbines Field Service which will take them on as trainees when they finish their apprenticeships. Gareth Napier, from Wood Group HIT, is enormously pleased with them, "We take on a couple of ECITB apprentices every year, and took on Colin and Mark after an interview process. They've been with us two years and have come on in leaps and bounds."

Colin Smith had done three College courses in the hope of getting an apprenticeship, but it was not until he saw an ECITB advert in the local paper that he finally got offered a

place. The ESF funding has not only increased his job prospects, it has also broadened his horizons dramatically, as Colin explains, "I've already done a lot of offshore work, doing gas pipeline maintenance in the North Sea. I've also worked at power stations in England, and spent two months in America learning how they do turbine overhauls. I hope to work in Denmark and Finland, and have also put my name down to work in Thailand."

GO WEST!

Eighteen ECITB apprentices working with GSI recently went to the States to do a special training course. The 14 mechanical and four electrical apprentices spent two weeks in Florida and New York being trained in specialised turbine generator work.

GSI is part of General Electric, so although they're based in GSI Clydebank, the apprentices could end up working in 83 countries worldwide. They will be assessed and monitored by ECITB Training Provider MetTECH in conjunction with GSI.

PICTURED BELOW:
The ECITB apprentices going to train in the United States



SCOTLAND REGIONAL FORUM UPDATE

The October Regional Forum took place at the Stirling Management Centre, Stirling University on the 3 October, 17 stakeholders attended. Please find below the highlights of the forum:

- 44 apprentice pledges in 2007 and most were in training by October. Apprentices recruited in following disciplines – Mechanical Fitting, Welding, Pipefitting, Electrotechnical Installation, NDT and Design & Draughting.
- New apprenticeships were offered in NDT and Design and Draughting to meet industry demands.
- Update on existing and new Technical, Supervisory and Management Programmes plus applications received for teams for the Active Cup competition in January 2008.
- ACE and Supervisory Apprenticeship initiatives continue to make good progress.
- Forum agreed to endorse the Training and Skills Charter.

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

REGIONAL FORUM 2008 DATES*

20 February 2008
21 May 2008
22 October 2008

*Please note these dates may be subject to change.

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INTRODUCING...

Mandy Weir is the new Regional Administrator for Scotland. She comes from an administrative background with engineering companies and academic institutions. She is based at the MetTECH Training Centre in Grangemouth. She has been with ECITB for five months, and although she sees her job as a challenge, she hopes she's already been making a difference.

CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

Scotland's Regional Chair, John Mellon, provides an update on what has been happening in the region.

"In my April overview, I reported that we were looking to maximise the benefits of changes within the ECITB. I'm pleased to report that we have made very good progress.

Currently, our number one objective is addressing the skills shortage. Numbers on training programmes are positive this year with 46 pledges received for the ECITB apprenticeship scheme and the same number registering on the TECSkills programme.

We continue to make great strides in the Supervisory Management Programme funded by Scottish Enterprise. A hundred Supervisors have registered through the scheme – 50% have already achieved N/SVQ Level 3. Scottish Enterprise have agreed to additional funding for a further 40 candidates. The total funding to date is now £350,000.

Scottish Enterprise has also provided funding for 100 ACE candidates in 2007/2008. Providing we meet our targets for this year, they have agreed to funding in 2008/2009.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise have agreed to fund an ACE pilot for 50 candidates using targeted associates. The launch took place in September and focused on assessment in Welding.

The regional budgets have now been used up, which was something that has been brought up in Regional Forums. The Forum concept has been very positive and productive to generate ideas for the region.

Finally, the ECITB Scottish Regional Group is in the final stages of agreeing a Skills & Training Charter for Scotland. The main focus will be on opportunities, specific target commitments and the role of stakeholders in helping to develop a more extensive pool of skilled operatives."