

The next generation of fresh new talent

If you're in business for the long haul, the notion that a fresh pool of talent won't be awaiting you after your current engineers retire isn't a pleasant thought. So what steps are government and industry taking to ensure that the pipeline of fresh-thinking young people doesn't dry up?

Semta, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, supports UK businesses in achieving global competitiveness through investment in skills, and has been tasked with devising and administering a series of new Diplomas.

The Diplomas which include Engineering, Manufacturing and Product Design (MPD), and Science, have been designed by employers and education, and have been developed to sit alongside traditional academic qualifications such as GCSEs and A-Levels (age 14-19). The Engineering and MPD Diplomas are already being delivered by a consortia of schools, colleges and employers nationwide; the Science Diploma will go live in 2011. As well as raising the profile of these industries, it is hoped that the Diplomas will increase the number of suitable young people in these sectors who have developed a realistic view of the sector, practical skills and a good grounding in the basic principles amongst other attributes.

To help make sure that young people get the skills you need from them in the future, you can support the Diploma at a national or local level, including, sending your staff into schools or colleges, hosting work place visits, and producing real life case studies that teachers can use.

Don't sit back and wait for talent to knock on your door. To get involved contact:-

T +44 (0)845 643 9001

E customerservices@semta.org.uk

www.semta.org.uk



Partner with the Enterprise Europe Network to receive new sales lead

By Ian Frame, PPMA Technical Consultant

The Enterprise Europe Network regularly receives partnering opportunities in the form of offers and requests. Network participants can either offer a new technology (machine or process) for exploitation or request a technology (machine or process) to solve a specific need. The Network receives a steady stream of opportunities many of which involve sophisticated technology - just what UK industry needs to stay current!



In the past you would have contacted your local Enterprise Europe Network office to gain access to the opportunities. Now, to facilitate the process, the PPMA is offering to act as the 'clearing centre' on behalf of its members and we will forward appropriate opportunities to you as we receive them. We appreciate that many of the opportunities are only applicable to a few members but some could have far reaching benefits.

When a request opportunity arises the Enterprise Europe Network will help to facilitate an introduction to the company behind the request; the supplier will need to provide brief details of their company and address the specifications of the request.

For further details please contact Ian Frame:
E ian.frame@ppma.co.uk T +44 (0)1767 222154. For more information go to:- www.enterprise-europe.net

Semta Opportunities for SMEs

Women & Work programme

Semta reports that harnessing the skills of women in the workplace could benefit the economy by as much as £23bn a year and that thousands of women in UK industry are working in roles well below their capabilities and potential skill levels.

The Semta Women and Work programme is designed to help both individuals and businesses by supporting skills development and realising the potential of female staff. Companies can receive funding for training/development (subject to employer match).

For more information please contact Semta Customer Services as detailed above.

Improving performance through skills

Helping employers develop staff to ensure their business is well placed to beat the recession and prepare for recovery is an essential part of Semta's work.

Guttridge worked with Semta to implement lean manufacturing and staff training so that the company could improve performance and boost productivity and competitiveness. On completion of the project, the work of those employees who received training brought about annual savings of nearly £130,000.

For more information please contact Semta Customer Services as detailed above.

Apprenticeship scheme - www.semta.org.uk

Semta's managed apprenticeship service covers apprenticeships at levels 2 and 3 in shopfloor production, engineering manufacture and metals processing.

The service includes advice on recruitment and selection, frameworks, qualifications and progression routes, plus it provides specialist on-the-job assessors and arranges for a local engineering provider to deliver off-the-job training.



TQC apprentices

"TQC has supported 3 employees in apprenticeship training on Semta framework courses with a local college," comments Operations Director Gavin Murray. "To date we have been very pleased with the outcomes and the help and support available to our SME engineering business," he adds.