

Drive Forward in Motor Industry Skills Training - April 2009

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter produced by the IMI, the Sector Skills Council for the retail motor industry.

We would like to send it to as many people and organisations as possible - if you know anyone who may like to receive it, please ask them to email anns@motor.org.uk with their details.

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Group Training Associations/Apprenticeship Training Associations



The LSC will extend the successful group training approach of employer-led training associations, in particular to those sectors of the economy that tend not to take Apprentices, such as those that have previously largely recruited graduates or that have a very high proportion of SMEs.

Alongside this, the LSC will create up to 10 new Apprenticeship Training Associations (ATA) across the country by the end of 2009, with the potential to deliver up to 15,000 Apprenticeship places by 2014/15. This will develop new and innovative approaches drawing on the Australian model, where apprentices are employed by a recruitment agency and hired out to host businesses.

It is expected that £7m funding will be available to support a small number of high impact proposals, outlining models which build on the key characteristics of GTAs/ATAs and which will contribute towards Apprenticeships expansion, increased employer engagement and meeting identified geographical and sectoral skills needs.

The tendering process is through Bravo - the tendering system for the LSC, [click here](#) for information.

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Further developments for Assessor and Verifier standards

Lifelong Learning UK are currently developing National Occupational Standards which will include the review of standards which underpin Assessor and Verifier qualifications.

These developments are in response to a high level steer across all four nations. Concern was raised that independently developed Professional Standards may not articulate the common requirements of learning delivery across the four nations, and as a consequence may hinder the transferability of skills across borders. It was therefore agreed that a set of 'Meta' National Occupational Standards would be developed that would:

- Be comprehensive and inclusive of all of the existing professional standards
- Be relevant to all learning delivery regardless of context or environment
- Support the transferability of skills
- Be a mechanism for sharing best practice in Learning Delivery across the UK.

For further information please [click here](#).

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Good management and leadership skills are good for business

Having skilled managers and leaders contributes to improved business productivity, profitability and success.

In this time of recession it is therefore crucial for the industry to have skilled people in management and leadership roles. With this in mind, please signpost the new section on our website, which aims to help find the right management and leadership qualification for the employers you work with.



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Northern Ireland Diagnostic Evenings

Recently held Diagnostics Evenings for people who work in the Northern Ireland motor industry, were a big success with over 100 mechanics attending. They heard about the importance of having the equipment, technical information and training in order to maintain and repair modern vehicles. The attendees also had the opportunity to get some hands on practice with various diagnostic equipment and talk to the experts, David Gordon from Texa and Philip Rutt from Pico Technology.

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The Manchester College achieves tough quality standard

The Manchester College is the first FE College to achieve the Training Quality Standard (TQS) including Part B with excellence in Automotive Skills training. Strongly endorsed and supported by the IMI, the TQS is an extremely tough to achieve, employer focused quality standard. TQS has two parts, Part A for employer responsiveness and Part B for sector expertise. It recognises and celebrates

the very best organisations delivering training and development solutions to employers. To see current achievers of TQS with excellence in Automotive Skills training please go to the [Recognising Training Excellence](#) area of the IMI website. For lots more information on the TQS and the assessment framework please go to www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk or contact Adrian Lawson, Development Manager - Quality Improvement: email: adrianl@motor.org.uk

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Any comments or feedback on Drive Forward are appreciated, please send to adrianl@motor.org.uk.

Regards

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