

# Torque

the Motor Industry Newsletter - February 2010

Welcome to Torque, the monthly newsletter from the IMI for Motor Industry employers.

As the professional association and Sector Skills Council for the automotive retail industry we would like to keep you up to date with news, views and information from our sector.

If you have any comments, or if you know anyone who may like to receive this newsletter, please email [marianne@motor.org.uk](mailto:marianne@motor.org.uk). We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

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## **Fly the flag for the Retail Automotive Industry**

*Are you passionate about the retail automotive industry?*

*Do you want to inspire young people?*

*Are you looking for an opportunity to build new contacts?*



We are looking for volunteers to participate in our new nationwide programme to promote careers in the retail automotive industry.

With the opportunity to make new contacts, add a new dimension to your CV and inspire career choices, this position could be the professional title to make you stand out from the crowd. As a representative of the IMI, we may call on you to deliver industry specific presentations to young people at schools and colleges in your local area plus attend careers events and seminars all to raise the profile of the industry amongst young people.

We will be running familiarisation sessions across the UK and supplying resource toolkits so you will be fully briefed and equipped for this exciting role.

We anticipate on average that an Automotive Careers Champion will be involved in a couple of events per year, however, the role is fully flexible to the amount of time you want to commit.

If you see yourself as an Automotive Careers Champion, click on the link below for full details and to download an application form.

[Click here for more details](#)

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## **Key industry sponsors announced for the 2010 Skillauto competitions**



The IMI has announced two premier sponsors for the 2010 Skillauto competitions.

IMI Awards Limited and Castrol Professional have both agreed to sponsor the competitions for the current cycle which are run over three disciplines; autobody repair, car painting and light vehicle (service and maintenance).

The Skillauto competitions have been designed to help raise the profile of skills and vocational training in the automotive sector through searching for excellence and recognising the skills of individuals at the top of their game.

Following another record year for the number of entries received in the light vehicle category, technicians from across the country have now been invited to compete in a series of regional heats before the lucky few are selected to go through to the final.

For more information, [click here](#)

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## **£1,000 for new apprentices in Scotland**

Scottish businesses of all sizes and in all sectors have the opportunity to receive £1,000 to take on a new apprentice. As part of the 'Invest in an Apprentice' scheme the £4 million scheme will run until 26th March. The incentive is available for up to 4000 employers.

The scheme is part of ScotAction, an integrated package combining new and improved measures to help individuals and businesses through the recession and will provide skills assistance - including wage subsidies in some circumstances - for training for work, training in work and training from work to work to help Scottish people and businesses survive the downturn and thrive when the economy starts to recover.

For more information on ScotAction, the Scottish Government's skills support package for leading Scotland out of recession and on to economic growth, [click here](#)

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## **Vocational Qualifications - Right Skills, right for your business**

Vocational qualifications in the automotive sector are undergoing a radical change. The changes come amid a wider reform of vocational qualifications across all sectors. The Vocational Qualification Reform programme will see qualifications across every industry streamlined so that they are easier to understand and access.

Qualifications are now based on what employers need and what learners can easily access whilst including the best parts of existing vocational qualifications. Fundamentally, they bring choice, clarity and confidence to vocational qualifications.

The new set of bite-size qualifications will have simpler titles and clear indicators of size, level of difficulty and content. The Government believes that these new qualifications will help to build a better skilled workforce - leading to improved retention rates and increased profitability across all industries.

New information is available on Business Link at [www.businesslink.gov.uk/vocationalqualifications](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/vocationalqualifications)

For updates on the government's vocational qualification reform programme, see <http://www.bis.gov.uk/vocationalqualifications>

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## Top Technician 2010



The grand finalists in Top Technician 2010 were selected after beating regional contestants in a series of repair challenges, designed by chief judge Ian Gillgrass of the IMI.

24 technicians competed over two days and were guided through intense 20-minute repair tasks by the panel of judges, 2008 competition winner Mark Banks and Delphi technical trainer Rob Lewis. Rob was joined by his colleague Gary Collins and Delphi Diesel specialist Tim Roberts, all technical specialists in their own right.

The final 12 technicians, competing for the title and a prize package worth over £12,000, will now compete at the grand finals which will take place at the Honda Institute in Slough on the 5th March. The winner will be announced at Workshop 2010 which takes place at the NEC in Birmingham from 13th to 15th April, a showcase for the tools, kit and training information needed by anyone involved in the service and repair of vehicles whether motorbikes, cars, vans or trucks.

Top Technician 2010 is sponsored by Blue Print, Comma Oil & Chemicals, Delphi, Euro Car Parts, Lemforder and Motor Codes. The competition's technical partner is ATA.

For more background information on the competition visit [www.toptechnician.co.uk](http://www.toptechnician.co.uk) or contact Nicola St Clair on 01634 261 262, email [Nicola@toptechnician.co.uk](mailto:Nicola@toptechnician.co.uk).

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## **Sector Skills Assessments - Skills Priorities for the Automotive Retail Sector**

Each year the IMI will produce a report highlighting the key issues affecting the sector and the skills implications for employers. Last month we disseminated an overarching summary of priorities for the sector in the UK. The full skills assessment reports are now available for the UK each nation (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and can be found on our website.



In addition to forming the future strategy for the IMI the skills assessments have been submitted via UKCES to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who intend to use the annual SSA reports as part of their National Strategic Skills Audit which will inform future planning.

[To access these reports please click here](#)

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## **IMI Annual Dinner 2010**

There is still chance to buy tickets for the IMI Annual Dinner on Thursday 11 March 2010 at The Landmark, London. Featuring the Skillmiles Recognition Awards, the IMI Annual Dinner has become an established event in the automotive industry calendar and it is a rewarding networking evening.



For booking information please call Marianne Clarke on 01992 511521 or email [marianne@motor.org.uk](mailto:marianne@motor.org.uk).

Alternatively download [a booking form here](#).

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## Casting for new TV series!



Are you a car dealer looking for a new challenge and a chance to make a deserving customer's dream come true?

Gogglebox Entertainment are casting for an exciting new, primetime TV show and want to hear from charismatic, up-for-a-challenge, male or female dealers to potentially be part of this and become real-life, on-screen heroes. The chance to make someone's dream come true AND increase your profile is one not to be missed! If you are interested please call Louisa on 020 7908 5061, or email your contact details to [louisa@goggleboxentertainment.co.uk](mailto:louisa@goggleboxentertainment.co.uk) ASAP and for more information about what it would involve.

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## Latest Motor Industry News

### 'One million' new European cars sold in January

Scrappage deals appear to be the main driving force behind the increased number of new cars sold in Western Europe this January...

[\[ Full Story \]](#)

### Cash incentive to take on apprentices

Businesses are being offered up to £2,500 to encourage them to take on apprentices. The National Apprenticeship Service is offering the sum as an incentive to companies considering recruiting apprentices.

[\[Full Story\]](#)

### New MOT test lane enhances state-of-the-art dealership

A new MOT test lane has been installed at a state-of-the-art dealership in Teesside.

[\[Full Story\]](#)

[For more of the latest Motor Industry News click here ...](#)

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Regards

Sarah Sillars OBE FIMI  
Executive Chair  
The Institute of the Motor Industry

Tel: 01992 511 521

Email: [info@motor.org.uk](mailto:info@motor.org.uk)

<http://www.motor.org.uk>

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