

Torque

the Motor Industry Newsletter - October 2009

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. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

Government funding for the automotive retail sector

The IMI Funding Advice Service has been developed to assist employers to find out more about the Government funding available across all four nations and to provide guidance on how it can be accessed.



The IMI completed an in depth review to see how much support is available through regional and local agencies that can be accessed by businesses to support the automotive retail sector. The support is different in terms of amounts and structure, dependent on where you are based in the United Kingdom.

[Click here](#) to find a summary and some guidance regarding the funding available.

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Showcase skills and passion with Skillauto



Do you know someone that has what it takes to rise to the top in a UK wide search for the finest auto industry technicians? If your answer is Yes, Skillauto can provide your organisation with the platform you need to showcase these skills.

For successful technicians, the rewards can be fantastically self satisfying and give them the confidence to pursue their career to the highest level. For employers, highlighting these skills could contribute to the success and profitability of your company.

Skillauto's search for the best is through national automotive technician competitions, which we run in the following disciplines: Automobile Technology, Autobody Repair and Car Painting.

If you know someone that has no more than 3 years experience including training and would like more information about taking part, then please visit www.skillauto.co.uk or contact John Sillars at the IMI on johns@motor.org.uk or call 01992 511521.

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Good news for Apprenticeships in England



Following the announcement from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) detailing the reduction in funding for Automotive Retail Apprenticeships, the IMI has produced a sector report detailing:

- success rates of apprenticeships in the sector (in comparison to other sectors)
- the progression rates of Level 2 apprentices to Level 3 apprentices
- the expected growth of the Automotive Retail sector across the nine LSC regions

Based on this information, the LSC has agreed to put on hold the reduction in funds for the sector until the beginning of the next academic year 2010/2011.

[Read the report here](#)

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Top Technician 2010



The annual Top Technician competition was created in 2003 to recognise and reward highly skilled technicians who face complex technology everyday in their garages. Motorists are also encouraged to nominate technicians from their local garage.

Entrants are sent a link to an online test which can be taken any time before 8th January 2010. The questions cover a broad range of topics related to the repair and maintenance of passenger cars and have been written by Chief Judge Ian Gillgrass MIMI from Top Technician's technical partner ATA.

[To find out more or to nominate yourself or a colleague click here ...](#)

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Meeting facilities at the IMI

Why not host your meeting or event at The Institute of the Motor Industry?

Our meeting facilities comprise of Fanshaws house and the Prince Michael Conference Centre and are set in secluded, private grounds.

With rates starting at £35 + VAT per delegate, the buildings are conveniently situated near Hertford with easy access by road, with plentiful car parking, or by rail from London Moorgate/Finsbury Park stations.

[Click here](#) to view our Conference Centre brochure.

For more information please contact Robin Crawley, Facilities Coordinator at the IMI on 01992 511521 or email robinc@motor.org.uk

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Latest Motor Industry News

Classic Motor Show to wow crowds at Birmingham NEC

Classic car enthusiasts will be treated to an exhibition of prestige and nostalgia when they visit the Birmingham NEC in November...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

Chinese car production breaks record

Annual car production in China has reached the unprecedented figure of ten million vehicles in one year...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

North-east looks to become electric car hotspot

Newcastle is leading a campaign to try and get more electric car charging points in the north-east...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

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

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Regards

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