

Torque

the Motor Industry Newsletter - June 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 comms@motor.org.uk. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

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ATA celebrates 5 years

The Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) scheme was launched to the industry on 15th June 2005. The scheme, which is the UK's only national, voluntary accreditation scheme for vehicle technicians, began with 500 registered individuals but now over 23,000 individuals have achieved the standard.



ATA proves a technician's competence, giving reassurance to customers as well as raising the professional status and credibility of skilled individuals and their businesses.

Steve Scofield, Head of the Accreditation Academy said 'Back in 2005, the only route offered was that of Light Vehicle technician, but now increased industry demand for accredited personnel means there are now 11 routes across the sector from Air-Conditioning to Vehicle Damage Assessor'.

ATA fits various standards across the industry including accident repair – PAS125 and as ATA accreditation lasts for five years, the IMI is starting to see the first cycle of re-accreditation.

The IMI is dedicated to making UK motorists aware of ATA as the universal standard of competence to look for within the motor industry and we are working hard to build consumer awareness of ATA registered individuals and those who employ them.

Full details of Automotive Technician Accreditation are available on the website www.automotivetechician.org.uk

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Towards Maturity Learning Technology Benchmark

If you are responsible for implementing learning technologies in your workplace and are under pressure to accelerate their impact, then IMI invites you to get involved in the 4th Towards Maturity Learning Technology Benchmark.

The IMI are pleased to support Towards Maturity's independent learning technology research and would like to recommend that you take part in their 2010 benchmark . This year, many organisations are under even more pressure to deliver more learning with less resources and need their learning technologies to work even harder. By taking part you will be able to benchmark your own progress with learning technologies and receive free personalised feedback and practical advice to help you accelerate their benefits in your organisation.

So if you want to continue to:

- Increase e-learning and learning technology adoption and effectiveness
- Accelerate change
- Improve business engagement
- Deliver better results and improve efficiency
- Receive independent, personalised feedback & practical advice

then please take part today . If you have not already received an invitation , you can access the benchmark directly by [clicking here](#).

What will it cost?

Approx 40 minutes of your time to reflect on your current practice via this online review (apart from that, it is completely free!).

What will you get?

All those who complete the benchmark will receive a copy of the final research findings (due November 2010) and your own personalised benchmark report (value £200) that:

- Highlights your strengths and weaknesses
- Compares your activity against benchmarks established over the past 6 years that are proven to improve impact and take up
- Directs you to examples of great practice and free resources to help you on your learning technology journey.

About the benchmark

The [Towards Maturity](#) benchmark is now the most comprehensive, independent and authoritative review on the use of Learning Technologies in the workplace in the UK. The 2010 benchmark represents a unique industry collaboration reflected by

[endorsements](#) from many organisations, including, IMI, TrainingZone, IITT, eLearning Network, L&S group, BILD and many more, to ensure that this benchmark represents employer needs from all sectors in 2010. To date over 800 organisations from the private, public and not for profit sectors have participated in this independent benchmark research which provides compelling evidence into how we can improve the impact of learning technologies in the workplace. Find out more about the benchmark [here](#).

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Skillauto Update

Following a record number of entries and a series of regional heats across the country, the judges have now selected the



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final six technicians who will compete in the UK final of the Skillauto Automobile Technology (light vehicle) competition, sponsored by IMI Awards and Castrol.

From over 600 applicants, the top technicians in the light vehicle category were whittled down to the final six who will now compete on the 22nd and 23rd of June at the prestigious BMW Academy, near Reading in Berkshire. They face six challenging tasks held across the two days and any exceptional competitors identified during the final may be asked to take part in a selection event for the WorldSkills International competition, which is being held in London next year.

The highest scoring light vehicle technicians are as follows:

- Alex Knight - Gatwick Honda
- Paul Simpson - Verve Wishaw - Bogside, Scotland
- Phil Roberts - Central Garage, Llanrwst Wales
- Simon Castanha - Sytner Leicester BMW
- Stuart Prince - Lookers Honda, Derby
- Stuart Hobbs - Lynx Garage, Havant

Melissa Sagir-Amos, Skills Competitions Coordinator at the IMI who oversees Skillauto activity said:

"Our congratulations go to the six light vehicle technicians who have been selected to go through to the automobile technology final. Skillauto aims to find the best and the judges were briefed not just to identify technical competence, but to look for

excellence in the tasks, communication skills and the way the technicians worked. The competitions help to build confidence and the ambition of the technicians who take part and we wish all of them the very best of luck."

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Transforming the delivery of functional skills and awarding organisation services

Four highly respected sector specialist awarding organisations have come together to transform the way Functional Skills will be offered to centres.

EAL (EMTA Awards Ltd), IMI Awards, ITEC and Skillsfirst Awards will jointly develop and offer, from September 2010, Functional Skills qualifications at Levels 1 and 2 in English, Maths and ICT.

These qualifications will be available on-screen and on-demand initially through 10 assessment windows. The aim is to move to a fully all-year round and on-demand model and an offering in Entry Level qualifications in 2011.

This revolutionary collaboration came about following extensive research into the needs of, and feedback from, our sectors' employers and centres. The awarding organisations have listened to their requests for flexible and cost effective Functional Skills which, whilst complying with strict regulatory expectations and quality standards, will result in responsive and employer friendly arrangements for learners, employees and apprentices.

From September 2010, the awarding organisations will also begin to offer a practical one-stop-shop for various awarding organisation processes such as appeals and enquiries, whilst putting in place arrangements to converge other processes such as "centre approval" and "on-going monitoring" activities where possible.

The announcement has met with support from employers looking for a solution to their Functional Skills needs.

For further information please [click here](#)

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irtec alliance offers recognition for skilled CV technicians

Two of engineering's most respected names have finalised an agreement to improve commercial vehicle industry standards by developing the technician-licensing scheme, irtec.



The Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE) and the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) have announced the collaboration, which paves the way for improved skills levels and recognition of a competency benchmark.

irtec is a renewable voluntary testing and assessment scheme that certifies the theoretical and practical skills of PCV, heavy goods and light commercial vehicle technicians. By passing an irtec test and achieving an irtec Licence, the holder displays a marked commitment to competency, safety and professional development.

Linda Stansfield, Chief Operating Officer at the IMI said:

"We welcome this partnership with the IRTE to help further develop and expand the irtec scheme in line with the evolving needs of employers within the commercial vehicle sector. The IMI are looking forward to working alongside the IRTE to help support skills development within this sector."

Responsibility for the irtec register of successfully licensed individuals will remain with the IRTE, but the IMI will take over the administration process for those wanting to do the assessment.

For more information [click here](#) and for further information regarding irtec, please visit www.soe.org.uk/irtec.

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New video aims to promote automotive apprenticeships

The IMI has produced a new video designed to promote the attributes needed as a motor vehicle apprentice and the skills required to work in the sector.

The video produced by the IMI's Northern Ireland office aims to motivate automotive students to perform well on their course of study and includes a series of short clips of people who work in the motor industry explaining what the opportunities are for them on successful completion of their course. It includes technicians explaining what they do and why it's interesting and challenging. More importantly managers and employers demonstrate the importance of good reports from the training provider and the kind of personal qualities they look for in prospective employed apprentices.

It is a great tool for college and training providers to use to inspire the young people currently enrolled on motor vehicle courses.

To watch the video, [click here](#).

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Developing Managers to Improve Employer Responsive Training

Across all sectors there are over 450 training providers and colleges registered for assessment of the 'employer focused' Training Quality Standard. There are currently 11 achievers of the Training Quality Standard Part A and Part B 'Excellence in Automotive Skills' with more working towards certification, some of which took part in a retail automotive specific World Class Skills programme of support which IMI secured. As a follow on, the IMI would like to announce that it has managed to secure further support for training providers and colleges.



The IMI is in discussions with the Managing Body about 'Masterclasses' aimed at those interested in the Standard - whether they're working towards assessment, or simply interested in learning how to use the Standard to develop their managers and improve their responsiveness to employers. We anticipate these workshops will last a day (9.30am – 4.30pm) and their focus will be driven by you! So, these sessions can cover the Standard's basic principles, the detail of the assessment framework, Part B or simply preparing for assessment. The sessions will also introduce a new option in your journey towards certification; CTQ or Committed to Training Quality.

We have an opportunity to deliver a workshop at the end of June (W/C June 28) or one during September. If you're interested please send your details to our partners

coordinator Rebecca Taylor at Rebecca.taylor@cfe.org.uk stating your preference and the number of delegates you want to send. So that we can tailor the workshop to your needs, it would be helpful if you can give a brief note about the things you'd like the workshop to focus on. This way we can decide with our partners on the level of detail and focus that's needed. Spaces are limited, so an early response is suggested to avoid disappointment.

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Latest Motor Industry News

UK scrappage scheme 'was most successful'

The UK scrappage scheme was the most successful one in the whole of Europe...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

SMMT: Electric car pledge makes UK look like worthwhile investment

The new coalition government's guarantee to still provide Lord Mandelson's proposed £20 million grant to Nissan to support its bid to mass-produce electric cars is an important step...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

England flags on cars 'increase fuel consumption'

Motorists travelling with England flags attached to their car can increase their fuel consumption by between three and six miles per gallon at an average speed of 70mph...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

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Regards

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