

Press Release

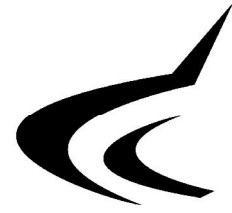
24th September 2008

Leading the way by improving skills

Two Derbyshire companies have lead the way in the introduction of NVQ Level 2 awards in the steelwork construction sector. Robinson Construction of Derby and Richard Lees Steel Decking (RLSD) of Ashbourne have successfully completed the trial project with Derby College and have become the first companies in the UK to have employees certified to NVQ 2 in Steel Erection and Metal Decking / Stud Welding. An awards ceremony will take place at Pride Parkway Stadium on Friday 26th September where staff from both companies will receive their NVQ certificates from Derby College.

Robinsons & RLSD have been seeking to improve the skills of their site workforce, in line with the HSE's Revitalising Health and Safety in Construction initiative and the Major Contractors Group Qualifying the Workforce programme and recognise the vital importance of further formal qualifications particularly for new entrants into the industry.

Steel Erection and Metal Decking is a specialist activity requiring a skilled workforce which is competent at working at height but until now there has never been a formal qualification route for those who work in this field.



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The awards ceremony is therefore the culmination of five years' hard work with representatives from the two companies involved from the beginning of the process working with the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) and the British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) to write the syllabus for the standards.

Derby College trained two employees from both companies for the A1 NVQ Assessor award during 2007 who then worked with staff on site to achieve their NVQs. The College was awarded direct claim assessment centre status early this year. All parties are now looking forward to a successful partnership to educate their workforce in the specialist steel construction sector into the future.

Steve Logan, Vice Principal at Derby College, said "this is an excellent example of industry and education working together to improve the skills of the workforce. Both companies are to be congratulated for their steadfast commitment to this project."

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Further information:

Lisa Saunders
Marketing Director
Derby College
Prince Charles Avenue
Derby DE22 4LR
Tel: 01332 520200 ext. 5118
Email: lisa.saunders@derby-college.ac.uk