

LEICESTER DYERS TRAIN TO GAIN PRODUCTIVITY

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A textile-dyeing firm in Leicester has increased productivity by 10 per cent, thanks to funding and support from Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed, and specialist textile training company Market Driven Solutions Ltd (MDS).

Apex Dyers and Finishers of Nansen Road in Leicester, established in 1988, see their products end up all over the world, from China to Morocco and from India to Lithuania, but in a fiercely competitive climate they were keen not to take this for granted.

MDS, who deliver Train to Gain qualifications to help upskill the textiles workforce and help them compete more effectively with offshore competitors, found training to specifically suit Apex's needs – providing an NVQ Level 2 in Performing Manufacturing Operations for the 28 staff, with specialist bespoke industry projects.

Paul McNeil, Factory Manager, said:

“We are already highly successful overseas and our products go all over the world but to stay ahead of the game it's essential to continue to improve the quality of goods produced and make sure our staff are the best. We were particularly interested in improving our employees' awareness of health and safety and environmental issues, as dyeing houses have strict rules and regulations that they need to adhere to. MDS flawlessly extended the NVQ

Performing Manufacturing Operations qualification to ensure all our specific requirements were met, setting up bespoke environmental projects and fitting around our shift patterns and ensuring training was right for each of the large numbers of roles our employees hold. In fact the training tools MDS used were so good we've now incorporated some of them into our employee induction pack.

"The fact that many of the team at MDS are multi-lingual and can deliver training in a number of community languages was also helpful for some of our employees.

"The training has been of great benefit to the firm and I've noticed a greater job awareness from our employees, a greater knowledge of chemical and industrial safety and an improvement in communication between workers and supervisors."

Rajinder Kumar, who works at Apex, said:

"The training has been great. It was enjoyable and has really helped us work as a team. The specialist projects were good and learning more about the health and safety and chemical spills has been really useful."

Sarbjit Johal, Director of MDS, said:

"We knew that Apex Dyers needed very specific training so we worked closely with them to ensure we could come up with a bespoke package to suit their needs."

Mary Rogers, Area Director, LSC Leicestershire, said:

"Apex Dyers' dedication to staff development has been key to their success, giving employees the skills they need to do the job with confidence and helping them compete in the global marketplace."

Train to Gain provides support and funding for work based learning to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the job.

To find out more about employer training provided by MDS, call 0121 452 5135.

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 015 5545, or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. Photographs available. Visit <http://nds.coi.gov.uk> or call Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 9712787
2. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in December 2006, warned that the UK must 'raise its game' on skills at all levels if it is to sustain and improve its position in the global economy. The Skills Pledge fulfils a key recommendation made in the review, at the heart of a new 'deal' where employers will be able to shape the skills system to meet their needs, in return for prioritising skills training at all levels.

Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News and PR. For media interviews or for further information contact Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 9712787