

## **Northampton Formula One guru drives home the business and skills message to East Midlands employers**

Date of issue 2 February 2010

em-08Business SkillsConferenceNorthants-feb2010

More than 300 employers heard about how skills and funding can play a key role in building stronger and more successful businesses from Formula One and Cosworth guru Mark Gallagher and business and skills advisers at a free conference this week.

At the '*Business and Skills Conference: Grow, Perform, Succeed*' in Nottingham (Monday 1 February), delegates heard from key business support agencies and employers about their experiences and the benefits of accessing Government funded services to develop the skills of their workforce and how this contributes to the regeneration of the local economy.

Keynote speaker Mark Gallagher, General Manager F1 Operations at Cosworth, based in Northampton, shared his inspiration in leadership, motivation and teamwork and gave a fascinating insight into the world of top level motor sport, drawing parallels between the challenging, high speed environment of Formula One and the fast-paced business world of today.

Speaking at the event, Mark said: "Some may see Formula One as a glamorous industry to be in, but the issues we face are exactly the same as any other engineering or manufacturing business.

“Cosworth’s UK success is down to the way we train our staff and unleash their potential. We need a high level of skills in this industry which can be achieved through apprenticeships and by investing in training.

“And there is a wide range of skills initiatives available from the Government which can help businesses succeed and give young people and adults the chance to develop and grow in their careers too.”

Mark was joined by Government Office East Midlands’ newly appointed Regional Director, Stephen Hillier, who explained how the region is at the forefront of jobs for the future and how young apprentices can boost profits and bring vibrancy, energy and fresh ideas into a business whilst securing our future labour market.

The event, which took place at the East Midlands Conference Centre, marked the start of National Apprenticeship Week and was delivered in partnership by the Learning and Skills Council, National Apprenticeship Service, Business Link East Midlands, East Midlands Business Forum, Jobcentre Plus and East Midlands Development Agency.

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**Photos of Mark speaking at the event, and other generic images are available on request, please call the number below.**

**Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR East Midlands. Media enquiries to Gaby Hateley on 0115 852 4357 or [gaby.hateley@coi.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gaby.hateley@coi.gsi.gov.uk)**