

A growing Chesterfield company who wanted to ensure a flow of skilled staff from within the local community decided to take matters into their own hands to develop their existing staff and encourage local youngsters to get passionate about electronics.

Kingfield Electronics Ltd, based on the Chesterfield Trading Estate, felt the impact of a shortage of skills in the area as they began developing their business. To increase the skills of staff while also increasing morale and job satisfaction, the company encouraged 40 of their 50 staff to undertake an NVQ Level 3 in Electronics and Electrical Engineering through Train to Gain, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The service aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through an organisational needs analysis, making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

**There will be opportunities for media to photograph the children during their visit at the following times:**  
**-Wednesday 11 July 10am Shirebrook School Visiting**  
**-Friday 13 July 10am Spire Junior School**

Now their sights are set on training their future employees and they are inviting almost 30 children from local schools, Spire Junior School and Shirebrook School, to tour the factory to involve the local community, help inspire a wider interest in electronics and raise the profile of the industry.

Alan Oldale, Quality Assurance Manager at Kingfield Electronics said:

“We’re expanding all the time but over the last few months we’ve found it hard to find experienced people within the local area.

“We found the Train to Gain service to be a real help and it has worked well with the business. The NVQs are very flexible and have enabled the staff to work towards their qualification while not disrupting the day-to-day business at the factory so we have highly skilled, happy, motivated staff.

“There’s a long term shortage of skills in the area so we’re training people that are with us so they are happier in their work and their career options are expanded, but we also wanted to plant a seed in the minds of some of the local school children and college students who will hopefully be some of our future employees. The children will come to the Kingfield facility and spend the morning with us to introduce them to the electronic manufacturing industry.

“Everyone that visits Kingfield gets excited by the factory as it includes large interesting machinery which uses lots of robotics. Being here also helps inspire people as they find out the various markets the products they could make will be used in - from fighter jets to food and drink factories.

“We really hope that this will interest them enough to think of electronics as a future career.”

Lynne Rawson, Skills Broker for Train to Gain, said:

“The company are investing heavily in the development of the workforce to ensure they have staff that are well qualified and motivated. The NVQs being delivered by West Nottinghamshire College are running alongside another structured training programme which is being delivered by an external consultancy. This training provides the competency to achieve and work to a prestigious global quality standard called the IPC.

“Kingfield Electronics really are a forward thinking company and the work they’re doing to train their staff and raise awareness of the industry with young people is of real benefit to the local community and to the electronics industry as a whole.

“Developing skills across the county is vital if we are to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being.”

“Train to Gain offers a great opportunity for local businesses to embrace the chance to tackle skills shortages and receive high quality training.”

Ray Jackson, Business Development Executive at West Nottinghamshire college, said:

“This is a robust course which gives every staff member a real opportunity to improve their day to day skills and knowledge to help them in the work they do, whilst offering the advantage of no off the job down time. This provision is backed by a highly skilled team that offers support on any aspect to any learner to ensure they can complete the programme.”

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at [www.iwanttotrain.com](http://www.iwanttotrain.com) or visit [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs are available. Contact Helen Clarke at GNN or download from [www.gnn.gov.uk](http://www.gnn.gov.uk)
2. Kingfield Electronics Limited, established in 1985, specialise in low to medium volume, high reliability, high complexity electronics. They offer a range of manufacturing services including rapid prototyping and very low volume manufacturing through to medium volume production quantities.  
Contact: Kingfield Electronics Limited, Carrwood House, Carrwood Road, Chesterfield Trading Estate, Chesterfield. S41 9QB.  
T: Sara Davis 01246 451 701  
W: [www.kingfield-electronics.co.uk](http://www.kingfield-electronics.co.uk)
3. Train to Gain is a new service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
4. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.
5. Electronic Technology Services set up the package. They are based at 17 Matton Road, Pickering, Ryedale, North Yorkshire YO18 7JL. T: Jim Bell 01751 476 541 or visit [www.etservices.co.uk](http://www.etservices.co.uk)
6. The government commissioned report into skills published by Lord Leitch in December 2006 called for a radical overhaul in adult training and warned that the UK's skill base was lower than many international competitors.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY  
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT HELEN CLARKE AT GNN ON 0115 971 2787**