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Lincoln Manufacturer Praised for Excellence at Awards Evening

Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery in Lincoln is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony for its commitment to developing the skills of its staff.

The company which employs 2,000 people received the coveted title of East Midlands Champion in the 'Large Employer of the Year' – (over 250 employees) category, sponsored by Train to Gain at the Regional Apprenticeship Awards. The event was hosted by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands on 20th May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Angela Borman, collaborative projects officer - Siemens, said: "Siemens has a long commitment to training the workforce of the future with Apprenticeships being an embedded part of its culture. With an 88% framework achievement rate over the last 10 years and an 85% retention rate for trainees over the last 14 years it can clearly be seen as a successful programme for both the business and the apprentice.

"To promote learning, the apprentices are encouraged to obtain a good range of qualifications in addition to the main programme qualifications. Approximately 41% of

Siemens learners have progressed to higher education courses including higher national certificated and degrees.”

Tom Crompton, regional director, LSC East Midlands, said: “With the Government’s recent announcement about Apprenticeships and how they will play a central role in its plans for growing skills in the economy, it’s clear to see how vital apprentices and those companies supporting them are in helping to combat the skills shortages across the region. The economy depends upon skilled individuals across the whole spectrum of vocational learning and it is important that we recognise the high achievements in these fields.

“The awards are an opportunity to celebrate just a sample of the excellent results being achieved across the East Midlands. Everyone who has taken part: our learners, training providers and employers should all be very proud of their achievements.”

Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery currently employs 68 apprentices and works closely with LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland to structure the training. Diane Wilford, Partnership Manager, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland says: “The Apprenticeship programme at Siemens is integral to their human resource strategy, providing excellent career opportunities for the young. Good inspection grades, excellent success rates and a high level of progression to higher education are testament to the success of the programme. Siemens brings wider benefits to the local community by promoting engineering as a career and challenging gender stereotyping.”

Angela concludes: “We run an annual ‘Females into the Industry’ challenge which aims to encourage female students to consider engineering as a career. In 2007, 3% of applicants were females, demonstrating our success in engaging young females to pursue careers within the industry.”

Young people taking part in Apprenticeships or an e2e work-based-training programme, nominated by employers, training providers or individuals are recognised at the Regional Apprentice Awards, as well as companies that continue to support staff in Apprenticeship training, for their exceptional achievements.

All regional finalists will go forward for consideration into the LSC's national Apprenticeship Awards 2008 to be held on 10th July 2008 at The Royal Horticultural Halls in central London.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

About Apprenticeships

- There are currently 244,000 young people aged 16-24 undertaking an Apprenticeship nationally and nearly 18,000 in the East Midlands. They can choose from over 180 career paths in 80 different sectors of industry and commerce.
- Apprenticeships provide 16-24 year-olds with a mixture of on and off-the-job training while they are being paid. For employers, Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to improve their businesses bottom line through the tailored, relevant training of highly motivated young people.
- There are two levels of Apprenticeships:

1. 'Apprenticeships', equivalent to GCSE level, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 2; key skills and in some cases a technical certificate
 2. 'Advanced Apprenticeships', equivalent to A-levels, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 3, key skills and a technical certificate
- On 10th May 2004, the Government announced the introduction of Young Apprenticeships for students aged 14-16 and Adult Apprenticeships for those people aged 25 and over. Pilots for both are currently running
 - e2e (Entry to Employment) is designed for young people aged 16-18 who are not currently in education, employment or training. It can also be for people who may require a range of additional support to enable them to progress into education, employment or training.

