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## **Grantham Manufacturer Praised for Excellence at Awards Evening**

BGB Engineering in Grantham, Lincolnshire is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony for its commitment to developing the skills of its staff.

The company which employs 72 people received the coveted title of East Midlands Champion in the 'Medium Employer of the Year' – (50- 249 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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Bill Hemmingway, quality and environmental manager at BGB Engineering, said:

"Apprenticeships provide the strong foundation onto which our continued professional development is built. We have strong links with local schools and colleges and regularly attend events to raise interest in the industry. Early engagement at the school level is important and we view both Apprenticeships and Young Apprenticeships as the lifeblood of this company. There are currently four team leaders within BGB that started as apprentices and have worked their way up with the support of specialised training in this area."

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."

BGB Engineering currently employs five apprentices and works closely with Yes Training - Grantham College. Rob Nixon, work based learning manager at the college, says: "BGB Engineering has been working in close partnership with us for the last few years and has proven to be an exemplary employer. Apprentices are supported through every stage of training and encouraged to learn a variety of skills and to develop and specialise within the workforce. BGB have a high achievement rate of over 90% and nearly all apprentices remain working with the company. They provide tailored training which has proved extremely successful."

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

