

PRESS/PHOTO CALL

NORTHANTS COMPANY PROFITS FROM NEW LOCAL RECRUIT

24 AUGUST 2007 – EM/221/07

A business from Northamptonshire, which manufactures high tech electrical solutions for the blind and partially sighted, is helping local young people launch a career in electronics, after appointing a new apprentice with help from Tresham Institute and Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council to help businesses succeed.

The Rushden based company has recently recruited 18-year-old Ben Simons, also from Rushden, giving him the chance to learn new skills whilst earning money and building a career. He will be taught a Modern Apprenticeship in Electronics Servicing and Repair at Tresham Institute in Corby.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to Humanware, Russell Smith House, 2 Bullmatt Business Centre, Northampton Road, Rushden, at 12.30pm on Wednesday 29 August. Simon Firmin and Ben Simons from Humanware and Train to Gain Skills Broker Matthew Croxon will be available for pictures/interviews.

Simon Firmin, Logistics and Operations Manager of Humanware, said: "Using apprenticeships and training our staff has proved to be extremely valuable for our company. Not only does it help give local young people the chance to gain vital work

experience, achieve qualifications and develop a career, it brings a new lease of life to our business as our candidates bring a host of innovative new ideas and skills.

“I have been so impressed with the help and support that I have received from Train to Gain Skills Broker, Matthew Croxon, and the staff at Tresham Institute – I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Ben Simons, apprentice at Humanware who begins his Modern Apprenticeship in September said: “I am so pleased to have been given this fantastic opportunity to work for Humanware as I get to earn money and achieve qualifications at the same time.”

Allison Hope, Director of Faculty for Business Solutions at Tresham Institute said: “Tresham Institute is delighted to be working with Humanware to offer this apprenticeship programme. We feel it is extremely important to maintain partnerships with local business to provide training through Train to Gain and improve the skills of the workforce and help companies improve their competitiveness in a global market. We plan to continue building on the partnership we have with Humanware and hope to offer further opportunities in the future.”

Matthew Croxon, Skills Broker for Train to Gain, said: “It’s been great working with Simon and his team, as he was really keen to employ a young person and working with the local Connexions Service, we have been able to find him a very strong candidate. I have then been able to liaise with Tresham Institute and the Chamber of Commerce to provide the most suitable training.

“All companies across the county can access Train to Gain services, although we’re particularly encouraging small and medium sized companies to contact us. 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.”

Simon Firmin has since enlisted Matthew’s help once again, to help source a suitable training regime for individuals in other departments of the organisation.

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs are available. Contact Gaby Hateley at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Humanware is based at Russell Smith House, 2 Bullmatt Business Centre, Northampton Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 6AR.
6. Tresham Institute is a college of further and higher education based in Northamptonshire and Rutland.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT GABY HATELEY AT GNN ON 0115 971 2797**