

PRESS RELEASE

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Chesterfield electronics workers celebrate training success

Fifteen members of staff from a Chesterfield electronics company are celebrating after achieving NVQs in Electronics and Electrical Engineering thanks to Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed.

Kingfield Electronics Ltd, based on the Chesterfield Trading Estate, was feeling the impact of a shortage of skills in the area and contacted the LSC to find out about how it can develop skills within the business, and boost staff morale and job satisfaction.

LSC Skills Broker Lynne Rawson worked with the company to help them find the perfect course, and the first 15 learners, from a total of 28, have passed with flying colours. The remaining 13 staff are due to complete theirs in September.

Alan Oldale, General Manager at Kingfield Electronics said: "Our NVQ training drive has been fantastic for giving staff the opportunity to boost their skills and develop their knowledge of the industry. This helps create a solid foundation for their own futures, and for the future of the business too.

"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."

Kingfield employees have also been working to become Certified IPC Specialist's in the Acceptability of Electronic Assemblies which is an industry traceable certification. This has been the underpinning knowledge as part of the NVQ delivery.

Roger Martin, Operations Manager of Employer Engagement at West Notts College, which delivered the training, said: "Kingfield Electronics understands the ethos surrounding employee development in order to maintain their competitive edge. They are creating the benchmark for companies in the supply chain and major companies are now recognising suppliers like Kingfield who are way forward in demonstrating this commitment. It's rewarding to see the enjoyment from Kingfield employees is all part of this process. The benefits suit everyone."

Lynne Rawson, Skills Broker for Train to Gain, said: "The company is investing heavily in the development of the workforce to ensure they have staff that are well qualified and motivated. The NVQ programme, delivered by West Nottinghamshire College, is 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 is a forward thinking company and the work being done to train the workforce is fantastic. 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. For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0800 015 55 45 or visit

www.traintogain.gov.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- 1. Photographs of the team celebrating their success are available on request. Photo caption: Kingfield Electronics staff with (suits L-R) managing director Nick Taylor, General Manager Alan Oldale and Roger Martin, operations manager from West Notts College. Contact Gaby Hateley at COI News & PR East Midlands on 0115 971 2797.**
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, Derbyshire. S41 9QB.

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3. Train to Gain is a Skills Brokerage service, managed and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that helps employers find the training they need for their employees. Train to Gain links employers with skills brokers who work individually with them to find out what their employees' training needs are, work out a training plan, and then help to find the right training for them. The Train to Gain Skills Brokerage service is free and impartial.

4. What does Train to Gain offer employers?

These days, making sure your business is more productive and competitive is a real challenge. The Train to Gain service can help you get the right skills to do the best job, through improving access to good quality training. It's a service that does three things:

- It provides a free and independent look at what skills your business needs – now and in the future. An independent Skills Broker who knows your region and your industry works with you to find out what training could make a real difference to your business.
- It helps you pick the right people to do training. Once you and the Skills Broker find out what your business needs are, they then work with you to find the right training provider. It's important that the training is done in a way that meets your business' needs.
- It helps you get the most from your training investment. The Skills Broker can also help find out the best ways to pay for the training, since they know what financial support might be available to you.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY COI NEWS & PR EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT GABY HATELEY ON 0115 971 2797