

Press Release

APPRENTICES MAKE SOUND BUSINESS SENSE

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Local company HepcoMotion, a world leader in linear motion technology, has pledged to strengthen its commitment to recruiting apprentices by increasing this year's intake.

The Tiverton-based firm is Europe's largest manufacturer of this particular type of engineering technology and acknowledged as an expert in the field.

"HepcoMotion has achieved its high reputation on the world stage due to its highly skilled staff, quality processes, quality equipment and vigorous inspection systems," said the company's Manufacturing Director, Barry Engstrom.

"Like many businesses we need staff with very specific skills so taking people on as apprentices and overseeing their training makes sound business sense."

The company first embraced the Apprenticeship scheme in 1993 and in that time its qualified apprentices have risen through the ranks to hold many key roles within the organisation.

Barry said: "The majority of HepcoMotion directors are apprentice-trained engineers so as a company we certainly do have a natural empathy with the scheme, but beyond that it ensures we are continually enhancing our engineering skills with fresh and talented young people. It's something of a flagship for HepcoMotion and rightly so."

On average HepcoMotion has employed four apprentices per annum since joining the scheme but this year the quota has risen to five.

As part of the national Advanced Apprenticeship Framework apprentices attend college within the four-year scheme mainly to gain NVQ 2 and 3 qualifications. Some then continue their studies to BTEch, HND and even degree level. All other training is conducted in house to ensure the young engineers receive a thorough grounding in a range of manufacturing skills.

To find out more about Apprenticeships, visit apprenticeships.org.uk or call 08000 150 600

David Steele, 27, began his Apprenticeship with the company a little over 10 years ago. Now HepcoMotion's Quality Manager, he is a firm advocate of the Apprenticeship route.

He said: "I left Tiverton High School with 11 GCSEs and had started a Business Studies course when I saw an advertisement for a Hepco Engineering Apprenticeship in the local paper. Applying and getting the job was the best thing I've ever done.

"I finished my Apprenticeship with an NVQ2 in Engineering Manufacture, an NVQ3 in Engineering Production and a BTEC National Certificate in Engineering. Earning while you are learning is a great way of getting on the career ladder and building self-confidence."

John Chudley, South West Director of the National Apprenticeship Service, welcomed HepcoMotion's decision to increase the number of apprentices it employed.

He said: "HepcoMotion has again shown the foresight that has led to extraordinary commercial success. In the current economic climate, it is all too easy for companies to choose to cut back on training but, as Hepco has proved, recruiting young people and developing their skills through Apprenticeships is a key part of remaining competitive."

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Notes to editors

Further information from: Sue Bradbury (LSC public relations) on 01872 863863.

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)

The NAS was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

The NAS will assume total responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships that includes: Employer Services; Learner Services; and a web-based vacancy matching system. This online system enables individuals to search and apply for live vacancies and allows employers, and their training providers to advertise their vacancies to a wide range of interested applicants.

The service has ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets and co-ordination of the funding for Apprenticeship places. It will act to overcome barriers to the growth of the programme and assume responsibility for promoting Apprenticeships and their value to employers, learners and the country as a whole.