

# seta news

## Summer 2010

SOUTHAMPTON ENGINEERING TRAINING ASSOCIATION

### REFINERY BOSS MARKS SETA'S BIG DAY

**SETA has officially opened its second building with a helping hand from ExxonMobil's Fawley Refinery Manager, Kevin Hobbs. Mr Hobbs was the special guest at the grand opening of the new building in Second Avenue, Millbrook, on 9th July and cut the ribbon of electrical wires across the entrance. ExxonMobil is one of the biggest employers of apprentices at SETA and will be a major user of the new building where more commercial, adult courses will be based.**

SETA has outgrown its First Avenue headquarters and snapped up the nearby building to help fulfil the greater demand for specialist trade training courses. That means SETA can now offer a dedicated training facility for commercial courses for electricians and engineers, as well as an opportunity to introduce further courses in future.

SETA is the regional centre for Comp'Ex qualifications which are needed for working in explosive atmospheres, such as refineries and flour mills. The move to the new building has coincided with an expansion of the Comp'Ex courses – the foundation unit for managers and supervisors is now available and more are coming on line soon.

The new facility also includes an additional computer suite for on-line electrical testing, as well as space for other short courses – including 17th Edition, Inspect and Test and the Safety Passport.

SETA Chief Executive Richard Heighington said: "This is a really significant step for us as an organisation and this new building is going to make a big difference."

In opening the building, Refinery Manager Mr Hobbs estimated that more than 400 apprentices had come out of SETA and through the refinery in the past 30 years. "If we look at what some of those people are doing now they are running a large part of our facility, and they started right here as apprentices," he said. "We are really pleased with the relationship that we have with SETA."

The event also marked the inauguration of SETA's new AM2 test facility, the updated practical assessment for qualifying electricians. SETA is one of only 41 training centres in the UK licensed to examine apprentice electricians, who must pass the assessment to demonstrate that they are ready to fully qualify in the industry. "Being a licensed AM2 assessment centre means we assess candidates on a critical element of the electrical industry qualification. The assessment is unique to the electrical industry and we operate to NET's exact guidelines. The point of the recent update to the test is to assess competence against industry standards at a time when the work electricians do has become more and more technical" said SETA Chief Executive, Richard Heighington. "Importantly, the update also aims to help employers and candidates work out when the candidate is ready to take the test so they have a better chance of passing first time round."



*Richard & Kevin cutting the 'ribbon'*



*Richard holding the AM2 champagne*

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# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 1-5 February 2010

## Engineering lessons for Romsey MP



*Tia explains the design to Sandra Gidley...*



*...then helps her assemble one component, assisted by Thinking Space MD, Wayne Palmer*

**Romsey MP Sandra Gidley joined in National Apprenticeship Week activities with a short engineering 'Apprenticeship'. Visiting local company Thinking Space Ltd, Mrs Gidley met 16 year old Apprentice Tia Smith and gave a helping hand with the project Tia is currently working on.**

Thinking Space, based on Romsey's Abbey Park Industrial Estate, design and supply furniture for demanding operator environments, such as desks and consoles for air traffic control, CCTV and broadcasting. Current contracts include work for Glasgow airport and Dubai. Established in 2003 by Managing Director Wayne Palmer, Thinking Space has earned a reputation for quality products and service and the company has grown steadily. Looking to recruit quality engineers to help grow the company further, Wayne looked to his own background for inspiration.

"When I left school, I was lucky enough to be offered an engineering Apprenticeship with GW Martin Ltd in Eastleigh," he says. "They sent me to SETA, the Southampton Engineering Training Association, to spend the first year of my Apprenticeship learning the basic skills of engineering. It gave me a fantastic grounding and helped me get where I am today. When Thinking Space decided we needed to recruit someone new, it therefore seemed only logical to phone SETA and see if they could help."

SETA suggested Wayne meet Tia, who was training at SETA full-time and looking for an employer to sponsor her Apprenticeship. Tia was offered the job and started at Thinking Space on 4th January this year. Tia has settled in really well and thoroughly enjoys her job. This gave her the confidence to explain to Mrs Gidley some of the details of the project she is currently working on.

"Tia has such enthusiasm!" commented Mrs Gidley at the end of her visit. "I am really encouraged that Thinking Space had the foresight to recruit and train an Apprentice."

## 'Combined effort at the Guildhall'



*Emma from Sparsholt College and Tracy from SETA look after the stands at the JobsFair.*

**Five local providers joined forces to host an Apprenticeships-based stand at the Echo's JobsFair at the Southampton Guildhall on 4th February.**

SETA were joined by PETA, Catch 22, Sparsholt and Highbury College to offer members of the public advice on Apprenticeships and training in general. The event was very well attended and the provider representatives were kept very busy.

Organised through contacts in the ALPHI network, all five providers felt that sharing the cost and, therefore, the benefits, was a really effective way of working.

SETA's Claire Sutton said "It has been really interesting to learn more about what other providers offer; it's always useful to know where to refer an employer on the rare occasions that SETA can't help. From a personal point of view, it has also been good to work with colleagues in a similar role from other providers as we have a lot of common ground. I believe it's in this kind of joint working that providers can make the ALPHI network work for us."

## “Apprenticeships are a cunning plan!” says Baldrick

As part of the National Apprenticeship Services’ celebration of Apprenticeships, they hosted an ‘Apprenticeships: Through the Ages’ event on Thursday 4th February at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Three current SETA first year Apprentices were invited along to meet colleagues from other industries, former Apprentices and employers.

Actor and presenter Tony Robinson entertained guests with a history of Apprenticeships – dating back to ancient Egypt, according to the archaeology. Harking back to his famous TV role as Blackadder’s grubby side-kick Baldrick, Mr Robinson suggested that an Apprenticeship might have been just what Baldrick needed!

SSE’s Bianca Scott, a first year Control & Instrumentation Apprentice, was the youngest person at the event so was interviewed for a short film about her experiences (now available to view on You Tube!).



*Hahshem Kangarani (PTF Engineering), Tony Robinson, Bianca Scott (SSE) and Andrew Whitelock (S&P Southampton) pictured at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard surrounded by old Apprentice toolboxes.*

## SETA Open Evenings

SETA again held a couple of Open Evenings early in the New Year to inform potential Apprentices (and their parents!).

Both evenings were well attended (with just short of 200 people through the door on each occasion).

SETA are extremely grateful for the support of the employers who came along to kick-start their recruitment for the year: DP World (Southampton), ExxonMobil, Marchwood Power Station (a first time attendee and welcome addition!), SELEX Sensors and ECITB.

SETA’s Open Evening dates for your diary for the coming academic year are:  
**Tuesday 30th November 2010**  
 (we thought we’d try one before Christmas!)  
**and Thursday 10th February 2011**  
 (during National Apprenticeships Week).

## ALPHI Newsletter’



Further collaborative working by the ALPHI providers network saw the publication of the first ever ALPHI newsletter, designed as a ‘prospectus’ for what ALPHI members can offer in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The newsletter includes a number of case studies highlighting the stories both of young people and apprentice employers, including that of Matt Cross, a former SETA trained Apprentice who now works in the Design & Projects office at PTF Engineering in Chandler’s Ford. Compiled in time for National Apprenticeship Week, the newsletter is being circulated via the providers to businesses, schools and careers offices in the area.



## More potential young engineers are put through their paces!

Again this year, SETA received more applications for the Young Apprenticeship scheme than there are places available so a 'Taster Day' was organised. Kindly hosted by npower at Fawley Power Station early in March, Year 9 pupils from local schools were put through a range of activities to help judge their enthusiasm and potential for engineering. The day included a series of aptitude tests, a newspaper tower challenge and a tour of the power station, which everyone seemed to enjoy.



*Potential Young Apprentices during the Taster Day at npower.*



Thirteen candidates from Romsey, Wildern, Bitterne Park and Quilley Schools have now accepted places on the scheme and will start working towards an NVQ Level 2 part-time alongside their GCSEs from September.

They will be the seventh intake of Young Apprentices at SETA. Many former Young Apprentices have gone on to take up Apprenticeships with SETA and we know of one who is now being sponsored by his employer in the first year of his Civil Engineering degree!

## SETA apprentices beat time!



*Luke, Hahshem and James ready to hand the finished capsule to Matt Tunstall of SSE*

Some SETA first year trainees have helped out with a primary school's time capsule project. SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) is involved in a new zero carbon homes project, on the doorstep of Monpem Primary School in Slough. School pupils have been interested to see the project and asked SSE if they could put a time capsule underneath one of the new buildings. SSE agreed - but where to find a container to use as the capsule that would last over time?

Matt Tunstall, SSE's Apprentice coordinator and a former SETA trainee himself, immediately thought this would be a good project for some SETA Apprentices!

Four Apprentices – Michael Hooper, Luke Rutherford and Hahshem Kangarani of PTF Engineering and James Ross of Redhall – set to work to design and make a worthy capsule. The finished article is made of stainless steel pipe with a bolted lid and "will definitely last more than 50 years!" they say.

SETA has now donated the finished capsule to SSE and Monpem Primary School, along with some and look forward to hearing from them when they dig it up again!

## SETA gets professional approval – twice!

**Southampton Engineering Training Association (SETA) has cemented its place as one of the south's leading training providers for young people after being approved by TWO national industry bodies in the same week.**



*Stephen Tetlow (left), Chief Executive of The Institution of Mechanical Engineers presents SETA's approval certificate.*



The Millbrook-based apprenticeship and training provider has had its advanced apprenticeship programme approved by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), one of the world's leading professional societies.

That makes it one of only a handful of training providers in the UK to have achieved approval by both bodies – and is the first in the south east to have done so.

SETA Chief Executive Richard Heighington said: "Both approvals demonstrate SETA's commitment to a professional standard of training and will ease the path of SETA-trained Apprentices who wish to go on to achieve Incorporated or Chartered Engineer status.

"SETA has been training engineers for more than 40 years and has always taken pride in helping enthusiastic new apprentices onto the first rung of their professional engineering career. Approval by both these prestigious and well-respected organisations from inside our industry is a welcome recognition of the standards that we work to.

"Our chief motive in seeking approval was for our learners and employers. Increasingly apprentices we have trained go on to further qualifications, such as HNCs or degrees, and can apply for Incorporated or Chartered Engineer status to help further their careers.

"The fact they were on an approved accredited apprenticeship scheme at SETA will make their applications for professional status more straightforward. This is of real value and puts a SETA apprenticeship in a different league to most of our competitors."

Both IMechE and IET play very active roles in 21st century engineering and technology; both sit on the UK Engineering Council and the IET issues the IEE electrical wiring regulations. With almost 250,000 members between them, in the UK and internationally, both IMechE and IET are professional bodies working to support the development of members and promote smarter, sustainable engineering for the future.

## Closing the Gap

**Two former SETA Advanced Apprentices have taken part in a pilot course to help their transition into higher education. Matt Cross and Chris Orr, both working for PTF Engineering, started the 12 week course at Southampton Solent University in April.**



"We are keen to encourage Apprentices to continue their learning and take up higher education courses," explains Solent Uni's Maggie Moss. "We designed the course to help former Apprentices explore areas such as the time management and the learning techniques needed to get the most out of HNC, HND and Foundation Degree courses. The aim was to give them the confidence to progress on to this next level."

Now that this pilot is over, did the course achieve this aim? Matt Cross thinks so. "The course was well presented and very well organised," he says. "From the online tasks to the face to face days at university, the work was clearly presented and well laid out. I think that the skills I have gained have already been a benefit to what I do here at PTF Engineering."

Would Matt encourage others to do the course? "Yes, I enjoyed the course and would highly recommend it to anybody wishing to forward their education to a higher level. Not only will it provide the basic skills that you need for higher education but it will also help to make that decision to see if you are ready for it."

Solent University will be running the next 'Bridge the Gap' course from September 2010.

For more details, please contact Maggie Moss, or course tutor Leonie Webster, on: [bpd.sec@solent.ac.uk](mailto:bpd.sec@solent.ac.uk)

## New SETA Trustees

As a registered charity, SETA is required to have a number of Trustees, who act a little like School Governors in supporting our Chief Executive. Our Trustees are drawn from some of our member companies and in the last year we have been very pleased to welcome two new members to the board. We took the opportunity to talk to Brian Ward, Senior Estates Operations Manager for Hampshire Partnerships NHS Trust, and Peter Hannam, Managing Director of PTF Engineering, to ask why they felt becoming a Trustee was worth volunteering for.

**Why did you decide to find time in your busy working life to become a SETA Trustee?**

**Both your companies currently train Apprentices, has that always been the case?**



Peter Hannam

**Brian Ward**

**Brian:** Having brought up two children myself, I've always believed that educating young people is paramount. For example, I was a school governor, and Chair of governors, while my kids were at school. Becoming a SETA Trustee therefore seemed like an almost natural progression! I have experienced poor quality Apprenticeship provision elsewhere before so I like the fact that SETA are a specialist provider who take responsibility for their learners, not just one day a week but for the whole Apprenticeship. I like the feeling that SETA is driven by its employers. Colleges seem less supportive to candidates and are too finance driven. It's the little things, like whoever I speak to at SETA, all the staff seem to know who my apprentices are! As far as I am concerned, becoming a SETA Trustee not only helps to secure SETA's future but also the future of my own, NHS apprentices.

**Brian:** In my current role, I have fought hard to re-establish Apprenticeships. They used to be fairly common within the NHS but I believe Trusts have become more 'isolated' and 'target driven' and Apprenticeships have suffered as a result. I calculated that the average age of my staff was 57 so recruiting young people was becoming increasingly important! In my experience, colleagues with a practical background are much more level-headed than the 'non-practical staff' from University. I think the 'trial and error' of real experience helps you problem-solve much better and makes you a more rounded person.

**Peter Hannam**

**Peter:** Schools and universities seem to be closing their engineering departments, and Governments can only do so much to help, so I felt my enthusiasm, my business experience and my engineering skills might help ensure SETA's future for the next generation of Apprentices. I have been lucky enough to succeed in life far beyond my expectations, so this is my way of giving something back! The National Apprenticeship Service have also asked me to become an 'Apprenticeships Ambassador' so I am pleased to be able to represent Apprentices more widely too.

**Peter:** Other employers I have worked for haven't always had established training schemes but since we set up PTF, we have always believed in investing in Apprenticeships. With shipyards and many other big employers closing, there is no one locally training big numbers of Apprentices so we need to train our own; to use Apprentices to fill potential gaps in our workforce, as tradesmen, planners, estimators. These Apprentices will be the managers and directors of the future – they have to be! I believe it's a 'cop-out' when employers say they can't afford the time or money to train an Apprentice. If you don't invest in young people, where will your competent workforce come from? Yes, recruiting and training an Apprentice isn't always easy but it's worth it if you stick with them. We reckon that you probably don't earn much from your Apprentice in the first 18 months but you will have recouped your investment in them by the end of their Apprenticeship.

## New SETA Trustees cont...

### How did you get into engineering – were you both Apprentices?

**Brian:** I became an engineer by accident, really! I had been fairly academic at school and was considering university but my Dad died as I was finishing and my priorities changed; I wanted something that would earn money to help support my Mum but also get some qualifications for myself too. I took a five year Apprenticeship with local electrical contractors, Gale & Kemish and I've still got my Indentures! It was quite a good experience as they did a wide range of work, from first and second fix electrics to some steel work, for trade and the City Council. A year or so after completing my Apprenticeship, I moved to Thorneycroft's Southampton shipyard, working on repairs and then on new build vessels. I then spent about ten years at AB Ports, working on boats from Town Quay and the cranes up at the container port and then did a short spell as a contractor working at Esso, including on the 'cracker' plant. I moved to NHS Estates Maintenance in 1986 and I've been there ever since! The NHS encourages its staff to consider further studies so I took some more qualifications, including management training. This helped my career to progress, to Planner/Estimator, then Supervisor. And I now find myself in charge of maintenance for all of Hampshire partnership - that's 98 sites, including numerous Health Centres and three large hospitals, as well as a contract with Southampton Primary Care Trust!

**Peter:** I followed my Dad into the shipyard when I left school! I signed up for a five year plumbing Apprenticeship at Thorneycroft's in Woolston. At the end of my Apprenticeship, I went to work for Foster Wheeler and worked my way up to become a supervisor at the Refinery. Then a colleague offered me the chance to go and work in Saudi Arabia. I was still young and it was a chance to see a bit more of the world, so I accepted! In all, I spent about fourteen years there, working on oil pipelines, including GOSP (gas oil separation process), and I even got involved in setting up a pasta factory! When I came back to the UK, I worked for Murphy Pipelines for about a year, then CHB for a year, before my business partner, Tony French, and I decided to set up PTF Engineering in 1989. PTF - Pete and Tony's Fabrications – well, that's the printable version! We went from strength to strength, and won contracts in a variety of industries, including back at the Refinery. In 2005, we took the decision to sell PTF to the Rolwey Group; Tony took the opportunity to retire but I was asked to remain as Managing Director. I still enjoy being involved with winning new business, keeping in touch with colleagues and contacts throughout the industry and, of course, seeing the next generation of Apprentices into the company! Apprenticeship.

## A job at SETA isn't just for Christmas...!

SETA recently celebrated the long service of two of its members of staff. Electrical instructor, Ron Green, arrived at SETA just a few months before Mechanical Assessor, Allan Moody, back in 1985, which now makes them the longest, still working staff members.



*Ron Green (left) and Allan Moody celebrate 25 years at SETA*

In honour of these 25 years service, SETA Chief Executive, Richard Heighington, made presentations to them at a staff lunch. Both Ron and Allan were asked what they would like as a gift from the company in recognition of this: 'father of the business' Ron chose a high-specification turntable on which to play his large collection of classic Rock records (which came as a surprise to many of his colleagues!); Allan chose a new garden shed "in which to re-create the piles of files that used to surround his desk?" Richard suggested! Both Mrs Green and Mrs Moody were also thanked for their support and patience and each had a large bouquet of flowers.

## Short Course Calendar 2010

### CCNSG SAFETY PASSPORT

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9-10 August  
20-21 September  
18-19 October  
8-9 November  
6-7 December

### CCNSG SAFETY PASSPORT UPDATE/RENEWAL COURSE

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23 July  
13 August  
27 September  
22 October  
12 November  
10 December

### 17TH EDITION (CITY & GUILDS 2382-10; I.E.E. Wiring Regs)

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13-17 September  
8-12 November

### 17th EDITION UPDATE (CITY & GUILDS 2382-20)

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28-29 September

### PRE-ACHIEVEMENT MEASUREMENT 2 (AM2) REFRESHER

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Courses held fortnightly

### AM2

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Courses weekly; please contact SETA for details

### CITY & GUILDS 2391-10 INSPECTION, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

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2-6 August + exam  
12 August  
11-15 October + exam tbc  
29 November-3 December + exam tbc

### COMP'EX ELECTRICAL (Units EX01,02,03,04)

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23 - 27 August  
20 - 24 September  
18 - 22 October  
15 - 19 November  
13 - 17 December

### COMP'EX REFRESHER COURSE (ELECTRICAL UNITS)

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26 - 27 August  
23 - 24 September  
21 - 22 October  
18 - 19 November  
16 - 17 December

### PAT TESTING (Portable Appliance Testing: City & Guilds 2377)

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30 September - 1 October  
4-5 November

### ABRASIVE WHEEL SETTERS COURSE

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30 July  
3 September  
29 October  
19 November  
13 December

### CIEH PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT

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24 August

### FIRST AID AT WORK

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22 - 24 September  
10 - 12 November

### FIRST AID AT WORK REFRESHER

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7-8 October



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