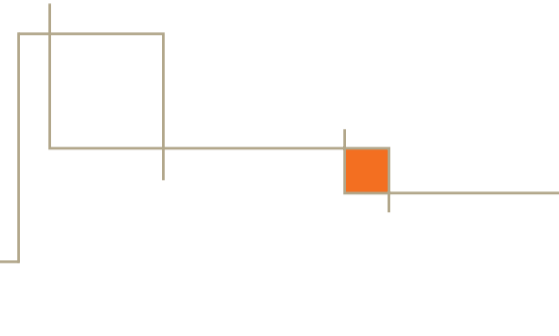


## PROCESS INDUSTRIES



## BUILDING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

Parliamentary e-briefing, December 2008

**The only way to deliver sustainable change and growth is through continuous skills development, and as the gloomy economic outlook continues, we stand firmly behind the recent statement issued by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), urging employers to continue to invest in skills training.**

Since the launch of our regional spokes in the Midlands, the North East, the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber we have made considerable progress in establishing industry-led regional boards through which to deliver practical services and products that will help process industries employers address current and future skills issues.

**National Skills Conference announced:** The launch of the skills academy's National Skills Conference takes place on 30th April 2009 in York. This one day conference will feature a range of high profile speakers, keynote speeches, case studies, masterclass and workshop sessions designed to spark debate throughout stakeholder groups and help develop practical solutions.

Conference keynote speakers have been confirmed as Tom Crotty, CEO of global chemical company INEOS Olefins and Polymers; and Lord Young, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships. Several headline sponsors from various regions around the UK have also signed up to pledge their commitment to the event and there has been an encouraging number of registrations. For more details visit the conference website at: [www.processnationalskillsconference.co.uk](http://www.processnationalskillsconference.co.uk).

**Across the regions:** A new Regional Skills Manager has been appointed to drive skills academy activities in the South East, joining a network of established Regional Skills Managers throughout England. The next phase of regional spokes will see a presence established in the South (covering the area from Kent to Cornwall) and in Wales, followed by Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Training Provider network launched:** Development of the Training Provider Network continues through a series of regional roadshows designed to explain the benefits of involvement. Our aim is to build an inclusive provider network, encompassing public and private sector organisations of different sizes, backgrounds and perspectives to broaden the skills academy offer.

The framework will see provider products and services assessed and endorsed to a nationally-agreed standard, set by industry employers themselves. Creating a training framework that allows existing and new skills to be nationally verified by accredited providers will make a career in the industry much more attractive

to the thousands of young graduates and apprentices that are required. It will also give employers the confidence that they are investing in high quality training that will benefit their business and help it meet current and future commercial challenges.

**Passport to skills** - Stage two of the skills endorsement pilot programme saw the launch of the accreditation of prior learning scheme, Assessment System for Employer Training (ASET), earlier this year, which will enable employers to have their own training and qualifications framework assessed against the Gold Standard for skills, currently being developed in conjunction with Cogent Sector Skills Council.

**Forces leavers set to join process industries** - A project to encourage Armed Forces leavers to re-train for careers in the process industries will potentially be launched over the next few months, with the first learners expected to be in place by mid-2009.

The pilot scheme will see training providers create specific programmes aimed at building on leavers' existing skills and adapting them in line with skills shortages in the process industries.

**Equipment handovers to boost careers** - Thousands of people are set to benefit from the handover of millions of pounds worth of training equipment, which is being used to set up a number of state of the art training facilities in the Midlands, the North East and the North West.

Designed to replicate a modern process industries training environment, these are the first in a series of vocational training centres of excellence which are working together with providers and employers to establish.

By 2015 we aim to have created 170 accredited training centres in the UK across the three sub-sectors of chemical, polymer and pharmaceuticals, with a target of helping 40,000 learners.

**The next steps** - The response from employers, providers and other stakeholders continues to gather pace, as increasing numbers of organisations see the benefit of being involved with the skills academy in order to help create a world-class, future-proof workforce.

There is much to do if we are to meet ambitious but very necessary skills aims, but evidenced by the real spirit of co-operation and will to succeed among our partners, I believe that together we can look forward to 2009 with careful optimism.

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