

Green Light for National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering



Confirmation of Government funding towards the establishment of the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering was announced on 16 November 2010 by:



Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, as part of the Government's new Skills Strategy:

'I am very pleased to announce today that the Skills Funding Agency has approved in principle a new National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering; a good example of collective action with employers and providers working together to ensure there is a qualified and highly skilled workforce to support current and new challenges in the rail industry.'

excellence

John Hayes, Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, explained in more detail:

'The funds announced today of up to £2.7 million from Government, and with support from employers, for a National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering is a tremendous step in the right direction in making sure we have enough highly skilled people in technical roles. The rail engineering sector is crucially important to the economy with large projects such as Crossrail underway. We need to make sure we have a workforce in place to make projects like this succeed in the future and I look forward to seeing the work of the the Skills Academy in person.'



Key Players in the Industry welcomed the announcement and added their support:



Terry Morgan, Chairman of NSARE and Crossrail

'I am delighted that we have been successful in gaining support for developing railway engineering skills. The railway industry has

many new exciting programmes going forward and we must make sure that we have the skills to deliver these programmes successfully. The Skills Academy is in my opinion critically important to realise the full potential that the Railway sector can contribute to the UK economy.'



Jeremy Candfield, Director General of the Railway Industry Association

'We are delighted to have sponsored this initiative and the support from all parts of the industry has been

exceptional. There is still much work to do but we now look forward to the start of operations in 2011, and the future contribution that the Skills Academy will bring to our industry.'



Peter Henderson, Acting Chief Executive of Network Rail

'Network Rail is delighted that the Skills Academy has got the green light from Government and secured

funding as part of the wider skills strategy. Network Rail is committed to the success of the Academy, which will help to broaden essential engineering skills across the whole industry.'



Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of the Association of Train Operating Companies

'Attracting the right people to the industry and ensuring that they have the best

possible training will be vital to the continued success of the UK's railways.'



Peter Henty, Transport for London Commissioner

'Transport for London is investing billions to upgrade the Tube, build Crossrail and deliver major improvements to the London Overground

and Docklands Light Railway networks. We must have the right staff, with the right skills, at the right time to deliver these improvements so vital to the UK economy. This huge programme means that the rail industry must continue to develop the next generation of engineers, which is why I am delighted that the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering has been given the go-ahead.'



Pete Waterman, Pop impresario, committed railway supporter, and co-founder of the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering

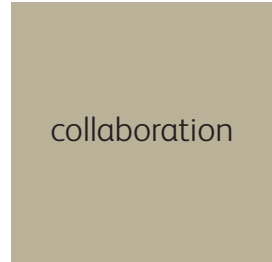
'I couldn't be more pleased that the government has formally recognised the compelling need to invest in the training of the current and future generation of workers in this strategically important industry.'



Gil Howarth, Chief Executive and co-founder of The National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering

'It is a great tribute to the rail industry that more than

60 organisations came together to support the preparation of the Business Plan. The Skills Academy will be the focal point for attracting young people into the industry and ensuring that they are trained to the highest standards to enable them to realise their full potential.'



collaboration

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If you would like to know more about the Skills Academy please visit our website: www.nsare.org or contact enquires@nsare.org