



Southern Electric Contracting

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95 NEW SEC APPRENTICES TAKE UP THEIR TOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Ninety-five new apprentices will be taking up their tools at Southern Electric Contracting this week, after being shortlisted from nearly 1200 applicants to join the company's apprentice training programme. They join 350 other youngsters, currently training with SEC as part of its ongoing policy to maintain a highly skilled, safe workforce.

To complete their apprenticeship, which usually takes between three to four years, the youngsters will combine theoretical study at their local college with hands-on, practical experience on-site, under the supervision of an experienced electrician.

To ensure a good grounding in all aspects of electrical contracting, and to allow each individual to develop his or her own skills, the apprentices will be exposed to a broad spectrum of activities, including general electrical installation work, safety inspection and testing, street lighting, data communications and high voltage installation.

Two five-day residential induction courses, aimed at introducing SEC's new recruits to its systems and procedures, were held this month at Tidworth College in Wiltshire and Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. The courses focused heavily on safety procedures such as working at height, lifting safely, how to handle power tools and the importance of wearing the right protective clothing.

Once the apprentices have finished their training, there is no restriction to how far they can progress within SEC. The company prefers to promote from within its existing workforce and newly-qualified electricians can take full advantage of

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news release

the company's staff development scheme, receiving guidance as to the most appropriate route to take in order to achieve their particular goals.

Training its own electricians is seen by SEC as vital to its continuing success. Norma Green, SEC's Training and Development Manager, explained: "Over the last few years, the number of companies recruiting apprentices has dwindled, leaving the industry with the skills shortage we are seeing today.

She continued: "We see it as an investment in our future. The majority of our senior personnel - including our Group Managing Director - began their careers with SEC as apprentice electricians, and they have all been trained to the same standards from the moment they joined the company."

SEC has taken on apprentices every year since it was formed in 1992, and in that time has produced a number of high flyers. The latest in a string of successes came this month when, for the second consecutive year, an SEC apprentice won the coveted title of ECA Edmundson Apprentice of the Year. An SEC apprentice also won the Central South regional final of the competition. In June, Daniel Glew, a newly-qualified former apprentice from SEC, was tipped by judges as the 'One to Watch', after winning an award in the 2006 Building Services Awards.

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Notes for editors:

1. Southern Electric Contracting (SEC), part of the Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Group, has a turnover exceeding £300 million. One of the UK's leading mechanical and electrical (M&E) contractors, SEC employs more than 3,000 staff, and operates from 50 local offices nationwide located as far afield as Inverness and Cornwall.

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To find out more about SEC, please visit our website at www.sec.eu.com