

Sunderland firm achieves gold standard through Train to Gain

A Sunderland engineer has become the second person in the UK to be awarded an international programming and training qualification. Simeon Preyser was awarded a gold standard after completing a course, identified by Business Link, in operating and training others in using the Siemens Simatic Seven - a programming system used in industrial processing.

His new-found skills mean that Neutronics, the industrial electronics company he works for, is one of the few companies in the North East able to repair the Simatic Seven - which is used by many factories in the UK.

Neutronics, which supplies and repairs industrial robotic and electronic equipment, has already used the gold standard to win a contract with a Japanese manufacturer which supplies dashboards, seats and catalytic converters to car giant Nissan.

Leo Kostalas, managing director of Neutronics, said: "We were able to secure this contract as a direct result of Business Link's assistance. A major part of our offer when bidding for the contract was our ability to provide Simatic Seven training, which Simeon learnt on the course that Business Link identified and sourced financial support towards."

Business Link continues to work with Neutronics, sourcing suitable training courses and providing training and development support as part of the Train to Gain offer. A third of staff are undertaking foundation degrees, NVQs and modern apprenticeships.

Chris Hetherington, Business Link account manager, said: "Business Link provided assistance in sourcing, advising and identifying support for the training scheme Simeon attended.

"It has been a pleasure working with Leo and his staff and I am very impressed by Simeon's achievement and pleased to hear of the direct impact it has had on the business. I am looking forward to working with Neutronics in the future as the business expands and develops further. This is a prime example of the way in which we invest in skills to support the development of businesses in the region."

Neutronics was launched in 2000, providing parts and maintenance to one local company - eight years later they have more than 550 clients worldwide, including Rolls Royce, TRW and Egger.