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The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

INTERNSHIP SUCCESS FOR STUDENT

A four week internship has given a secondary school student an insight into the workings of AJ Engineering.

The company has become involved with Career Ready which is a national charity that has a network of employers and educators who all believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to kick-start a rewarding future.

Through the initiative, AJ Engineering was matched with 17-year-old Lucy Paul who will now be mentored by the team at AJE.

And last month, she spent four weeks at AJE to learn about different aspects of the company and worked closely with Project Engineer Rob Williamson.

Lucy who will be returning to S6 at Elgin High School after the summer break said: "It's been really interesting, and I hadn't realised until I came here about all the different departments there are that make up one company. In my first week I spent time in each department, so I got a real good feel of the whole business. I was surprised at the scale of the company and it has been really interesting getting an understanding of how many people work here and the different roles they have. I have really enjoyed it."

As well as the experience of being at AJE, Lucy's internship will give her a unit towards gaining an SQA qualification as Rob explained: "The experience that Lucy has got from being here for the two weeks is invaluable. As well as seeing the different departments, we



also put her through a mock interview and she had to give a presentation to company director Graham Alexander, representatives from Career Ready and her school. However, the internship will also help her towards an SQA qualification as well."

Rob added: "In her second week, Lucy was working on mock jobs, so she had to get quotes, procure materials, then follow that through with delivery notes and sales invoices. She has also been working on how to read technical drawings and she has a good grasp of it. I didn't want her to just be sitting watching what I do, I really wanted her to get proper experience and she has done brilliantly."

Lucy was matched with AJE as she does have an interest in engineering as

she explained: "Career Ready do try to put you with a company that you have an interest in. I don't know what type of engineering I want to do but being here has been really useful. It's been great to learn in a practical way and not just by being told something."

Graham Alexander added: "AJ Engineering's ethos has always been about encouraging young people, for example, we have superb apprenticeship and training programmes. We have just taken on two new apprentices at NEWCo in Fort William and last month we had five new trainees start with us at AJE. The Career Ready scheme really mirrors what we believe in as a company. I hope this has given Lucy a better understanding of the world of work and an insight into the engineering fields AJ Engineering operate."

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AS ONE PROJECT CLOSES...

A long running project on a new Waste Water Treatment Plant at Ardersier is drawing to a close.

AJE has been involved in the development for Efficient Service Delivery on behalf of Scottish Water for the last two years.

Scottish Water had to seek revised planning permission for the development to the west of Nairn and now that has been successful, a team from AJ Engineering has been on site to install all the access steel work and the equipment for the new Inlet Package Plant being lifted into place.

The new WWTP is being put in place due to population growth at Tornagrain near to Ardersier as project manager Wilson Burnett explained: "It was forecast that the existing population of 3,000 in that area would rise to 8,000 with all incoming flows attributed to domestic flows from the new Tornagrain Village and the surrounding areas so there was a requirement to install a new Waste Water Treatment Plant to serve the area."

He added: "As well as the access steel work, we have previously been involved in the fabrication of all the pump skids and five stainless steel open tanks to be used as part of the flow controls on site."

Working on water related projects has become a speciality of the AJE team.

The company has also just secured three contracts all for the same site at Huntly.

The Water Treatment Work is supplied from Craighead Raw Water Reservoir



which receives its water from a spring water capturing system and also a Raw Water Pumping Station at the River Deveron.

In 2014, it was recommended by the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland that the site was not of an acceptable standard and as there was not sufficient space to expand the site at the existing WTW, a decision was taken to build a new plant nearby.

Wilson explained what the latest contracts involve: "The three contracts are for the fabrication and installation of 10 Treatment Process Tanks, there is a mechanical and metal work contract to carry out a site install, including the supply of all the internal stainless-steel pipework

along with all the access steelwork and the install of the free issue equipment and valves from the client. The final contract is for the building steel and cladding to house the new Water Treatment Works."

Graham Alexander, director of AJE said: "We are delighted to have been able to provide further services to ESD. It's great for AJE to be getting repeat business in this way and it's a testament to the quality of work that our team can deliver."

With a number of projects currently active with ESD some of them near to completion and some of them just at the award stage, most of these projects are based in the North and North-East but there are works further afield as well.

STAFF EMBRACE CAD/CAM TRAINING



More investment in staff and equipment has taken place in AJ Engineering's CNC workshop.

Alex McAlister and apprentice Ethan Hurley recently attended a two-day course in Shropshire for training on the company's new CAD/CAM software. The software will take most drawing files from clients submitted at enquiry stage and convert them into programme data for the CNC machines. This data is then transferred to the machine by a USB stick. The new system will make the processes in the CNC shop more efficient and competitive compared to manual programming which can take a lot of time.

It also means that AJ Engineering will be able to take on more complex machining as the software will provide the programming for each particular project.

In our June Micron, we told how we had installed a new XYZ milling machine in the CNC workshop. The new XYZ milling machine is much bigger than the previous piece of kit and has the added benefit of having a PROTO TRAK control system compared to the older machine which was predominantly manual.

The CNC workshop has been increasingly busy and the new piece of equipment will help with output.