

New group to become national voice on SME training issues

Derbyshire-based training provider NLT Training Services is one of the founding members of a new national group set up to champion and promote employer-led vocational training for SMES across the UK.



The National Partnership for Employer-led Training (NPELT) is made up of five OFSTED Grade 2 training organisations, based across the UK and all with roots in the engineering industry all of whom are Group Training Associations and owned by employers. It represents approximately 1,000 employers and tens of thousands of employees.

The aim is to influence public policy on learning and skills and ensure that the government and funding agencies take into account the views of small employers and group training associations.

Steve Meadows, Chief Executive of NLT Training Services in Chesterfield, explains: The new group represents the interests of GTA's and engineering employers across the country to ensure they are not ignored in the wake of the large nationals and multi-national companies. Every member of NPELT is a not-for-profit, registered, educational charity and all members of the Association of Learning Providers. The driving force behind this is excellence in workforce development.

With a combined workforce within its membership approaching 700 and training centre assets valued at £40 million, NPELT has the experience, expertise and resources to make a significant contribution to the future of employer-led training.

Steve continues: NPELT will collectively lobby on a local, regional or national level, depending on what is necessary and we will commission research on training and learning to promote its importance and to stimulate debate.

By standing together like this, we hope to be able to represent the views and opinions even better for the benefit of employers.

The partnership will share best practice, respond to key government policy documents and will bid for national contracts where the employers requires a wider geographical spread of delivery of training services or wishes to contract with a single body.

As well as NLT Training Services, NPELT founder members include Training 2000, of Blackburn, Alliance Learning of Bolton, Prospects Learning Foundation of Southend-on-sea, NETA Training Trust of Stockton on Tees and Midland Group Training Services of Coventry.

These Group Training Associations have all been established over 40 years and are recognised for their high level of employer engagement and satisfaction.

For more information on NPELT contact NLT Training Services on 01246 206 520.