



Dundee College and Geoservices

Nomination Category: Education Partnership

Nomination Statement:

Dundee College and Geoservices have been working in partnership and have been contributing to the development of the engineering, energy and oil & gas industry for the last 3 years. Geoservices have an international reputation as a prominent service company in the upstream sector (drilling and production). Headquartered near Paris, France, it serves the oil & gas company clients worldwide and was finding it difficult to recruit individuals with the pre-requisite technical knowledge and background to meet their current and future operational needs and objectives. They also wanted to grow substantially in an already highly competitive market place and wanted to gain a larger share of this market. Hence the need to recruit suitably qualified and technically competent individuals. The Training Manager, John Batchelor, of Geoservices approached the college wishing to become involved in a partnership in which they would provide our students with 'taster' days to training for the oil and gas industry and also give all HN graduates guaranteed interviews for trainee engineer posts. The company's training headquarters was based in Dundee (now moved to Tunisia) and they were hopeful of attracting suitably qualified applicants from the graduates of Higher National Engineering programmes being run by the college. Towards the end of last session, it became apparent that the Oil & Gas Industry (average age of worker is 55) was more in need of bringing in suitably qualified young individuals (minimum amount of re-training and re-educating was a must) to the industry and it was decided that developing and introducing a suitable full time HN programme was the priority. Dundee College have been able to fill this gap for the last three years by providing Geoservices with individuals who have the technical knowledge, experience and qualifications to be a worthwhile asset to their company with the company needing to retrain these individuals kept to a minimum. As part of the partnership Geoservices provide three days training (in built into their 1 year course) for the students on the HNC Engineering Systems course and also provides subject specialists who come into the college and do guest lecturers. This provides the students with an invaluable insight and overview of this technology reliant and often demanding working environment. It also gives the students exposure to guest speakers who have first hand and more importantly up to date knowledge and experience of working in these tough, often stressful and demanding environments. This has resulted in a significant number of our graduates joining the company in 2007 and in 2008 even more students were successful in securing employment with this company. We at Dundee College see this partnership as a 'WIN - WIN' situation. Our students gain relevant and up to date knowledge of a area in which there is high demand for suitably qualified individuals, often gaining employment, and Geoservices get technically competent and able individuals 'on tap'. The partnership has proved so successful that we are now working together to develop and deliver a HNC Petroleum Engineering which is more subject specific.