

Case Study



Asmech Systems Ltd

Apprentices are our future



Apprenticeships are the lifeblood of Asmech Systems Ltd – a small advanced manufacturing company in the East Midlands which works with the Sementa Apprenticeship Service to ensure it has the personnel and skills required for future growth.

As a former apprentice who went on to start his own company, managing director Shane Gunstone is passionate about the role young people can play in modern engineering.

He is involved in a number of initiatives, going into schools to promote the vocational route and, where market conditions allow, he aims to recruit an apprentice every year as he looks to grow and diversify the business.

Asmech Systems Ltd, based in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, moved to larger premises in 2014. It currently employs 18 with a target turnover in 2016 of £1.8m.

“I was looking for a good co-ordinator for apprentices, someone who would provide an end-to-end apprenticeship solution for businesses like mine. We have found this in Sementa.”

Shane Gunstone
Managing Director

Shane set the business up in 1995. Having left school at 16, he started out as an apprentice plater/welder, working his way through various jobs before taking the plunge of becoming his own boss.

The Sementa Apprenticeship Service helps with the recruitment of an apprentice and then supports the learner through every stage of their development through to qualification.

“I have managed to take on first-class operators with a first-class attitude and I really appreciate the job Sementa continues to do with them,” said Shane.

“They are getting good all round training in all aspects of the job with the opportunity to specialise in the drawing office or the shop floor in their second year.”

Kyle Commins and Adam Fox are two who have quickly become role models for future recruits having recently completed their apprenticeships. Adam has progressed into the office and is learning the ropes on sales, while Kyle is on the shopfloor, demonstrating his skills to good effect across all of the manufacturing processes.

Asmech Systems Ltd is a major supplier to some of the world’s leading corporations and prides itself in providing a personal touch for all customers.

It is one of the leading companies supplying bespoke conveyor and handling systems for the dairy and blow-moulding sector.



ENGINEERING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE



Adam Fox

The company design, engineer, manufacture, install and service their entire product range that includes slat conveyors, side gripper elevators, bottle palletisers, tray packers and loop invertors.

With the turbulence in the dairy industry plus the challenges and opportunities created by the changing political landscape, the company is looking to build on its business in confectionery, plastics, maintenance contracts and the chilled food sector as well as continuing to service the dairy industry.

Shane is involved in the Little Genius project, going into primary schools to spread the message as well as taking apprentices with him into secondary schools to show the students engineering is a good career.

“This work is vital because often by the time a youngster reaches secondary school their minds are made up,” said Shane. “We are trying to educate them and having someone who was in their position not so long ago talking to them about apprenticeships alongside me is a great way of showing them how rewarding it can be. We are still having to bust myths created around the industry. We need parents, teachers and grandparents to understand too.”

“Apprentices play a key role and always will as we expand,” said Shane. “The Semta Apprenticeship Service has helped us every year. We all have to do our bit to get more young people enthused to help fill the enormous gap created by an ageing workforce. We have to fill it with highly skilled, enthusiastic young engineers.”

Shane Gunstone
Managing Director



Kyle Commins

“Modern engineering is not about shoeing horses and pouring molten metals – it is much more than that. As employers it is important that we engage with local schools to show them what we are all about.

“It has been tough at times but we will always be committed to apprentices and developing our staff. We can't take out if we are not putting back in. We have had some difficulties in the past but, thanks to Semta, we now have the recruitment process right and everything in place to help the apprentices succeed. We would recommend other companies use Semta because they can deliver an end-to-end service and work in partnership to get the best results. That is what all businesses need.”

Semta Apprenticeship Service has the capabilities to

- identify your business skills needs
- develop tailored apprenticeship programmes
- source and secure all the available funding
- recruit the right apprentice for your business
- source market leading training provision
- deliver ongoing mentoring and support
- provide independent assessment, awarding and certification.

One of Semta's expert team of Apprenticeship Advisers can come and visit your business, or simply talk over the phone to assess how we can support and advise you.

For the hassle-free route to employing an apprentice – talk to us now:

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☎ 0845 643 9001

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