

* PRESS RELEASE

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Drivers get into gear with training course

More than 400 trainee HGV drivers in Birmingham and the Black Country are on the road to success thanks to a Government backed course.

They have a new training centre to boost their skills following a £100,000 investment by GB Training (UK) Ltd.

The Birmingham-based company, which provides a range of training courses around the Midlands, officially opened its new HGV driver centre, in Willenhall Road, Darlaston.

It has signed up to provide Government backed Train to Gain courses for hundreds of drivers working for haulage, delivery, bus and coach companies across the region.

Drivers will get on-the-job training and assessment in areas like Customer Service, Health and Safety and Vehicle Checks and will gain a new NVQ qualification.

The training and development programme is supported by BCTG (Black Country Training Group), based in Taylors Lane, Oldbury and the Learning and Skills Council.

Paul Haines, who co-ordinates Train to Gain for BCTG, said: *"Train to Gain benefits both the employee, the employer and in turn the customer. Through a range of bespoke courses it offers high-quality training suited to particular employers' needs. We are delighted that GB Training (UK) Ltd has undertaken Train to Gain and has invested in the Black Country with its new centre."*

Gill Barton, Chair of GB Training (UK) Ltd, in Hurst Street, Birmingham city centre, added: *"Thanks to Train to Gain employers can send their drivers to us for training which leads to NVQ Level one and two qualifications and much higher standards of driving on the roads."*

BCTG's Train to Gain programme is a £2.5 million training package which aims to boost the skills of thousands of West Midlands employed people.

BCTG secured funding from the Learning and Skills Council to contract manage Train to Gain in August 2006.

It oversees a vast range of on-the-job training programmes for employees in all areas of work through Train to Gain.

Train to Gain aims to help businesses improve their productivity and competitiveness.

For more information about Train to Gain contact...

ENDS



t: 08000 321 222

Pictured 191 are l-r back to front David Hilton, GB Training verifier, Darren Barton, GB Training director, Paul Haines, BCTG, Carl Barton, GB Training operations manager, Lawrence Barton, GB Training director, Sarah Hind BCTG, Gill Barton, GB Training chair.

Notes to editors:

BCTG (Black Country Training Group Limited) works with a range of training organisations across the West Midlands delivering a range of publicly and privately funded training initiatives.

BCTG works closely with a range of public and private organisations, including the Learning and Skills Council, which support many of our activities.

BCTG has four main aims:

1. Engaging with young people and adults to take up vocational learning
2. Working with employers to help develop the skills their business needs to succeed
3. To improve the quality of education and training delivered in the West Midlands
4. Building partnerships across all the stakeholders interested in improving education and training.

BCTG offers a wide range of information, advice and training services to suit the needs of young people, schools and training providers and employers.

For more information go to www.bctg.org.uk

For media inquiries call Jane Williams on 01902 751565 or 07961 048613

Train to Gain is a new service run by the Learning and Skills Council, the organisation responsible for planning and funding high quality, vocational education and training for everyone, to make England better skilled and more competitive. In the West Midlands, more than 13,000 individuals are now involved in vocational learning through Train to Gain and skills brokers are working with more than 5,000 employers (February 2007 figures). www.traintogain.gov.uk www.lsc.gov.uk

