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www.bctg.org.uk

3,000th driver gets into gear on training course

Nightfreight lorry drivers are on the road to success thanks to a new training scheme at their Burntwood depot.

The overnight freight, parcels and logistics firm has signed 49 drivers up on a government backed Train to Gain course created especially for their type of work.

For 39-year-old Stuart Samphire his enrolment marked the 3,000th West Midlands learner taking part in the Train to Gain programme, managed by BCTG.

Train to Gain provides on-the-job training and assessment in a broad range of work and boosts the qualifications of staff in small, medium and large businesses.

BCTG (Black Country Training Group), based in Taylors Lane, Oldbury, contract manages the £9 million training package which aims to improve the skills of thousands of West Midlands employed people.

It secured funding from the Learning and Skills Council to manage Train to Gain in August 2006 and since then has gone on to push three thousand people through accredited training schemes.

Mr Samphire, from Cannock Wood, is working towards his NVQ in Driving Goods Vehicles Level 2 with Birmingham-based GB Training.

He said: *"There are real advantages to this training. I thought I was already a good driver but I'm learning a lot about how you can make significant improvements on fuel efficiency by the way you drive."*

Philip Johnson, Operations Manager at Nightfreight, based in Burntwood Business Park, Cinder Road, Chase Terrace, added: *"I've always believed in training for employees because it has benefits to both the business and to the individual."*

Chris Luty, BCTG Director, added: *"Train to Gain benefits both the employee, the employer and in turn the customer. Through a range of bespoke courses provided by a range of training organisations, it offers high-quality training suited to particular employers' needs."*

For more information about Train to Gain contact Black Country Training Group on 0121 544 6455 or the Skills Hotline on 08000 754557.

ENDS

Pictured are: Stephen Williams, Black Country LSC skills and development manager, Philip Johnson Nightfreight operations manager and Stuart Samphire, 3,000th learner.



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

