

North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – November 2023





NORTH EAST

INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

AGRICULTURE GOES NEXT-GEN AT EDC

With T Levels in Agriculture due to start very soon, East Durham College's students just got a very exciting bit of kit to enhance their agriculture learning experience.

The college has invested in a state-of-the-art tractor simulator, worth nearly £80,000, that is designed to allow agriculture learners to drive a wide variety of equipment safely and as authentically as possible.

The Tenstar machine uses custom-built software and hardware to fully simulate driving a vehicle. Large-size screens give students a fully immersive view of their surroundings, with 3 screens in front and a larger, landscape screen behind which simulates the rear view.

The seat is also fully mobile, and jostles and moves just like you'd expect in real life too. There's even the option to add on a VR headset too to really ramp up the immersion.

This new simulator will prove invaluable to students studying agriculture, as driving machinery is an integral part of the course at higher levels. It will allow the students to practise safely inside, before they are allowed to drive real vehicles outdoors.



www.edc.ac.uk

HELPING TO DESIGN OUR FUTURE DIGITAL WORKFORCES, MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE'S IOT COURSES PROVIDE THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Middlesbrough College is helping to shape the digital workforces of the future through their pioneering Institute of Technology qualifications. Working alongside local digital industries, the STEM specialist College is providing pathways to skilled employment and supporting the development of future digital leaders.

Through the College's digital IoT T Level qualifications, students are provided with the opportunity to take part in a valuable 45-day work placement, giving them a taste of the working world, experience in industry and opportunities to progress in their careers.

One student who secured a permanent offer of employment after impressing his employer during the T Level work placement was Middlesbrough College student Ayo Buluro. The talented 17-year-old is studying the IoT T Level in Digital Production, Design and Development at the College's dedicated Digital Centre, and following a successful first year work placement with Middlesbrough based digital studio Animmersion, he was offered a permanent role as a Junior Software Developer alongside his studies.

Ayo said: "I decided to study the T Level programme at Middlesbrough College because of the work placement element. I was delighted when Animmersion selected me for the opportunity, and I have enjoyed developing my skills for the workplace throughout the work placement."



Ayo Buluro

"I was delighted to receive a part-time job offer alongside my studies, and I'm now an employee for Animmersion. I'm learning new skills all the time on my course and in my part-time role as a Junior Software Developer, which is fantastic as I can put the skills and knowledge I'm learning at College into practice in my job role.

"The T Level course at Middlesbrough College has helped me to progress in my career and I'm enjoying my role with Animmersion. In the future I want to continue progressing in the sector and developing my skills, particularly in artificial intelligence."

Claire Stockton, Studio Director at Animmersion said: "The T Level course has been a fantastic choice for us as an employer as we have developed and retained home-grown talent, and I do believe it is important to keep skilled workers in the region."

The College's digital team works closely with a range of leading local employers to develop their offering, this includes Animmersion, Alt-Labs, FLOK, Double Eleven, North Link Digital, Greenlord Studios, Razorblue, Tascomp, Mabo Media, North IT and CB Social.

Find out more about Middlesbrough College's IoT courses at mbro.ac.uk



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NA College visits Sheffield's AMRC!



Representatives of the NA College Management Team recently visited the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) at Sheffield University, to pick the best practice to reflect our own development as part of the NA College Smart Factory.

AMRC works with more than 125 companies - from global giants to SMEs - to boost productivity, develop new products and processes, increase competitiveness and train the next generation of engineers.

AMRC is part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, a national alliance of seven leading manufacturing research centres backed by Innovate UK.

The AMRC is the **Factory of the Future** and focused on machining research and is home to an array of state-of-the-art machining centres and other manufacturing equipment. The workshop is designed to allow partner companies to develop and trial new technologies and processes before introducing them to their own factories.



NA College student: Aaron Jones. Success at the apprenticeship awards!

Aaron Robert Barrie Jones is a Special Skills Apprentice in Trim and Chassis 2 Final Line at Nissan Sunderland Plant, through training provider NAC. Aaron has just finished his first year of his apprenticeship and was put forward for the Apprentice of the year award in 2023 by his supervisor due to his outstanding personal and professional development since starting the course.

Aaron was nominated in the 'intermediate' category and was successful in winning the award. Aaron now has the opportunity to attend the National Apprenticeship Award Finals in London at the end of November 2023. Congratulations Aaron and good luck for the final!

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T.H.E Hub

Work on a two-storey collaborative and integrated learning space at New College Durham is now complete. Named T.H.E. Hub (Technical and Higher Education Hub), the extension will provide the college with a specialist building to deliver higher and technical level skills qualifications. The £8.9 million state-of-the-art education facility was designed by Ryder Architecture and delivered by County Durham-headquartered contractor, Esh Construction.

Located at the college's Framwellgate Moor Campus, T.H.E Hub features 23 new teaching spaces including an immersive suite, an early years foundation stage nursery, a sensory room, a hospital ward, a dental suite, an E-Sports arena, cyber security facilities, specialist I.T. classrooms and science laboratories. In addition, the building has several collaborative and break out spaces for students to work and socialise in a modern environment. Andy Broadbent, Principal and CEO of New College Durham, said: 'We are thrilled to welcome our students into the T.H.E. Hub. This state-of-the-art facility embodies our mission to empower our learners with the skills and knowledge they need for a successful future. It's not just a building; it's a gateway to careers.'



Festool Showcases Innovation at New College Durham

In pursuit more industry aligning standards New College Durham recently teamed up with Festool Power Tools to introduce Carpentry and Joinery students to the latest industry innovations.

Gordon from Festool demonstrated a comprehensive range of advanced tools, emphasizing their safe and efficient operation. With the college's recent acquisition of a range of these tools, our students, who will soon use them in their chosen course, found this session particularly enlightening.

New College Durham remains committed to providing a dynamic learning environment that prepares its students for real-world success. The collaboration with Festool Power Tools exemplifies our dedication to bridging the gap between the classroom and the professional world, equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to excel.

Championing Sustainable Initiatives at North Green Skills Conference

New College Durham's Green Skills Manager, Lee Baum, took on a significant role at the North Green Skills Conference held in Manchester. The conference provided a holistic perspective on green skills in the North, featuring influential sector advocates who were eager to share their experiences and collaborate on strategies to propel this movement forward. Lee's panel was charged with discussing the future of the green skills pipeline in the North East. They delved into what institutions are currently doing, what's in the planning stages, and addressed the barriers to progress, along with the strategies required to surmount these challenges. Lee, along with prominent figures from the sector, highlighted the establishment of courses aimed at addressing skills gaps, emphasising the importance of a collaborative approach, and advocating for early employer engagement within the education sector.



CELEBRATING START OF TERM



We recently celebrated the incredible journey of our engineering students as they embarked on the first five-week rotation of their Advanced Manufacturing course.

These weeks were filled with dedication, hard work, commitment, setting the stage for their bright futures in the field.

A special mention to the handful of students who were recognised for their outstanding achievement.

As they move onto training in another engineering topic, we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and contributions to the world of engineering.

MISSION TO NET ZERO

With the UK on a mission to achieve Net Zero by 2050, the key to success lies in the hands of those who are ready to embrace green skills.

To celebrate careers in this growing sector, we recently caught up with our EDF Renewables Wind Turbine apprentice, Matthew who shared his journey with us.

Before starting the programme, Matthew was working in the Navy but fancied a career change.

As part of his apprenticeship, Matthew studies full-time with us to develop his skills and knowledge in various subjects including maths, engineering, maintenance as well as health and safety. He will then go to finish his studies onsite with EDF working on wind turbines across the country.

Here's what Matthew says about his apprenticeship:

"I'm really enjoying the apprenticeship so far as it's great to get on-the-job training, working onsite and experiencing the role first hand."



Renewable energy is a fast-growing sector, so I know I've made a great choice in starting a career in this. I would 100% recommend anyone thinking about it to just go for it."

Matthew is now on the second year of his apprenticeship and will finish his studies with us in June where he will then go on to do more on-the-job training with EDF.

IESAM – Power Electronics, Machines & Drives

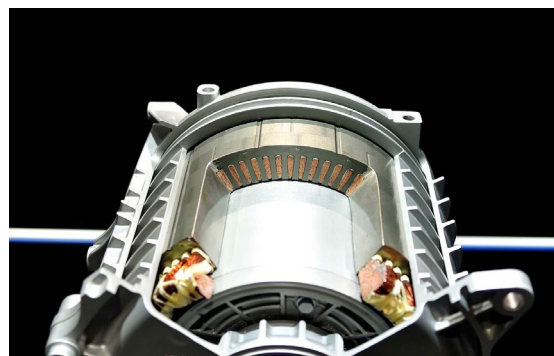
Further Education: Train the Trainer modules

Discussions to take place with NEIoT members with regard to identifying suitable activities that will best support PEMD related Train the Trainer requirements of Further Education College staff.

Suggested activities include:

- Gap analysis of PEMD awareness levels
- Engagement methods for the above
- Determining the most appropriate content to support current curriculum
- Most effective modes of delivery, module length, how, where and when.
- Possibility of digital badging in line with the National Skills Hub activities on this subject.

For more information contact geoff.watson2@ncl.ac.uk



Engineering the Future

You're invited:

Engineering the future: Compound semiconductor careers in the North East

This conference will showcase the career opportunities available in compound semiconductor technologies and their associated industries to careers advisors and teachers in the region.

8:30 - 11:30 Tuesday 14th November

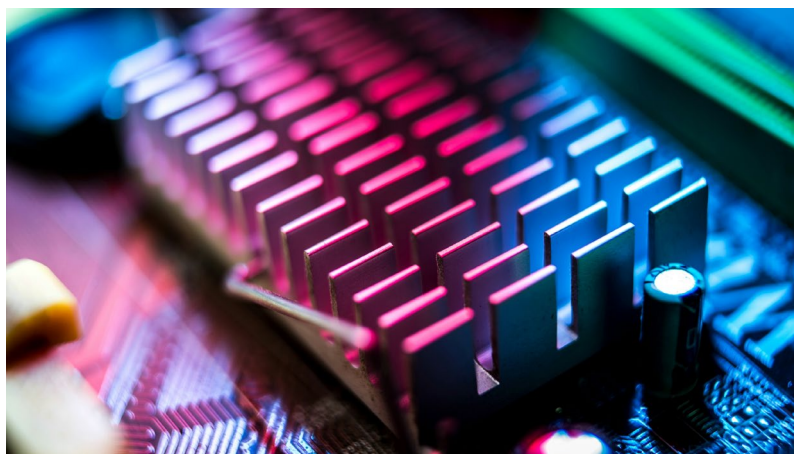
Ramside Hall Hotel, DH1 1TD

Book your place [here](#).



Here is the link to the Eventbrite:

[Engineering the future: Compound semiconductor careers in the North East Tickets, Tue 14 Nov 2023 at 08:30 | Eventbrite](#)



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