

# NETWORK



Issue 42 | JUNE 2026

Autonomous logistics project at the Port of Tyne demonstrates the North East's leadership in CAM

Interview of the Quarter - Driving inclusion forward: Our journey at Gateshead College

Introducing NEAA's new chair  
Developing future talent: LOGISTEED UK and TTS



## NEAA AWARDS HONOUR EXCELLENCE AND DELIVER LASTING IMPACT

More than a celebration of excellence, the NEAA Awards combine industry recognition with meaningful, long-term investment in the next generation of automotive talent.

# Contents

- 3. NEAA News
- 11. CEA Quarterly Column
- 12. Interview of the Quarter
- 14. Member Collaboration
- 16. Member News
- 19. Member Introductions



Cover photo:  
NEAA Awards 2026 winners

Crcredit: David James Wood Photographer

# CEO CORNER

As we move through 2026, there is a clear and consistent message emerging across the North East automotive sector: progress is now defined not only by innovation, but by our ability to translate that innovation into real, scalable impact.



Recent months have provided strong evidence of this in action. The successful delivery of the P-CAL autonomous logistics project at the Port of Tyne marks a significant step forward, demonstrating how the region is moving beyond pilot activity and into live, safety-critical operational environments. Through this work, the North East continues to reinforce its position at the forefront of Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM) in the UK.

Encouragingly, this momentum is being supported by a new wave of national and regional funding opportunities designed to accelerate growth across the supply chain. Programmes such as the £4 billion DRIVE35 initiative and the £150 million CAM Pathfinder are providing vital support for innovation, process improvement and the transition to electrification. Alongside this, the North East Mayoral Strategic Authority's Supplier Readiness Transformation (SRT) scheme is helping businesses position themselves within the evolving EV supply chain, enabling long-term competitiveness and growth.

At the NEAA, our focus is to ensure members can fully access and benefit from these opportunities. Recent engagement events, delivered in collaboration with key partners, have highlighted the breadth of funding available, supporting everything from early-stage R&D through to large-scale capital investment.

As always, collaboration remains central to success. The strength of partnerships between industry, academia and government continues to underpin progress, ensuring innovation is not only developed, but applied in ways that deliver real value.

This collaborative approach was once again evident at the NEAA Annual Awards. While the event celebrates achievement across the supply chain, its impact extends far beyond recognition, with funding raised supporting STEM initiatives and strengthening the connection between industry and education.

Looking ahead, the North East Automotive Expo 2026 will provide another important platform to connect the sector. Bringing together over 100 exhibitors and a wide range of stakeholders, the Expo reflects both the scale of regional capability and the opportunity for new collaboration and growth.

I would also like to welcome new sponsors, Unipres UK and Muckle LLP, who join our other valued and longstanding partners. Their continued support plays an important role in enabling the NEAA to deliver meaningful activity for members and the wider sector.

As we reflect on progress, our strength remains our collective approach. By continuing to work together, and by making the most of the opportunities in front of us, we can ensure the North East not only leads in innovation, but delivers lasting impact for businesses, communities and future generations.

**Paul Butler / CEO / NEAA**

## NEtwork Editorial & Advertisement Contact Details

**Laura Gage** PR & Marketing Manager  
Email [lgage@northeastautomotivealliance.com](mailto:lgage@northeastautomotivealliance.com)  
Phone 0191 516 4400

Send us your news and editorial for consideration in the next quarterly issue!

**Editorial & Advertising**  
Inside Front Cover £1,000 +VAT  
Outside Back Cover £1,200 +VAT  
Half Page Advert/ Editorial £500 +VAT  
Full page Advert/ Editorial £800 +VAT

**Sponsorship**  
Network Sponsorship £1,500 +VAT  
- includes sponsor logo on every page  
and full-page feature on page 3



# AUTONOMOUS LOGISTICS PROJECT AT THE PORT OF TYNE COMPLETED

The North East has taken another major step forward in its journey to become a global leader in Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM), following the successful delivery of the P-CAL (Port-Connected and Automated Logistics) project at the Port of Tyne.

Led by the NEAA and delivered through the UK Government's CAM Pathfinder programme, P-CAL has demonstrated how autonomous logistics technology can move from controlled trials into live, safety-critical operational environments. The project deployed and validated a fully autonomous terminal tractor operating on a busy quayside, one of the most complex and demanding settings for automated systems.

Building on the region's earlier 5G CAL and V-CAL initiatives, P-CAL marked a clear transition from proof-of-concept to real-world deployment. The project successfully showed how autonomous vehicles can operate reliably within a newly defined Operational Design Domain, accounting for real port challenges such as variable conditions, traffic density and interaction with people and equipment.

Over the course of the programme, the consortium designed, integrated and tested a complete autonomous container transport solution. This included secure and resilient communications, real-time coordination with live crane operations, integration with terminal operating systems and a robust cybersecurity framework to ensure

safe and trusted remote operation.

Paul Butler, CEO of the NEAA, described the project as a defining milestone for the region. He highlighted how P-CAL demonstrates not only technical capability, but the strength of collaboration across industry, academia and government - collaboration that continues to underpin the North East's CAM leadership.

That partnership included the Port of Tyne, Oxa, Nissan, Newcastle University, ANGOKA, LOGISTEED UK Limited (formerly Vantec Europe) and Womble Bond Dickinson, bringing together expertise spanning autonomous systems, logistics, cybersecurity, legal compliance and academic research. The result is a clear example of a mature, integrated CAM ecosystem working at scale.

From an operational perspective, the project has shown how autonomy can enhance safety, efficiency and sustainability in port operations. Importantly, it has also highlighted how autonomous systems can support, not replace, the workforce, taking on repetitive or higher-risk tasks and enabling skilled people to focus on higher-value roles. This has direct relevance to future resilience of the North East labour market.

With P-CAL complete, the learning generated will inform future deployment across ports, logistics hubs and industrial sites nationwide. Having progressed from pilot trials to live operations, the North East has reinforced its position at the forefront of the UK's CAM landscape, turning innovation into scalable, commercial reality and shaping the next phase of autonomous logistics.



# NEAA AWARDS HONOUR AUTOMOTIVE EXCELLENCE WHILE DELIVERING LASTING IMPACT

The NEAA Annual Awards continue to do far more than recognise excellence across the region's automotive supply chain, bringing together industry recognition with meaningful investment in the next generation.

This year's ceremony celebrated exceptional apprentices, graduates, businesses and individuals whose work is strengthening the competitiveness and culture of the North East automotive sector.

Alongside the accolades presented on the night, a total of £18,000 was raised for STEM education initiatives, pushing cumulative fundraising since the awards were established in 2018 beyond £110,000. The funds are directed to schools across the region, reinforcing the vital link between industry and education.

## Supporting the Next Generation: Apprentice and Graduate Awards

The NEAA Apprentice and Graduate Awards once again highlighted the breadth of emerging talent within the sector. In the Apprentice category, Faye Moody received the top award and a £1,000 prize, while Daniel Gray and Jamie Coates were each awarded £500, recognising their commitment, progress and contribution within their respective organisations.

The Graduate Awards saw Eve Kennedy take the top prize of £1,000, with Luke Marinan and Matthew Swan each receiving Special Recognition of their early career impact and potential. Together, these awards reflect the ongoing focus employers place on nurturing skills, capability and confidence at the earliest stages of automotive careers.

## Championing Inclusion and Inspiration

The Women Who Inspire in Automotive Award was presented to Maissae Drissenek of Magna Exteriors Sunderland, recognising her leadership, advocacy and positive influence within the sector. True to the spirit of the awards, the associated £2,000 donation will support North East Futures UTC, helping to encourage more young people, particularly girls, to consider future careers in engineering and advanced manufacturing.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion also remained firmly in focus, with the EDI Employer Award presented to Gateshead College, due to its clear, strategic, and deeply embedded commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion across every level of the organisation. Nissan Sunderland and Lear Corporation also received Special Recognition for the meaningful impact of their EDI work.

## Innovation, Sustainability and SME Excellence

Innovation remains central to the sector's long-term competitiveness, driving advancements in performance, efficiency and sustainability. The Innovation Award recognises organisations that demonstrate exceptional creativity and forward-thinking within the automotive industry.

This year, the Innovation Award (Multinational) was presented to Chemetall Ltd for its groundbreaking Viant product, which is transforming coating processes across the sector.

The Innovation Award (SME) was presented to SMS Technology, whose entry stood out for replacing traditional paper-built history cards with a sector-wide digital solution, achieving significant CO2

reduction, major time savings, and enhanced compliance through real-time traceability.

Sustainability was another key theme, reflecting the sector's growing focus on environmental responsibility and long-term resilience. Marelli secured the Sustainability Award (Multinational), showcasing a proactive and clearly defined strategy built around its sustainability "key pillar" approach. In the SME category, Edwards Commercial Cleaning was recognised for its strong leadership and genuine commitment, with sustainability driven from the top and underpinned by clear targets and achievements.

SMEs were further celebrated through the SME of the Year categories. SMS Technology was named SME of the Year (Service Provider), demonstrating the application of digital tools and techniques with a focus on skills and carbon footprint.

Jenks & Cattell Engineering Ltd received SME of the Year (Manufacturer), having demonstrated a strategic focus, along with a

structured approach to continuous improvement within the business, supported by an embedded people commitment approach.

### Outstanding Contribution to the Sector

One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the Outstanding Contribution Award to Professor Matt Boyle OBE FREng, recognising his long standing leadership and influence across the NEAA and the wider manufacturing community.

Matt's £2,000 donation will support Biddick Primary School, further underlining the awards' enduring link between industry excellence and education.

The awards showcase not only the depth of talent and innovation within the North East automotive supply chain, but also its shared values. By recognising achievement while reinvesting in schools and young people, the NEAA Awards continue to strengthen both the sector's future workforce and its relationship with the communities it serves.





## AWARDS WIN IN ACTION: COMPANIES GIVE BACK TO EDUCATION

Turning success into lasting regional impact, award-winning companies are demonstrating what that commitment looks like in practice - using recognition to give back, support STEM education and inspire future talent across the North East.

Following their win in the Multinational Innovation Award category, Chemetall directed its £1,000 award donation to Hasting Hill Academy in Sunderland, supporting the school's STEM activity. The cheque was presented to Headteacher Ruth Walton, alongside pupils from the school's pupil leadership team - students who meet regularly to represent pupil voice and support wider school priorities.

During the visit, the NEAA shared insight into the scale and diversity of the North East automotive sector, while Chemetall spoke to students about its chemical processing capabilities and the range of career opportunities available within a global manufacturing business. The session helped connect classroom learning with real-world application, giving pupils a clearer picture of how STEM subjects translate into future careers.

Winner of the Sustainability Award (Multinational), Marelli chose to invest its £1,000 donation in Washington Academy, supporting activity aligned with sustainability, engineering and future skills. Marelli's award recognition reflects the growing importance of environmental responsibility across the automotive sector, alongside the opportunity to inspire students and introduce them to cleaner, smarter and more sustainable practices from an early stage.

As winner of both the Innovation Award (SME) and SME of the Year (Service Provider), SMS Technology demonstrated how SMEs can lead by example. The company directed its award donations to Red Rose Primary School and Portobello Primary School, supporting STEM learning and helping introduce pupils to the world of manufacturing and technology at an early age.

For SMS Technology, the awards provided an opportunity to celebrate growth and innovation while remaining rooted in the communities that support and supply the sector's future workforce.

Jenks & Cattell, who won SME of the Year (Manufacturer), are based in the Midlands and deliver various work for automotive businesses in the North East. They will split their £1,000 donation between Wednesfield Academy - a school on their doorstep - and The Link School in Sunderland, who will use the funds to build a school garden to create a rich and engaging learning experience that extends beyond the classroom walls.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Employer Award winner Gateshead College will split their £2,000 donation across two schools - White Mere Community Primary School and Lobley Hill Primary School. Meanwhile, Outstanding Contribution Award winner, Professor Matt Boyle OBE FREng will put £2,000 into Biddick Primary School who are located right on the doorstep of much of the automotive supply chain.

Maissae Drissenek from Magna Exteriors Sunderland, who was awarded the Women Who Inspire in Automotive Award will donate her £2,000 to North East Futures UTC, a college close to her heart and where one of her family members attends.



Completing the picture, Edwards Commercial Cleaning, winner of the Sustainability Award (SME), used its award donation to support Newcastle High School for Girls. The donation reflects the company's commitment to sustainability not only within its own operations, but through wider engagement with education and future skills. By linking sustainability achievements with investment in learning, Edwards Commercial Cleaning reinforces the message that environmental progress and skills development must go hand in hand.

These ongoing school visits reinforce a key message at the heart of the NEAA Awards programme: demonstrating how manufacturers and the wider supply chain can play a direct role in inspiring young people and strengthening the future skills pipeline. It is a powerful reminder that the NEAA Awards are not only about celebrating what has been achieved, but about investing in what comes next.





# SHOWCASING CAPABILITY AND CONNECTING OPPORTUNITY AT THE NORTH EAST AUTOMOTIVE EXPO 2026

The North East Automotive Expo 2026 will return to the Beacon of Light in Sunderland on Thursday 24 September, bringing together the region's automotive community for NEAA's flagship event focused on collaboration, innovation and growth.

Now firmly established as a key date in the industry calendar, the Expo provides a unique platform for businesses operating across the automotive supply chain, from OEMs and tiered suppliers to technology innovators, service providers and industry stakeholders. The event reflects both the scale of the region's automotive capability and its ambition to remain at the forefront of innovation.

The 2026 Expo will feature a full-day programme, combining a large-scale exhibition with high-value engagement opportunities designed to support real business outcomes. More than 100 supply-chain exhibitors will showcase products, services and technologies, creating a physical marketplace for ideas, solutions and new connections. For many businesses, the Expo has become a critical opportunity to raise profile, strengthen relationships and explore new routes to market.

A central feature of the day will be the Meet the Buyer sessions, offering structured opportunities for suppliers to engage directly with procurement teams from major manufacturers. These sessions continue to be a major draw for exhibitors and delegates alike, supporting supply-chain visibility, commercial

discussion and long-term collaboration. The EOI for Meet the Buyer is expected to open shortly.

Alongside the exhibition, the Main Stage programme will deliver insight into the latest trends shaping the automotive sector. Expect to hear from a range of automotive businesses and stakeholders, alongside presentations focused on diversification opportunities across the supply chain. Industry leaders and experts will explore key themes including resilience, electrification, innovation, skills and sustainable supply chains.

The Technology Showcase will also return, highlighting emerging solutions and demonstrations that are helping to shape the future of mobility and advanced manufacturing.

Beyond the showcases and presentations, the Expo remains, at its core, a networking-led event, giving delegates the time and space to connect with peers, discuss common challenges and spark new collaboration across the regional supply chain.

The NEAA is delighted to welcome new sponsors this year, including Unipres UK and Muckle LLP, alongside our valued longstanding sponsors Sunderland City Council, TR Fastenings, Masfix, Preston Technical, CMYK, Applied Integration, SMS Technology, SMS, ProSpot and Horizon Works.

To secure exhibition space at the 2026 event, visit the NEAA website to find the latest floor plan or contact a member of the NEAA Team to discuss options. NEAA members can obtain favourable rates for exhibiting.



## INTRODUCING NEAA'S NEW CHAIR

### Martin Kendall takes the helm as the North East Automotive Alliance enters its next phase of growth.

The NEAA has announced the appointment of Martin Kendall, Managing Director of LOGISTEED UK Limited (formerly Vantec Europe Limited), as its new Chair.

He succeeds Professor Matt Boyle OBE FREng, a founding director who has led the organisation since 2010. Under Matt's stewardship, the NEAA has played a pivotal role in strengthening the region's supply chain, championing skills development, and driving collaboration across industry.

At the recent NEAA Annual Awards Dinner, Matt Boyle's exceptional contribution was formally recognised with the Outstanding Contribution Award - an acknowledgement of his long-term impact on the North East's automotive sector. His achievements extend beyond the NEAA, having been awarded an OBE for services to engineering and skills and, more recently, elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Reflecting on his tenure, Matt said: "It has been an honour and privilege to lead this organisation's board. The superb NEAA team have been an inspiration throughout my tenure, supporting the sector, membership and individuals. I know they will go from strength to strength. I wish Martin and the Executive Board, the NEAA team and the membership all the best for the future."

Based in Sunderland, Martin Kendall brings extensive experience in global automotive logistics and supply chain operations. In his role at LOGISTEED UK, he is responsible for operations supporting major OEMs and industrial partners including Nissan Motor Manufacturing, Komatsu UK, Thorn Lighting, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars (R-RMC), Bentley Motors, BMW Swindon and Oxford transport, AESC Envision and GE Vernova.

His longstanding involvement with the NEAA includes serving on the Board and receiving recognition at the 2024 NEAA Awards for his outstanding contribution to the sector.

Martin's career began at Nissan in 1986, during the early days of the Sunderland plant, where he worked in material handling before progressing into engineering roles. He joined Vantec in 2002 and was appointed Managing Director in 2011, going on to lead significant growth initiatives, including new business launches with global automotive brands and expansion into international markets.

Paul Butler, Chief Executive of the NEAA, paid tribute to Matt Boyle's legacy and welcomed Martin's appointment: "Matt Boyle has been a hugely influential figure on the North East manufacturing scene and an outstanding Chair of the NEAA. His wisdom, guidance and clarity of thought have helped shape the organisation we are today. On behalf of the NEAA team, Board and membership, I would like to thank Matt for his outstanding contribution."

"We now welcome Martin Kendall as Chair. A strategic thinker, Martin brings a leadership style that embraces continuous improvement, adaptability and innovation. He takes up the role at a pivotal moment for the automotive sector, and we look forward to working with him and the Board to drive forward new opportunities and future growth."

Taking on the role, Martin highlighted both the strength of the organisation and the opportunities ahead: "It is an honour to be asked to take over as Chair of the NEAA. I know I have big shoes to fill. The NEAA has grown in strength year on year since it began in March 2015 under the leadership of Paul and the NEAA team, becoming the largest automotive cluster in the UK and I look forward to working with the team to ensure we continue that growth and deliver on our commitment to be a true value-added alliance to all of our member companies."



## NISSAN UNVEILS NEW ELECTRIC JUKE

**Nissan has unveiled the all-new, all-electric JUKE at its Vision event at the company's global headquarters in Japan, marking a major step forward in its electrification strategy in Europe.**

As the region's electric vehicle (EV) market continues to grow, Nissan is building on its 15 years of EV leadership to meet an array of customer needs while navigating a complex and competitive market environment.

Agile, compact, and unmistakably Nissan, this first-ever EV Juke carries personality and emotion into the EV era, reimagining one of Europe's most distinctive compact crossovers. It forms part of Nissan's broader strategy to offer an electrified powertrain for every type of customer today.

Since its original launch in 2010, JUKE has captured the imagination of 1.5M customers across Europe, reshaping the compact crossover segment with its daring and unconventional design. The new JUKE retains that character while introducing a fully electric powertrain, supporting Nissan's journey towards to zero-emission mobility.

The all-electric JUKE joins a growing European EV line-up including the new MICRA, third-generation LEAF, Ariya crossover and Townstar LCV, as well as a new A-segment EV to come. The JUKE EV will join the third-generation LEAF in offering Vehicle-to-Grid technology, supporting the integration of EVs into the wider energy ecosystem.

Alongside its expanding EV line-up, Nissan continues to offer its e-POWER hybrid technology, delivering an EV-like driving experience without the need to plug in. Hybrid models such as Qashqai e-POWER and JUKE HEV will remain an important part of the line-up, ensuring customers have access to technologies that suit their needs today.

"Europe is central to Nissan's electrification strategy, and we remain firmly committed to a fully electric future," said Massimiliano Messina, Chairman, Nissan AMIEO. "With a rapidly expanding EV line-up, we are bringing greater choice and innovation to every segment, powered by our strong design, engineering and manufacturing footprint in the region. Together, this next generation of vehicles will accelerate our transition to zero-emission mobility."

The all-new, all-electric JUKE will be built at Nissan's Sunderland Plant in the UK, reinforcing the site's central role in the company's global EV strategy. Already home to LEAF and with the first trial phase of JUKE production starting in the coming weeks, Sunderland Plant remains the cornerstone of Nissan's electrified manufacturing footprint in Europe.

The commitment is supported by Nissan's broader regional capabilities, including its design, engineering and development network across the UK, Spain and Germany. Together, these operations underline Nissan's long-term investment in Europe as both a production and innovation hub – designing, engineering and manufacturing vehicles in Europe, for European customers.

"JUKE has always stood for bold design and a willingness to challenge convention. With this third generation, we are bringing that spirit into the electric age," said Clíodhna Lyons, Region Vice President, Product, Brand & Marketing Strategy, Nissan AMIEO. "As our first fully electric JUKE, it will help us reach new customers while expanding choice across our electrified range."

The third-generation JUKE made its global debut at Nissan's Vision Event in Japan, where the company is presenting its long-term direction, product roadmap and technology innovations to global media, stakeholders and employees. All-new JUKE will be launched in spring 2027.



# FROM CONNECTED PLANT TO TRUSTED DATA

By Viki Bell, Chief Executive, CEA  
(Construction Equipment Association)

The familiar priorities for construction equipment are well understood. The sector is under pressure to cut emissions, move to cleaner power, improve site safety, raise productivity and bring new people into the industry. While all remain important, data now runs through almost every serious discussion about machinery and fleet management.

Machines on sites and in depots generate valuable information every day, from location, hours and utilisation to diagnostics, service alerts, fuel and energy use, operator behaviour and safety-related events. Used well, that information can reduce downtime, improve servicing, identify underused assets, support emissions reporting and help businesses understand where fuel, energy and machine time are being used.

The issue is no longer whether machine data has value. Few in the sector would question that. The challenge is bringing information together across mixed fleets in a way that is trustworthy, controllable and properly used.

Most fleets are made up of equipment from several manufacturers, often supported by different telematics systems, maintenance platforms and internal reporting processes. This can result in plenty of data, but not enough clarity, particularly when trying to view a mixed-manufacturer fleet in one place.

Plant data is now operational intelligence. It shows where equipment is working, how it is being used, when it needs attention and the overall status of a fleet. Its commercial value can shape investment decisions, maintenance planning, contract performance, safety processes and sustainability reporting.

With that value come practical questions. Where is the data stored? Who can access it? How is it protected? How is it shared? Can the customer remain in control? Can the information be trusted?

This is not about turning telematics into a cybersecurity debate. The point is simple: connected plant creates valuable information, and that information needs to be managed properly.

One example of this shift can be seen in the work of CEA member PVS Data. The company has placed UK-based data storage and processing at the centre of its telematics approach, stating that telematics data collected from machines, vehicles and operations is stored and processed within the United Kingdom. It also points to encrypted data transmission, secure UK-based data centres, access controls, monitoring and threat detection, routine audits, compliance checks and Cyber Essentials accreditation.

PVS Data's approach also addresses one of the biggest practical issues facing fleet owners: consolidating mixed-fleet data into a single, usable view. Its solution can sit above OEM telematics already built into machines and work alongside additional telematics hardware, allowing data from multiple manufacturers and sources to be brought together through one platform, where access is available or agreed.

Importantly, the data collected through PVS telematics hardware belongs to the customer. It is hosted on the PVS platform, tailored to the customer's business needs and kept within the UK. For companies thinking carefully about data ownership, access, sovereignty and trust, that distinction matters.

Connected plant is nothing new. What is changing is the volume of mixed-fleet data now available, and the need to bring it together in a way that businesses can trust. The industry's next step is not more connectivity for its own sake, but trusted data that supports better decisions.



## DRIVING INCLUSION FORWARD: OUR JOURNEY AT GATESHEAD COLLEGE

For the automotive sector, as with many industries, building a diverse, skilled and future-ready workforce is a shared challenge. At Gateshead College, our equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB) journey has been about tackling this head on by embedding inclusion into how we develop people, shape culture and work with employers.

Our commitment is simple but ambitious - to create an environment where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is lived and everyone feels they truly belong. We take proactive steps to remove barriers, open up opportunities and ensure every individual is valued, heard and supported to achieve their potential.

This commitment is delivered through a clear framework - culture, curriculum, campus and community - ensuring our work is structured, practical and guides decision making. We focus on action, embedding inclusive leadership, strengthening accountability and using data and lived experience to identify and close equity gaps that still exist across education and employment pathways.

At the heart of this is our ethos, Employment Edge for Everyone. This reflects a principle that resonates strongly across sectors; opportunity should not be limited by background. Instead, we combine high expectations for all with the right support developing the confidence, resilience and real world skills employers value, from technical capability to teamwork and problem-solving.

David Alexander, CEO said: 'EDIB sits at the heart of what we do, enabling us to recognise talent, develop people and open up opportunity for everyone. We celebrate our differences because they make us stronger. When we get this right, it changes lives and strengthens the communities and sectors we serve.'

**GATESHEAD  
COLLEGE**  
EDUCATION  
WITH  
EMPLOYMENT  
EDGE



For industries facing skills shortages and a need to diversify talent pipelines, this is critical. Through inclusive curriculum design, visible role models and strong employer partnerships, we work to widen participation into sectors where some groups remain underrepresented, including engineering and automotive roles.

We also know inclusion is experienced day to day. That's why we invest in staff development and inclusive practice embedding training as part of CPD programmes and creating open, honest dialogue through learner voice and staff engagement. This ensures people feel safe, respected and able to contribute fully.

Our partnerships bring this to life in practical ways. Through our CoLab model, learners collaborate with employers and communities on projects with real impact. For example, Gardens to Gatherings brought together students, staff and partners to deliver an inclusive community event, generating over £11,000 in social value while developing learner confidence, teamwork and employability skills - attributes directly relevant to workplace success.

Ultimately, our EDIB journey is about more than education. It is about supporting inclusive growth across the region. Our Strategic Plan places inclusion at the heart of our priorities, ensuring that learners, people and partnerships work together to deliver opportunity and impact.

While our context is further education, the principle is universal: inclusion strengthens organisations, broadens talent and drives

better outcomes. By working together across sectors, we can ensure that opportunity really is everywhere, for everyone.

For more information on Gateshead College, please visit: [www.gateshead.ac.uk](http://www.gateshead.ac.uk)





# FROM LEARNING TO LEADING: DELIVERING REAL IMPACT ON THE SHOP FLOOR

How Degree Apprentice Barry Levitt is applying academic learning in a live manufacturing environment to drive efficiency, capacity and smarter decision-making at Dacon Fabrications.

## Background

Dacon Fabrications Ltd is a specialist manufacturer focused on delivering high-quality fabrication solutions. As the business continues to grow, increasing production capacity has become a key priority.

Barry Levitt, an Engineering Practice (Manufacturing) Degree Apprentice at the University of Sunderland, is supporting this growth through the application of lean principles and digital tools, demonstrating how apprentices can deliver real impact in a live operational environment.

## Approach and Solution

To support increased production demand, Dacon identified the need to introduce a new laser cutting machine. This presented a strategic decision: expand the factory or reconfigure the existing layout.

Taking this challenge forward, Barry played a key role in supporting a data-driven decision-making process. Applying principles from his degree, he helped assess layout options through a lean manufacturing lens, using quantitative data to evaluate flow, space utilisation and overall productivity.

A key element of his contribution was the development of a to-scale CAD model of the shop floor, enabling the team to visualise and test different layout scenarios before implementation. This approach provided clarity, reduced risk and ensured that the

chosen solution – a full internal reconfiguration – would deliver both practical and operational efficiencies.

## Outcome and Advantage

Barry's contribution highlights the tangible value apprentices can bring when learning is applied in practice:

- Data-driven decision-making supporting business growth
- Improved shop floor layout and space utilisation
- Reduced risk and cost through digital visualisation and planning
- Application of lean principles in a live manufacturing setting
- Demonstration of the value of apprentice-led innovation

## Testimonials

"Being able to apply what I've learned at university to a real project like this has been incredibly rewarding. Seeing my work support a live business decision has really brought my learning to life."

**Barry Levitt / Degree Apprentice / Dacon Fabrications Ltd**

"Barry's work has provided valuable insight into how we can maximise our existing space while supporting future growth. His approach reflects the real benefit apprentices can bring to a business from day one."

**Andrew Boyes / Quality & Operations Manager / Dacon Fabrications Ltd**

"Barry is a perfect demonstration of the impact a degree apprentice can have on an employer. His ability to translate the knowledge he gains at the University of Sunderland into the workplace is something we are proud to be a part of."

**Dr Derek Dixon / Associate Head of School for Computer Science and Engineering / University of Sunderland**

[To explore engineering degree apprenticeships, come along to an online information event to find out more.](#)



# DEVELOPING FUTURE TALENT: LOGISTEED UK AND TTS PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTING WORKFORCE GROWTH

A partnership focused on apprenticeships, warehousing training and green skills development is helping build the next generation of logistics professionals in the North East.

## Background

LOGISTEED UK Limited (formerly Vantec Europe) is an innovative contract logistics provider delivering integrated supply chain solutions for major global brands. Headquartered in Washington, Tyne and Wear, the company provides a wide range of services including last mile logistics, warehousing, sequencing, kitting, freight forwarding and full track and trace capabilities. These operations are supported by modern distribution centres and a highly skilled workforce.

Tyneside Training Services (TTS) is a training provider specialising in workforce development across the transport, logistics and business sectors. Working with employers throughout the region, TTS delivers a wide range of training programmes including apprenticeships, professional development courses and sector specific skills training.

## Approach and Solution

Through its partnership with TTS, LOGISTEED UK Limited has been able to introduce structured apprenticeship pathways that combine classroom learning with practical workplace experience.

TTS works closely with the organisation to provide tailored training programmes aligned with the operational needs of the business. Apprentices receive ongoing coaching, structured learning and hands-on experience within a real working environment, enabling them to develop the confidence, skills and knowledge required to succeed within the logistics sector.

A strong example of this partnership is Business Administration Apprentice Charlie Hutchinson, who joined the Customer Service Administration team and quickly demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm and a proactive approach to supporting daily operations.

## Outcome and Advantage

The partnership between LOGISTEED UK Limited and TTS has delivered a number of positive outcomes:

- Introduction of structured apprenticeship pathways supporting workforce development
- New talent entering the logistics sector through industry-aligned training
- Increased confidence, skills and workplace experience for apprentices
- Strong collaboration between training provider and employer
- Recognition of apprentice success, including Charlie Hutchinson being named TTS Apprentice of the Month.

## Testimonials

"Throughout Charlie's apprenticeship journey, TTS has provided consistent support, from regular training sessions and progress reviews to guidance for both Charlie and the team. Their responsive communication and tailored approach have helped ensure Charlie stays on track, builds confidence and continues to develop the skills needed to succeed in his role."

*Stacey Mitchell / Manager / LOGISTEED UK Limited*

Through our partnership with LOGISTEED UK Limited, TTS supports the organisation through apprenticeship programmes and warehousing bootcamps designed to develop new talent and strengthen operational teams. Our team very much enjoy working with LOGISTEED UK and their apprentices."

*John Jones / Managing Director / TTS*

## AR POWER STRENGTHENS SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Washington-based renewable energy company, AR Power, has announced key changes to its senior management team as it positions itself for continued growth and expansion across the UK commercial solar sector.

From 1 May, Luke Lubo will be promoted to Technical Director, having previously served as Technical Manager. Chris Balmer will transition from Operations Director into the role of Managing Director, while current Technical Director Mark Dunville will step back from day-to-day responsibilities, he will, however, remain closely involved with the business in a board advisory capacity, offering ongoing strategic insight and industry expertise.

The leadership changes come at a pivotal time for the company, which specialises in the design and installation of commercial solar PV systems across the UK. AR Power has recently secured a number of significant contracts, reflecting growing demand from businesses seeking to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and stabilise long-term operating costs.

Commenting on the developments, Managing Director



Chris Balmer said, "After a strong period of contract success, we are proud to be strengthening our management team. These changes are a clear reflection of our ambition and our continued focus on sustainable growth."

In the current economic climate, many businesses are looking to stabilise their energy costs, which has led to increased interest in solar power solutions. With our ability to deliver a fully integrated in-house turnkey service focused on safety, quality and delivering customer excellence, we are in a strong position to continue driving the business forward.

We're excited to build on our momentum and continue supporting clients across the UK in their transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy."

## AGENCY 'LAUNCHED IN A GATESHEAD STARBUCKS' EYES UP £1M TURNOVER AS IT TURNS TEN

A business born at a table inside a North East branch of Starbucks has turned ten – and is on-course to turn over £1m for the first time.

Founded by former university lecturer Michael Knowles in 2016, digital marketing agency ROAR's first client was a hair and beauty salon near his North Tyneside home.

Yet without a penny of investment, ROAR Digital Marketing has enjoyed solid year-on-year growth and now works exclusively with seven to eight figure niche and technical B2B brands – growing them into market leaders.

"Ten years ago, I was sat in the Gateshead Starbucks with my wife and her best friend registering ROAR Digital Marketing on Companies House – it was absolutely terrifying, but we've grown so much and the business is in a better place than ever," said Michael.

Boasting a diverse portfolio of clients in sectors ranging from fintech and software to manufacturing and most recently defence, ROAR's helped more than 275 clients during the past decade – helping them to generate in excess of £54m in revenue.

"I previously worked for some toxic agencies that were purely profit-driven and often painted pictures to clients that were simply



untrue," added Michael.

"I told my wife that the environment was killing me, and I wanted to create a values-led business where I could be transparent with clients."

From the approach came ROAR – an acronym that stands for 'Real Opportunities, Actual Results'. It is a mantra that's driven the business since day one.

Having caught Google's attention during ROAR's infancy, Michael was approached to be a Google Trainer – a role that also helped him gain invaluable training from some of the search giant's leading experts.

In recent years, Michael has streamlined ROAR both in size and scale, recruiting the current five-person team based not just on talent but values while the company now focuses solely on just four key aspects; SEO, PPC, content management and website analytics.

## CLEANEARTH ENERGY WINS GOVERNMENT BACKING FOR ONSHORE WIND PROJECT

CleanEarth Energy, long-standing provider of full circle renewable energy solutions, has secured CfD support in the latest round of government contracts for the largest onshore wind farm project to be built in England since 2015.

A Contract for Difference (CfD) is a private contract between the government-owned Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC) and a low carbon electricity generator.

To be awarded this during Allocation Round 7 signifies the meaningful governmental support being put behind wind energy in England, and CleanEarth's key role in developing the UK's evolving energy mix.

CleanEarth's wind farm project, located on industrial, low-quality land within the mining area of central Cornwall, will generate 60GWh annually – equivalent to the output of solar utilising approximately 350 acres – making a significant contribution to a low carbon environment.



As Simon Virley, head of KPMG Energy confirms, onshore wind and solar remain the cheapest large-scale renewables available – well below the costs of offshore wind, new build gas, or new nuclear.

Energisation of the project, due later in 2026, will be the realisation of many years of combined effort between Imerys and CleanEarth.

CleanEarth, based in Cornwall, UK, are proud to help contribute to a reduction in UK energy costs.

## COUNTY DURHAM TO BENEFIT FROM NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN NEW TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE COLLEGE

New College Durham (NCD) is delighted to announce it has been chosen as one of only four colleges across the country to have been recognised as an Advanced Manufacturing Technical Excellence College (TEC).

TECs will work with employers, representative bodies, trade unions, strategic authorities, and local government to provide people with better training and job opportunities, and to generate the highly trained workforce that local economies need.

NCD is one of the few Further Education (FE) colleges that have been awarded 'technical excellence status' by the Department for Education, recognising its deep specialisms in priority skills areas. The college has earned its status due to its continued demonstration of excellence in provision of specific priority technical skills in Advanced Manufacturing. Its model of innovative teaching and curricula excellence will be used to drive greater coordination and collaboration across the advanced manufacturing sector.

Alison Maynard, Deputy Principal for Curriculum at New College Durham, said: "We are honoured that New College Durham has been recognised as a Technical Excellence College for Advanced Manufacturing. This award reflects both the strength of our college



and the North East's long-standing reputation as a centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

Through our strong partnerships with employers across key sectors, we have built a provision that responds directly to industry needs, supporting both regional growth and nationally significant supply chains."

NCD is already a recognised hub of excellence in the advanced manufacturing sector, with advanced facilities and resources, including expert staff, innovative course materials, and strong employer and industry partnerships.

The college also proudly leads the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT), which brings together employers, higher education institutions, and further education colleges across the region, working to deliver advanced technical education in areas including construction, engineering, manufacturing and digital. The new Advanced Manufacturing TEC will complement the existing Institute of Technology, strengthening our collective efforts to drive the technical skills agenda across the North East.

## SCANTIME BECOMES WAGO'S OFFICIAL UK TRAINING PARTNER

Scantime, the UK's leading independent PLC training provider, has announced a training partnership with WAGO, the global leader in modular automation and interconnection technology.

Under the agreement, Scantime becomes WAGO's UK training partner and an approved reseller within Scantime's Partner Reseller Programme.

The partnership means that any company with an existing WAGO account can now book Scantime's expert-led WAGO x CODESYS PLC training courses directly through WAGO: one purchase order, one supplier, no additional account setup. Courses remain available to book directly through Scantime as well.

Scantime has established a dedicated WAGO training room at its Alderley Park facility, equipped with the latest WAGO PFC200 series controllers and CODESYS programming environment. A matching facility is planned for Scantime's Gateshead headquarters, and on-site training at client premises and at WAGO's own UK headquarters is also available.

The partnership comes at a critical time for UK manufacturing. Industry body Make UK reports 55,000 long-term unfilled vacancies in UK manufacturing, costing the economy £6 billion in lost output annually. With one in five UK manufacturing workers now over 55, the sector faces an urgent knowledge-transfer challenge as experienced engineers approach retirement.



ABB's Value of Reliability Report, surveying 3,200 plant maintenance leaders, found that two-thirds of companies experience unplanned downtime at least once per month, at an average cost of £92,000 per hour.

The partnership between Scantime and WAGO aims to help employers close this gap by giving maintenance engineers the hands-on PLC skills they need to fault-find and resolve issues faster.

Chris Simm, Managing Director at Scantime, said: "By working with companies like WAGO, it allows us to get instant access to the up to date hardware and also know all of the tips and tricks while working with their PLC, understanding all the insides and out to make sure that we provide the best experience to learners on the training course."

## VANTEC EUROPE BECOMES LOGISTEED UK AFTER REBRAND

Vantec Europe Ltd, which is a major employer across Sunderland, has rebranded as it looks to strengthen global opportunities for the business and its team.

The company is now officially called LOGISTEED UK Limited, combining the word logistics with exceed, proceed, succeed and speed.

The business operates three facilities in Washington, two with the distinctive signage that can be seen by thousands of cars making their way along the A1231 Sunderland Highway, and Northbound on the A19.

The rebrand marks the organisation's transition into the international LOGISTEED Group, which operates across 122 companies, 1,003 sites and 30 countries and regions, reinforcing the UK's role within a major global logistics operation.

Martin Kendall, managing director, at LOGISTEED UK, said: "We're delighted to now be LOGISTEED UK Limited. The change represents an important transition in the business, as we firmly establish ourselves as part of a global group that will open up



exciting new opportunities for our business and for our colleagues.

"It's incredible to think that a business that started out operating from a competitors facility as a logistics supplier to Nissan in the early days of its life here in Sunderland is now part of a global group, creating hundreds of jobs in Sunderland and across the UK, supporting blue-chip clients in automotive, premium automotive, construction, electric battery, offshore renewable energy, HVAC, commercial lighting and fashion sectors

"The business has come so far, and this marks a bold new chapter for us – one filled with opportunity, innovation and global ambition."

## Red Hawk Group Ltd

Red Hawk Group Ltd is an Energy Management consultancy helping businesses in the Manufacturing, Engineering and Fabrication Sector to manage energy portfolios.

Providing expert energy buying and management solutions, this enables businesses to reduce costs and consumption in a complex and evolving market. Working closely with them, Red Hawk identifies cost saving and efficiency driving measures which can be implemented across your business.

Their team of expert consultants will guide businesses on every step of way, offering solutions that will lower bills and emissions without disrupting workflows.

Whether advising on savvy purchasing, energy rebates, or carbon reduction projects, Red Hawk partner with businesses to ensure continual success. Consider them a valuable member of your team.

### Here's how they can make your energy buying smarter:

- **Cost Control:** Flexible purchasing lets you react to market changes, securing the best rates when they're available, so you're not locked into high prices.
- **Risk Management:** By spreading out your energy buys, you avoid the risks of big price swings. It's about stability and managing costs smarter.
- **Transparency & Insight:** Our energy experts provide clear, straightforward insights into your usage patterns and opportunities for savings. You'll know exactly where your money's going.



- **Data-Driven Decisions:** We analyse energy market trends and price movements so you don't have to, helping you secure the best rates when they're available.
- **Hedging for Stability:** By using a strategic, data-backed hedging approach, we spread your energy purchases over time to minimise risk and keep costs stable - even as the market fluctuates.
- **Clear Analytics & Insights:** Our customer portal, Hawk-i, provides you with transparent, straightforward data on your energy usage and spending patterns, pinpointing where and when you can save.

### For more information contact:

Email: [dan@redhawkgroup.co.uk](mailto:dan@redhawkgroup.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)1642 343405

[www.redhawkgroup.co.uk](http://www.redhawkgroup.co.uk)



## City & Guilds

### Your Trusted Global Skills Partner

With almost 150 years experience, City & Guilds is the trusted global leader in vocational education and skills development, empowering individuals and organisations to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Their industry aligned awards & assessments, leadership & management, skills training, and corporate learning & development solutions bridge the gap between education and employment enabling individuals to make a greater impact through the power of skills.

City & Guild believe that skills change lives, and through their commitment to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and innovation they:

- Enable individuals to acquire the practical knowledge, expertise and confidence to excel in their chosen careers,
- Support organisations, and their workforce, to prepare for a successful future,
- Drive economic growth.

Choose from a wide range of work-based qualifications, designed with employers, to build skills, capability and confidence on the job. There are two ways to access these qualifications:

### Become a City & Guilds approved Qualification Centre

With the right staff, equipment and/or facilities in place City &



Guilds can help you get set-up as an approved qualification centre, to deliver qualifications in-house.

### Access qualifications through City & Guilds approved delivery network

Access qualifications through their extensive approved delivery provider network, with support to explore any local or national adult skills funding opportunities.

### For more information please contact:

Joe Bell | Client Manager

Email: [joe.bell@cityandguilds.com](mailto:joe.bell@cityandguilds.com)

Tel: +44 (0)7795 367 247

[www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)



## Emissis

Emissis (Electrical Mechanical & Cooling Ltd) is a Middlesbrough-based energy optimisation company delivering independently verified electricity savings through a portfolio of globally patented technologies, deployed under the enPact® brand.

The company works with some of the world's most recognisable businesses, including Whitbread / Premier Inn, Costco, Sysco, Budderfly, Coca-Cola and AB InBev, and has established 16 contracted distribution partners across the US, Canada, Colombia, Singapore, Malaysia and the UK.

The company's flagship technology, enPact® FilterPro, is a patented electrical load conditioning device that reduces active power waste and EMI losses across the entire site electrical system. Employing spintronics and Carbon Nanotube (CNT) technology, it conditions electrical load at the point of use, reducing inrush current and compensating for energy losses in real time. Critically, it is not power factor correction - FilterPro operates on active power through an entirely different mechanism, and its savings are additive to every other energy initiative already in place, including solar generation and demand-side management programmes.

The results are independently verified using IPMVP Option C methodology and monitored in real time through Emissis's proprietary cloud platform. At a UK manufacturing facility, FilterPro delivered a 13% reduction in electricity consumption against a guaranteed 7%, with payback achieved in just 5.4 months. In a



cold storage environment, an 8–9% reduction was verified on an ammonia compressor feed. Across the portfolio, Emissis reports a 90%+ proof-of-concept conversion rate.

### Exclusive Offer for NEAA Members

As a new member of the NEAA, Emissis is offering a **free 30-day proof of concept** to one Tier 1 facility within the membership. We will instrument a single inductive feed - a press line, paint shop or compressor circuit - with full data transparency, no IT integration, and no commitment beyond the POC itself. Results will be shared with the NEAA membership as a sector technology validation exercise.

### For more information please contact:

Email: [enquiries@emissis.com](mailto:enquiries@emissis.com)

Tel: +44 (0)1642 049024

[www.emissis.com](http://www.emissis.com)



## CleanEarth Energy

CleanEarth Energy bring lower carbon emissions and reduced energy prices for the automotive sector with CapEx free renewable energy

CleanEarth Energy are the UK's leading developer of single turbines, windfarms, and solar solutions for UK businesses, operating in renewable energy for over 15 years. They have projects across the UK, with a combined impact of over 50,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions. These projects total enough clean energy generation to power 47,000 homes.

CleanEarth Energy are the only provider to offer a complementary mix of CapEx free energy solutions to the automotive sector, executing full circle wind and solar PV projects. Operating entirely in-house means that businesses can work with one key provider for every stage of a project, keeping the process efficient, streamlined, and dedicated to the client's needs.

Updates to regulations have made renewable energy projects increasingly viable, opening the door for sites like leased buildings or brownfield land to become renewable energy generators.

CleanEarth have worked on a range of projects with unique specifications; including transforming an undulating field with four mine shafts into a solar ground-mount site for renowned dairy producer Rodda's, resulting in 222 tonnes of annual CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions. Another client, Vinarchy (formerly Accolade Wines), are benefiting from annual on-site wind generation of 7,200,000kWh,



taking their Scope 2 emissions down by 2,540 tonnes per annum.

These projects are not only feasible, but game changing. For the automotive industry, high energy usage and grid reliance leaves the industry vulnerable to rising standing charges and grid failures that can halt operations. With renewable energy, businesses can take back control over the energy mix. CleanEarth can help the automotive industry strengthen its foundations to protect against grid volatility and price shocks and tackle a significant element of the carbon footprint.

### For more information please contact:

Tel: +44 (0)1208 895576

[www.cleaneartenergy.com](http://www.cleaneartenergy.com)



# Northern Metal Recycling

Northern Metal Recycling is the North East's largest independent scrap metal merchant, providing reliable and sustainable metal recycling solutions across the UK.

With sites in Shildon and Blaydon, alongside our deep-sea export facility at PD Ports Middlesbrough and short-sea operation at Sunderland Docks, we deliver efficient recycling and waste management services on a national scale.

We are proud to hold the UK single-source factory recycling contract for Nissan, as well as major automotive contracts with Unipres and SNOP, reflecting our reputation for quality, reliability, and environmental responsibility.

Each year, we recycle over half a million tonnes of metal, including steel, aluminium, copper, and brass. By collecting, sorting, and processing scrap metal responsibly, we help reduce landfill waste, lower environmental pollution, and decrease the demand for raw material mining.

Sustainability is at the heart of our business. We continuously invest in environmentally responsible practices, including energy-efficient equipment, water recycling systems, and low-emission transport solutions to reduce our carbon footprint and support the transition to a greener future.



Northern Metal Recycling operates to the highest environmental standards, ensuring full compliance with all local and international regulations for the safe handling and processing of recyclable materials.

Through strong partnerships with industry and local communities, we actively promote responsible recycling, sustainable waste management, and environmental awareness - helping build a cleaner, more resource-efficient future for generations to come.

For more information, please contact:  
[www.northernmetalrecycling.co.uk](http://www.northernmetalrecycling.co.uk)



# Tyne North Training

Tyne North Training are a leading provider of vocational training and apprenticeships; they are at the forefront of developing skilled talent for engineering and manufacturing sectors across the Northeast region.

For over two decades, Tyne North Training has been dedicated to delivering high-quality, industry-relevant training programs that equip individuals with the practical skills and knowledge required to thrive in today's engineering sector. From entry-level apprenticeships to the upskilling of experienced technicians, their programmes provide coverage of core engineering principles, processes, maintenance practices, and technical methodologies.

One of the key strengths of Tyne North Training is their close collaboration with local businesses. By understanding the specific needs of employers, they tailor their programs to ensure learners are job-ready from day one. This approach not only helps businesses fill critical skills gaps but also supports the growth and sustainability of the North East's engineering sector.

Tyne North Training, pride themselves on the quality of coaching. Every apprentice is supported by subject matter experts; experienced professionals who bring real-world knowledge from across the engineering sector. These experts act as mentors as well as trainers, guiding apprentices through practical challenges, sharing industry insights, and ensuring that every learner develops the skills, confidence, and professionalism required to excel in the workplace.



For NEAA members, Tyne North Training represents a valuable partner in workforce development. Whether you are looking to recruit talented apprentices, upskill your existing team, or explore collaborative training initiatives, their expertise and commitment to excellence make them a trusted resource for businesses across the region.

Tyne North Training encourage members to get in touch to organise an introductory meeting and discover how their programs can help drive your business and the wider sector forward.

For more information please contact:  
Email: [gayle.mccann@tynenorthtraining.co.uk](mailto:gayle.mccann@tynenorthtraining.co.uk)  
[www.tyненorthtraining.co.uk](http://www.tyненorthtraining.co.uk)



## 3Sixty 3pl Ltd

### Powering the North East's Supply Chain: Why Businesses Trust 3Sixty 3PL

In a world where efficient logistics can make or break a business, having the right third-party partner isn't just convenient - it's essential. 3Sixty 3PL Ltd, based in South Shields, is quickly becoming the go-to warehousing solution for many businesses across the North East and beyond.

3Sixty 3PL is built on a 30-year foundation of expertise spanning logistics, warehousing, shipping, and transport. Since opening their doors at Waldrige Way in South Shields, the company has experienced rapid growth, securing contracts with many tier one Nissan suppliers.

#### Comprehensive, Flexible Services

From generic warehousing and storage to value-add solutions, 3Sixty offer reliable logistics services tailored to each client's needs. Whether you require secure storage, efficient order processing, or seamless distribution, 3Sixty ensure smooth operations with a customer-focused approach. Warehousing services cover container and trailer devanning, transport coordination, and storage, controlled and delivered by their leading Warehouse Management System. To complete the full spectrum of modern supply chain requirements, they offer re-labelling and re-working, Q.C. inspection and other bespoke services.

#### Serious About Growth

3Sixty 3PL isn't standing still and has expanded its South Tyneside



footprint significantly, with capacity exceeding 71,000 sq ft across multiple sites. Offering both modern indoor and extensive outdoor storage, their investment in infrastructure means clients benefit from scalable capacity.

#### A Partner You Can Count On

3Sixty 3PL helps businesses of all sizes streamline their supply chains with flexible, scalable solutions, backed by real expertise and genuine commitment to getting the job done. If you're looking for a logistics partner that combines the agility of a local operator with the credentials of an industry heavyweight, 3Sixty 3PL Ltd is ready to deliver for you.

3Sixty are excited about their NEAA membership and look forward to networking alongside existing and new businesses to offer their expansive services.

For more information visit:

[www.3sixty3pl.co.uk](http://www.3sixty3pl.co.uk)



## Staybridge Suites Newcastle

### Delivering a project in the region? Make Staybridge Suites Newcastle your team's home away from home.

Specialising in supporting automotive and advanced manufacturing businesses operating on project-based assignments across the North East, Staybridge can support teams overseeing plant installations, engineering upgrades, supplier launches or consultancy programmes with flexible accommodation that works around their schedule.

Its spacious studio and one-bedroom suites are designed for extended stays, giving teams the space to live as well as work. Each suite includes a fully equipped kitchen, dedicated workspace and separate living area - ideal for maintaining routine and productivity during longer assignments. With complimentary breakfast, high-speed Wi-Fi, on-site laundry facilities and a 24-hour fitness room, everything your team needs is under one roof.

Need space to meet? The on-site meeting room is perfect for briefings, interviews, project planning sessions or client discussions, offering added convenience without leaving the building.

Located in Newcastle city centre with excellent access to key transport links and major industrial hubs, the suites are perfectly positioned to support businesses working across multiple sites in the region.

While extended project stays are their speciality, Staybridge also



welcome shorter 1-2 night visits for site inspections, leadership meetings and recruitment trips. Whatever the duration, the same high level of service, flexibility and attention to detail is delivered.

For accommodation that understands the pace and demands of automotive projects, choose Staybridge Suites Newcastle - your reliable base in the North East.

For more information please contact:

Email: [nola@newcastle.staybridge.com](mailto:nola@newcastle.staybridge.com)

Tel: +44 (0)191 238 7005

[www.home-away-from-home.co.uk/newcastle-luxury-apartments](http://www.home-away-from-home.co.uk/newcastle-luxury-apartments)



# Argus Fluid Handling

Argus Fluid Handling, part of the Alfagomma Group, is a specialist manufacturer of high-performance hydraulic hose and tube assemblies.

Serving a diverse range of sectors - including automotive and industrial engine manufacturing, off-highway and construction, rail and transport, defence, and industrial manufacturing - the business supports both regional manufacturers and global OEMs from its established facilities in Sunderland and Salisbury.

Argus Fluid Handling delivers fully integrated fluid handling solutions, with expertise spanning composite hose assemblies, flexible hoses, and precision-manipulated tube capabilities. This enables the design and manufacture of complete engineered systems tailored to individual application requirements. Manufactured to exact customer specifications, the company provides a seamless end-to-end service from design and assembly through to testing and logistics, ensuring performance, efficiency, and reliability at every stage.

With over 85 years of engineering heritage, Argus Fluid Handling has built a strong reputation for quality, reliability, and technical expertise. The business supports complex production programmes through a combination of engineering expertise, manufacturing capability, and reliable delivery performance. Their long-standing relationship with world-leading OEM manufacturers reflect the business's ability to manufacture high-quality engineered



assemblies that meet demanding industry requirements while consistently delivering trusted fluid handling expertise.

Why choose Argus Fluid Handling:

- Part of the Alfagomma Group - a global leader in hydraulic and industrial fluid handling systems
- Trusted partner to global OEMs and manufacturers
- Integrated systems that reduce assembly time and complexity
- Enhanced reliability through fewer connection points
- Consistent quality with full traceability and certification

**For business enquiries:**

Sam Robinson | Business Development Manager

Email: [sam.robinson@hiflex-europe.com](mailto:sam.robinson@hiflex-europe.com)

Tel: +44 (0)7708 079600

[www.argusfluidhandling.com](http://www.argusfluidhandling.com)



# TDR Training Ltd

TDR Training is a modern apprenticeship provider delivering industry-focused skills across engineering, manufacturing, science and business.

Its programmes are developed in collaboration with employers and combine practical workplace experience with structured technical learning, ensuring apprentices are fully prepared for the demands of industry.

At Level 3, TDR delivers a wide range of apprenticeships including maintenance engineering, machining, fabrication, welding, CAD, design, process engineering, science, laboratory operations and business administration. This breadth enables employers to build both technical expertise and wider operational capability within their workforce.

For progression, TDR offers Level 4 apprenticeships such as Lead Maintenance Engineer, Manufacturing Technician and Quality Practitioner. These pathways are further supported by three HNC programmes, providing clear routes into advanced technical and engineering roles. As one employer explains, "The progression routes are clear and well thought out, giving our apprentices a real pathway into higher-level roles while developing the technical and leadership skills we need."

A defining strength of TDR is its fully independent delivery model. All training and mandatory qualifications are delivered in-house rather than outsourced to external colleges, ensuring consistency, quality and strong alignment with industry requirements.



Employers consistently highlight the benefit of this approach:

"Having all training delivered in-house gives us confidence in the consistency and quality; it feels much more aligned to industry."

Flexibility is another key advantage. Unlike providers tied to academic calendars, TDR enables year-round apprentice enrolment, allowing businesses to align recruitment and training with operational needs. Employers value this adaptability. Training schedules are designed to minimise disruption while maintaining strong outcomes.

Beyond apprenticeships, TDR also provides over 40 short courses, including IOSH, electrical awareness, TIG welding and hydraulics to name a few, supporting continuous workforce development and reinforcing its role as a long-term industry training partner.

**For more information, please contact:**

Email: [BSS@tdrtraining.co.uk](mailto:BSS@tdrtraining.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)191 491 1505

[www.tdrtraining.co.uk](http://www.tdrtraining.co.uk)



# BE PART OF OUR NETWORK

