

newslink

SKILLCARD WELCOMES 40,000TH REGISTRATION

George Bridges, service and maintenance engineer with Johnson Controls in South Queensferry, Scotland, has become the 40,000th individual to be issued with an Engineering Services SKILLcard.

The SKILLcard was presented by HVCA president Mike Taylor late last year at the headquarters of HVCA Scotland in Penicuik, Midlothian.

During the ceremony, Mr Taylor reminded his audience that, at the time of its introduction, SKILLcard represented an "act of faith".

"This was especially so in relation to service and facilities, for which the external pressure for registration is less acute

than in the installation sector, where targets already exist for the registration of on-site personnel," he explained.

For the service and facilities companies, he acknowledged, the incentive for registration was less tangible – yet it was proving scarcely less persuasive.

"The plain fact is that ensuring that all relevant members of the workforce have been duly 'SKILLcarded' does much to demonstrate to its clients or customers an organisation's genuine commitment to



Pictured during the presentation of the 40,000th SKILLcard are (left to right): Gordon Rowe, area service manager (UK regions), Johnson Controls; HVCA president Mike Taylor; SKILLcard recipient George Bridges; Ken Nall, director of service, West Region Europe, Johnson Controls; and Robert Feeney, service operations manager (Scotland), Johnson Controls

competence and quality."

Ken Nall, Johnson Controls' director of service, West Region Europe, confirmed that the registration of its workforce with

SKILLcard was an important element in his company's human resources strategy.

"It is becoming increasingly important for service providers to be able to prove to actual and potential clients the qualifications and professionalism of their workforce at every level," he pointed out.

"The possession by all appropriate personnel of a SKILLcard goes a very long way towards fulfilling this important requirement."

Peter Rimmer, project manager for Engineering Services SKILLcard, pointed out that the presentation of the 40,000th card to a maintenance engineer was significant in itself.

"The fact that a key industry player such as Johnson Controls has demonstrated its commitment to the concept proves that SKILLcard can be as important to service and facilities as it has already proved to be to the installation sector.

"I therefore look forward with confidence to other major service companies making an equally wholehearted commitment."

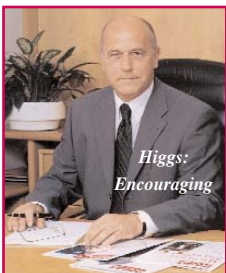
Engineering Services SKILLcard – which is affiliated with the pan-industry Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – was launched in September 2001.

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'MAJOR VICTORY' CLAIMED

A "major victory for the industry" is being claimed by the Mechanical Contractors' Association of Northern California in relation to reverse auction tendering.

The organisation reports that – "at the urging of both labour and management" – the California Public Utilities Commission has prohibited the process for all energy utility construction contracts.



*Higgs:
Encouraging*

Reverse auction tendering allows clients to solicit Internet bids in "real time", encouraging contractors to undercut the competition, and therefore promotes the acceptance of tenders on a "lowest price" rather than "best value" basis.

The HVCA has been running its own campaign against reverse auction tendering on a national and pan-European basis over the past two years.

"This encouraging news from our colleagues in Northern California – who are fellow members of the International Alliance of Mechanical Contractors' Associations (IAMCA) – can only be helpful in our own continuing action against this iniquitous and inequitable practice," commented HVCA director Robert Higgs.

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