

AMEC shaping the skills debate

AMEC continues to play an active role in the UK skills debate and this year both the Chief Executive and senior management joined government led initiatives.

UK Skills Challenge

At the invitation of the UK Government's Treasury department AMEC's Chief Executive took part in The Skills Challenge: A Public Debate which took place on Thursday 8 February at the QEII Conference Centre in London. This was the first in a series of events to generate discussion around the key issues arising from the Leitch report "Roadmap to World-class Skills by 2020" published in December last year.

Gordon Brown, and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Alan Johnson, and the Government's Skills Envoy, Sir Digby Jones all spoke at the event which brought together over three hundred delegates ranging from main partners, professionals in the skills field, employers, young people, and 100 members of the public. Using interactive technology, participants deliberated the practical outcomes necessary to achieve world-class skills by 2020.

Outlining the UK government's position Mr. Brown said: "In the future, skills will be the only route to prosperity and jobs. Of 3.4 million unskilled jobs today, by 2020 we will need only 600,000. So if the UK

is to continue to succeed in the new global economy we will need to be more ambitious with more people training and employers, employees and government each meeting their responsibilities.

AMEC is committed to building a highly skilled employee base and will continue to invest in training to ensure the future of the business both here in the UK and internationally.

National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN).

AMEC's Terry Gilbert, Business Development Director of AMEC Nuclear Projects Limited, was elected to serve on the shadow board of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN).



Above: Terry Gilbert

The UK Government-led organisation comprises a number of representatives from leading British nuclear companies and aims to develop and increase a skills pool for the emerging decommissioning and possible new build market.

The National Skills Academy is a unique network of employer-led centres of excellence for skills training. It will provide a means for

hands-on involvement by employers in the design and delivery of learning, so that training is tailored to the specific needs of their sector, in this case the nuclear sector. The shadow board has been established to guide and lead on the development of the business plan and to ensure that NSAN is developed to meet employer needs. It will work together over the next 12 months to prepare for the formal launch of the Academy in January 2008.

