

press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry management and supervisory skills given further boost by CITB-ConstructionSkills'

Federations and employers across the UK will now be given additional support to provide management and supervisory training projects via CITB-ConstructionSkills' Management and Supervisory Transition Support (M&STS) fund.

A cash injection of £2million for the period 2011/2012, will assist projects that have already been successfully piloted via the Sector Skills Council's Management and Supervisory Development Programme (M&SDP), but are not yet available for mainstream grant support.

The aim of the M&STS fund is to give those M&SDP projects that need additional financial support, the opportunity to cover their running costs after the first year of their project.

Chief Executive of CITB-ConstructionSkills, Mark Farrar, said: "The M&STS fund shows that we are really listening and responding to the needs of the industry, helping businesses to succeed and grow. The new funding will bring additional support to those federations who are looking to build on the success of their established M&SDPs.

"By supporting federations and employers through the transitional stages of their M&SDPs, we will be helping to lend further financial assistance to some of the most exciting and innovative projects within the industry. The scheme is yet another way that CITB-ConstructionSkills is adding value to the industry ensuring that individuals working within it have the right skills for economic growth, both locally and nationally."

One federation which will be eligible for this additional M&STS funding is the National Federation of Builders.

The Federation's 'Encouraging sustainable management through innovative means' project, which ran last year, consisted of two strands. The first provided the software and training for ConstructCo2, which is designed to measure and benchmark the carbon footprint of construction sites in the UK. Secondly, managers were provided with and taught to use CICLOPS (Construction Industry Collaborative Planning

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System) – an online technology tool for the efficient management of complex construction projects, with an emphasis on ‘managing out’ waste.

A high level of member interest has been demonstrated through the project, with a number of larger NFB members keen to embrace the carbon and sustainability agendas. Significant benefits were also delivered to those who engaged.

Julia Evans, Chief Executive of the NFB, said: “We see this project as an important step in helping NFB members to learn more about the sustainability agenda. The feedback we have received since running the project has been very positive and demonstrates the demand within the industry for programmes of this nature. The announcement of the M&STS fund is something we wholly welcome as it will enable more federations and employers to raise standards of training and skills within their organisations.”

Mark Connor, Operations Manager at Frank Haslam Milan (FHM), noted an immediate £46,000 saving having initiated the ConstructCo2 software:

“FHM have introduced ConstructCo2 across a number of our key partnerships in the North East. As more and more of our clients were beginning to ask us about our carbon footprint we realised that, coupled with a lean efficiency drive, we could use this programme to our advantage.

“The plotting tool helped us visually recognise the geographic misalignment of our work force - for example, employees from Teesside and Darlington travelling to Newcastle and beyond and vice versa. Just by identifying and re-aligning our workforce to their geographical area we have identified an immediate £46,000 saving and are now in the process of rectifying this.”

For more information about the M&SDP and M&STS application process and a full list of eligibility criteria visit <http://www.cskills.org/aboutus/productsservices/msdp.aspx> or email scott.cooper-groom@cskills.org

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Notes to Editor:

1. The NFB is one of the UK's longest established trade federations for small to medium-sized (SME) builders, contractors and house builders across England and Wales. It was created 150 years ago to represent the building profession and to help create the conditions for its members to thrive and contribute to the economic success of the UK. Its members range from the sole trader to large, multi-million pound construction companies, with turnover ranging from below £500k to £500m plus. The NFB provides advice, training and business solutions to ensure members stay up to date.
2. The NFB campaigns on the issues that impact the construction industry such as procurement, utilities, sustainability and funding. It represents the industry at government and industry forums and is an active media commentator and policy influencer.