

Energy Minister and National Grid shine a light on apprenticeships

Energy and Climate Change Minister Baroness Verma gained a first-hand insight into National Grid's highly-regarded apprenticeship schemes, during a visit to the company's Eakring training centre in Nottinghamshire, today (Thursday 12 March).

12 Mar 2015

Baroness Verma, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, was visiting Eakring as part of National Apprenticeship Week. During a tour of the site she chatted to gas and electricity apprentices, hearing about their training and work.

Baroness Verma said: "National Grid's apprenticeship programmes are helping equip hundreds of people with the important skills they need for a successful career in the energy sector. It was great to see the excellent training facilities on offer at National Grid's Academy in Eakring and to speak to current apprentices about their roles.

"Apprenticeships are a key part of the Government's drive to boost growth. Today the Prime Minister launched new 'degree apprenticeships' and there are many other opportunities up for grabs across the East Midlands and beyond."

National Grid is training 133 apprentices and is recruiting a further 83 for September 2015. On average, the apprenticeships last for three years and approximately half of that time will be spent training at Eakring.

Craig Smith, National Grid's UK Academy Manager – Technical and New Talent, said: "Apprentices are the life-blood of National Grid. They are our workforce of the future and we were delighted to be able to show Baroness Verma the work we are doing. We have invested over £9 million in our Eakring training centre during the last three years, ensuring our apprentices have world class training facilities to develop their practical skills."

Baroness Verma was joined on the visit by Mark Spencer, MP for Sherwood. He commented: "My number one mission is to deliver local jobs. The work National Grid is doing – training the next generation - is at the forefront of this and I am delighted to support this work."

Following a tour of the site, Baroness Verma and Mr Spencer took part in a round-table discussion on energy issues and skills in the East Midlands, chaired by Liz Fothergill CBE, President of the Chamber of Commerce for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Among those attending were local business representatives and the University of Nottingham.

ENDS

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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