

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DS SMITH EMPLOYEES PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES

Employees at DS Smith Packaging in Launceston have been presented with certificates after completing their qualification in Machine Print Flexography. The eight Machine Managers were part of a pilot group who started the NVQ Level 3 in February 2009. They were presented with their certificates by DS Smith's Managing Director, Jonathan Coote.

Yeovil College were invited to go to Cornwall by Unite the Union and the TUC to deliver the Print qualifications as a result of all the work they had previously done with other print companies in the South West. The Unions were able to access convergence funding to support DS Smith and Yeovil College in this initiative which has helped maintain the sustainability of the programme for all concerned.

The College were asked to deliver the training which was funded by Train to Gain, to the employees at their place of work in Launceston. The management at DS Smith fully funded the weekly time off that their employees needed to meet with Jeff Cassidy, Print Assessor from Yeovil College.

Cathy Hume, Human Resource Manager, DS Smith commented: ***"The Company are delighted with the success of this project and also the Machine Manager's achievements. We are now in the process of working again with Yeovil College to offer this accreditation as well as NVQ Level 3 in Carton Manufacture and the Technical Certificate to 23 other employees. Yeovil College have been very supportive and a pleasure to work with. We also thank Unite the Union & the TUC for their continued support with the NVQ projects."***

Martin Barton, a Machine Manager on the night shift said ***"I have enjoyed the course. It was a most enjoyable experience. It has also helped me with my day-to-day job by putting what I have learnt into practice."*** Martin joined the company in 2004 after a period of working for DS Smith's sister company in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

Following the success of this pilot project, five more employees are participating in the Technical Certificate and eighteen employees have enrolled to do the adult apprenticeship in Print.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Photo shows from l – r: Jeff Cassidy (Print Assessor, Yeovil College), Cathy Hume (HR Manager, DS Smith), Adrian Bromfield (Train to Gain Contract Manager, Yeovil College), Alan Brach (Machine Manager), Jonathan Coote (MD DS Smith), Darren Hatch (Machine Manager), Martin Barton (Machine Manager), Brendan Parkinson (Unite) and Geoff Hale (TUC).