

# IET and ECS collaborate to raise industry professionalism

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) – jointly administered by the Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry (JIB) and the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB) - have launched a reciprocal partnership to increase recognition of professionalism in the electrotechnical and construction industries.

The partnership will provide a fast track career pathway for ECS cardholders into membership of the IET. It is also intended to offer a professional membership route to ECS cards in the second phase of the programme, later in the year.

Government and industry have long emphasised the need for industry-wide certification schemes to confirm the levels of competence of properly skilled craftspeople and eliminate unsafe working practices. In the electrotechnical industry, this need is met by the ECS scheme, supported by the industry's trade bodies and major clients.

There are 37,000 ECS Installation Electrician cardholders who will be eligible to become Technician Members of the IET (TMIET) via this fast-track process. A further 3,500 electrotechnical managerial cardholders will be eligible to become Members of the IET (MIET). Membership of the IET will provide great opportunities to enhance both their professional and personal development by working towards



achieving a globally recognised qualification such as Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer or Engineering Technician as well as having access world-class events, course and seminars and specialist online technical networks.

Speaking at the launch at the IET's offices in London, Sir Michael Latham, chair of the JIB, explained the initiative:

"The JIB is keen to develop a career structure for ECS cardholders and the IET is committed to widening the industry registration cards to non-site based professionals, so this partnership is a natural development for both organisations to fulfil these needs and raise industry professionalism.

"ECS cards are becoming the 'licence to work' for many electricians and related electrotechnical trades. Members will have the ability through registration to raise their professionalism and preserve their skills and competency in one card."

Paul Jackson, IET Director of Professional Operations said: "This is an exciting initiative, which will increase professional standards and

show commitment to those in the electrotechnical and construction industry."

"This partnership has been made possible because both organisations share similarities in their goals and objectives to provide support and recognition to the professions they serve. The IET supports a wide variety of engineering sectors including the electrical and electronic industries. Recognising skills and competence levels of their members is of significant importance for both organisations so we can ensure that quality and safety are top priorities."

To demonstrate the importance of this partnership, the ECS card will carry the logo of the IET, as well as incorporating holograms of CSCS and ECS. Development of the partnership has been based on the requirements for IET membership, at any level, being met by people who qualify through the vocational route. Criterion for IET membership with the designatory letters MIET or TMIET are based on the knowledge and competence being acquired and therefore someone with NVQ level 4 can be admitted into MIET and someone with NVQ level 3 into TMIET.

At the launch, three ECS cardholders were awarded IET membership. These were Bill Wright of W Wright Electrical, who became a Fellow of the IET; Paul McNaughton of Darke and Taylor, who became a Member of the IET; and Brian Smith, also of Darke and Taylor, who was awarded Technician Member status.