



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Award Winning Contract Manufacturer's Apprenticeship Programme Produces Winner Of Best First Year Engineering Apprentice Accolade From Major Local Sponsor**

**18 years old Sam Burton, from March, was the proud recipient of the 'R.B. Organics Cup for Best First Year Apprentice' award of excellence at the Vogal Training 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Apprentice Awards held recently in Elton, near Peterborough.**

Talented Sam, employed by local award winning precision-engineering company Precise Component Manufacture Limited, was handed his trophy and certificate by Lord Brian Mawhinney to mark all his hard work and achievements during the first year of his apprenticeship training at Vogal Industrial Training. Lord Mawhinney originally opened the Vogal Training centre in 1997.

"I was very surprised and honoured to have been given the award which was totally unexpected", says Sam, "However I really enjoy working at PCML and attending the training at Vogal. Perhaps it is because of the personal training & development help & support I receive at PCML that I am able to relate much easier to the Vogal training programme.

Sam first became interested in Engineering as a career whilst studying at Neale-Wade Community College in March, Cambridgeshire, a Mathematics & Computing Specialist College. Sam selected Engineering, Science and Electronics as his main options at school.

In 2005 Sam arranged his own 2 weeks work placement with PCML, to gain his first experience of working in a commercial organisation. "I arranged it all myself in order to obtain maximum benefit from the experience and I contacted PCML because of their excellent local and regional reputation as a very successful organisation with modern hi-tech engineering & manufacturing facilities." said Sam.

Sam created such a good impression at PCML that he was offered a Saturday job after his 2 week work experience finished and he continued in this role until he left school in 2006, with a GCSE Grade C Double Engineering qualification, when PCML offered him his first full time job as an Apprentice Mechanical Engineer.



"I am very grateful to Kevin Miller, Production Director and Gavin Goates, Commercial Director for giving me the opportunity to work at PCML in the first place and for all their ongoing support and encouragement to do something which I really love and enjoy. It is my ambition to develop my career at PCML by initially become a fully qualified Programmer-Setter, capable of working on any application," says Sam

Sam is able to work on some of the most modern machine tools available in the market. This is as a result of PCML's strategy of ongoing investment in the latest CNC machine tool technology, necessary to enable them to provide the best service to their customers and stay ahead of their competitors.

Sam currently works in the main production facility where he is involved in medium - high volume production runs. He handles a range of materials ferrous & non-ferrous, including exotics for working on components for some of PCML's key customers.

Sam receives in house training and one to one coaching from PCML Production Supervisor, Paul Blanchflower as well as studying for a 4 year Advanced Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship at Vogal Industrial Training, on a day release programme. Sam's training at Vogal includes studying for Level 2 & 3 NVQ's, Key Skills Qualifications and a City & Guilds Technical Certificate; applications include turning, machining and electrical/electronic engineering.

Commenting on Sam's award of excellence Gavin Goates said, "Sam thoroughly deserved the award, he works hard, always shows willing, has a very positive attitude and has an excellent attendance record. Also a totally motivated and highly skilled workforce is crucial to our continued success and Sam has all the hallmarks of becoming a key future employee"

PCML are continuing to develop their Apprenticeship programme in response to the increasing shortage of the highly skilled mechanical engineering personnel they require in their business to sustain their regional competitive advantage. Furthermore to encourage young people, such as Sam Burton, to consider Mechanical Engineering as an attractive career option, PCML are also linking with local Colleges and encouraging students to take their 2 weeks work experience at the company.

According to Gavin Goates, PCML initially chose Vogal Industrial Training as their Engineering training supplier partner because they clearly understood the needs of the business to invest in the workforce on an ongoing basis to secure the long term future of the company and like PCML, the benefits of working in true partnership with their customers.



"Key to our success has been the strong and lasting relationships we have developed with our key customers and supplier partners such as Vogal. In fact some partners such as Fenland District Council have worked with us from the very beginning and are continuing to support us as we grow and move forward", say Gavin Goates.

And according to Alan Melton, Portfolio Holder for "Open for Business", Fenland District Council, "PCML is a good example of the Council's work in promoting business in Fenland and we are proud to have the Company as one of our tenants." **ENDS**



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## Notes for Editors:

**PCML are contract manufacturers of complex, precision-engineering components and assemblies for UK customers in high technology growth sectors.**

PCML provide a complete solution to our customers' engineering manufacturing needs, giving input if required from the initial concept/design stage, through pre-production and manufacturing to the delivery of fully traceable finished components and assemblies.

PCML understands the differing needs of its customers whether their requirements are for prototypes, individual components, batch production or full-scale production manufacturing solutions.

By working in partnership with their customers, PCML aims to ensure that they achieve or exceed their own added value expectations from PCML manufactured components, ensuring excellent value for money.

PCML also aims to ensure that their customers feel secure in the knowledge that they are dealing with an organisation that is totally market and customer focused.

**The business philosophy, at PCML is clear; the Company believe that to be truly successful in business, it needs to focus on three key areas, which they know is crucially important to their target markets.**

Firstly, PCML needs to develop a reputation as a company that delivers consistently high quality products on time, at truly competitive rates and to the highest specification.

**Secondly, PCML needs to be totally customer and supply chain focused at all times through a highly motivated workforce of skilled personnel.**

Thirdly, PCML needs to stay at the forefront of manufacturing technology, by developing effective partnerships and investing with like-minded equipment suppliers, if they want to provide their customers with the very best service and at the same time stay ahead of their competitors.

PCML has gained considerable experience working in partnership with customers in clearly defined market segments. Consequently the company has developed an operational capability that can satisfy the very demanding quality, delivery and value for money requirement of its many customers in the following high technology manufacturing sectors:



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- Medical devices and equipment
- Semiconductors
- Ink jet printing
- Analytic equipment
- Electronics
- High technology welding
- Laser-based manufacturing industry
- Life sciences

**PCML Awards**

The continuing success of PCML's business has been achieved through a corporate strategy of developing long-term partnership relationships with key customers.

The success of this strategy is reflected in the ongoing financial performance of the business, the development of a highly motivated workforce and the receipt of prestigious Regional and National awards celebrating their success.

**The Evening Telegraph Business Awards 2006 - Customer Care Award**

**Metalworking Production Awards 2006 - Subcontractor-Partnership Development Award**

**The Evening Telegraph Business Awards 2003 - Small Growing Business Award**

