

## VIP visit for National Grid in Hinckley

• Bosworth MP David Tredinnick visits National Grid Gas Distribution in Hinckley • Mr Tredinnick gives thumbs up to employment scheme

**31 Mar 2017**

Bosworth MP David Tredinnick gave the VIP seal of approval last week (Friday 24 March) to a National Grid scheme that is helping students from Hinckley's Dorothy Goodman Academy prove their worth in the workplace.

Mr Tredinnick learned about the EmployAbility scheme during his visit to National Grid Gas Distribution's Hinckley site. Four teenagers from Dorothy Goodman – Liam, Josh, Jake and Alec – have joined the company as interns, gaining valuable experience of the world of work.

The scheme, which is now in its third year, is specially designed to help students with learning needs and disabilities to find employment. It offers year-long internships, where the teenagers can experience working across a number of areas, from data collection and communications to catering and reception.

Mr Tredinnick said: "I was very pleased to visit National Grid in Hinckley and it is a matter of local pride that such an important facility is based here.

"The company's engagement with an excellent local school like Dorothy Goodman is a fantastic initiative, which through its EmployAbility scheme gives a wide range of workplace opportunities to a number of young people.

"I was also extremely impressed by National Grid staff and their capacity to react to any situation, including emergencies."

Mr Tredinnick was taken on a tour of the Hinckley site, which employs some 2,000 people. The main operations hub for National Grid Gas Distribution, employees help to deliver gas to 11 million homes and businesses across the Midlands, East Anglia, the North West and North London.

Mr Tredinnick witnessed, first hand, the work of the staff operating the National Gas Emergency number. Trained operators calmly and professionally handle hundreds of thousands of calls every year from people concerned about gas leaks and potentially dangerous carbon monoxide leaks.

Richard Walsh, National Grid's Public Affairs Manager, said: "We were delighted to welcome Mr Tredinnick to our Hinckley Operations Centre. At Hinckley we play a critical role in delivering gas to millions of people across the country.

"We were proud to be able to show Mr Tredinnick how our staff, many of whom live within his constituency, were making such an important contribution to keeping British homes warm and safe and British businesses successful."

ENDS

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Notes for editors

**EmployAbility** involves current and former pupils from the following schools: Oak Wood Secondary School in Nuneaton, Warwickshire College Group of schools, Hereward College in Coventry, Round Oak School in Warwick, Dorothy Goodman School in Hinckley, Leicestershire

Taurai Horton (a former intern) and one of the National Grid EmployAbility team are available to do interviews. Contact Rebecca Watson on the numbers above for more details

For an interview with Edward Timpson MP please contact the Department for Education press office on 0207 340 8332 – **Ext:** 308332

To speak to the schools about their involvement in EmployAbility or the importance of employment experience to young people with disabilities, please contact the schools directly.

#### **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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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