



**Saudi  
Development  
& Training**



As Saudi Arabia moves towards membership of the World Trade Organisation the need for world class standards in all aspects of commerce and industry takes on increasing importance. One Saudi-UK joint venture is making significant progress towards using internationally recognised standards within the area of manpower development.

SDT was established in 1993 under the auspices of the Al Yamamah Economic Offset Programme. Its brief was to assist the Kingdom with the development of local manpower. The company is a joint venture between BAE SYSTEMS and the Khalifa Al Gosaibi Group.

Through strategic alliances with world leaders in the field Saudi Development & Training Co. Ltd. (SDT) is now able to offer programmes which previously could only be undertaken by travelling outside of the Kingdom. Equally importantly, SDT's knowledge of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf ensures that all programmes are wholly appropriate for use in the Kingdom.

To date, SDT has trained over 6,000 individuals in disciplines ranging from Strategic Sales Management to Basic Workshop Skills for Machine Operators. This year the company moved into its new headquarters and Training Institute situated in central Riyadh. The facility has been designed to provide the best possible environment for learning together with state of the art technology and highly qualified professional instructors in support.



Part of the new SDT facility houses the Saudi British Electronics Institute (SBEI) which has been designed to meet the growing need for upskilling in the areas of Electronics, Communications and IT. SBEI's electronics laboratories are equipped to cover Data Communications and Networks, Telecommunications Principles and Systems as well as Analogue and Digital Electronics. Electrical workshops cover Industrial Electrical Maintenance and Industrial Machinery Repair. In addition, the Institute houses mechanical workshops equipped with lathes, milling machines, bench drills and full CAD/CAM facilities.



In an initiative to encourage more local employers to increase the use of local manpower in technical areas, September 2001 sees SDT launch a Technical Foundation Programme designed to give school leavers a solid foundation on which to build their careers in Engineering. Trainees will be able to choose from a number of Engineering subjects and have the opportunity to get 'hands on' experience from a very early stage in the course. Some trainees will be funded by their future employers, others will be funding themselves. Because the programme is modular it is highly flexible which means that employers and trainees will be able to plan their own training schedules. Participants can study for as little as two semesters followed by an on- the-job training period. If and when they wish to return for further study they are able to do so. Alternatively, participants can study continuously until they receive their Higher National Diploma in their chosen specialisation at which point they become eligible for entry on to an Engineering undergraduate degree programme as well as membership of a Professional Engineering Body.

"The Foundation Programme has already initiated a lot of interest from organisations around the Kingdom" said Amin Al Amin SDT's Marketing Manager. Employers now have a source of motivated young Saudi men who have the means to gain the necessary skills and experience to play a productive role within their organisations.

Not only has SDT established itself as a high quality training establishment but also its name has become synonymous with the drive towards increasing levels of Saudisation and specifically in assisting organisations to increase their local manpower levels in a strategic and efficient manner. Recent SDT customers have included SABIC, Whinney Murray, Honeywell, Al Rajhi Bank and the El Ajou Group.

SDT's headquarters and Training Institute can be found on the King Fahd Highway opposite the Faisaliyah Tower. Should you wish to learn more about SDT or visit the training facility please find the contact numbers on pages 36 and 38 of this publication.

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WORLD  
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