

SAUDI EMPLOYERS AND STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW ENGINEERING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

An important new educational establishment dedicated to the needs of the electronic engineering Industry will soon open in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,

Founded by Saudi Development and Training Company Limited (SDT), a joint venture between BAE SYSTEMS and the Khalifa Al Gosaibi Group, and established under the Al Yamamah Economic Offset Programme, the Saudi British Electronic Institute (SBEI) will offer a three-year Higher National Diploma in Electronics and Communications Engineering to Saudi nationals. In addition, there will be a series of specialist short and medium-term courses, geared to industry needs in electrical and electronics engineering, information technology and telecommunications. IT courses will be offered by the JCCS organisation.

The Institute is located in the Saudi Development and Training building on King Fahd Highway in central Riyadh. It is large enough to cope with the many hundreds of students who will pass through it each year on both the Higher National Diploma courses and the shorter-term programmes offered.

"The aim of involving all these organisations with their vast amounts of experience is to ensure that the Institute is able to offer engineering qualifications of world-class quality that are geared to the specific needs of Saudi Arabia," said Abdullah Al Mehemeid, Director of Public Relations and Communications at Saudi Development and Training.

"The Higher National Diploma curriculum has been developed using a framework established by the



Scottish Qualifications Authority, a recognised international accreditation leader in the field of electronics. Upon successful completion of the course participants will receive the same qualification as British students and, after a period of work experience, will be recognised by the International Engineering Council at Incorporated or Chartered Engineer status.

The Institute is a long-term, joint Saudi-British Commitment to the transfer of electronics expertise, calling upon the technical proficiency of the UK, which is regarded as among the best in the world. In addition to accepting students for the Higher National Diploma programme, the Institute is also capable of running courses for government and commercial agencies in the Kingdom.

"Wherever people are using high-tech electronic systems, we expect to train them, said Dr. Khalid Al Modiny, President of the Institute. "We anticipate that this will include engineers involved in aviation, the armed forces, public utilities, the oil and gas sectors as well as other parts of industry. Instruction at the Institute will equip a whole generation of Saudi Electronic Engineers in the very latest technology. We plan to develop this establishment into the leading electronic training facility in the whole of the Middle East".

Measures are being taken to develop course contents in close contact with end users. Discussions have already taken place with major organisations within the Kingdom as to what their requirements are. In terms of technical expertise, BAE SYSTEMS will use the Institute for relevant training for its own national workforce, for instance. In addition, it is proposed that short-term courses will also be offered to young Saudis among the general public wishing to develop skills in electronic technology from entry-level onwards.

Saudi Development and Training's nine storey premises in Riyadh have been specifically equipped to provide in-depth classroom and skills training on the premises.



Saudi Development & Training