

## InBrief

### Ed Miliband to speak at CBI Annual Dinner in Leeds

**EVENTS:** Ed Miliband will be speaking at a prestigious event in Yorkshire this year.

The Confederation Of British Industry (CBI) Yorkshire And Humber annual dinner brings together senior business executives from CBI member companies across the region, providing unique networking opportunities for attendees.

It has now announced that Mr Miliband will be speaking at the event, which takes place on October 5 at Leeds University.

Having completed his first year as Labour leader, the leader of the opposition is bound to have some timely reflections as the party conference season draws to a close.

He will be joined by John Cridland, who will address the large audience for the first time since taking on the top job of director-general at the CBI.

The dinner is sponsored by Royal Bank Of Scotland and the University Of Leeds. To book tickets, contact the CBI on 0113 2644242 or e-mail [jayne.hill@cbi.org.uk](mailto:jayne.hill@cbi.org.uk)

### BAE 'cautious' after results

**DEFENCE:** More than 300 posts have been axed at BAE Brough since the beginning of 2009.

BAE employs more than 1,300 at its Brough site, however a consultation is currently underway over the loss of 212 jobs.

The news comes as the defence giant announces it has cut more than 15,000 jobs over the past two years, in a bid to remain competitive in a tough economic climate.

In a trading statement last week, BAE said pressures on Governments to cut costs had sparked a cost reduction programme across its global operations.

And it warned sales were likely to fall this year as it bears the brunt of spending cuts in the UK and the US.

The group saw a small rise in underlying earnings to £2.2 billion last year but said its outlook remained "cautious" as it continues to grapple with the implications of October's UK defence spending review.

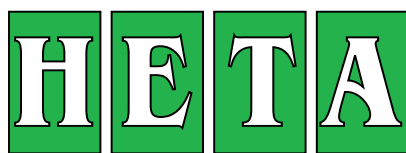
### Northern Rail honoured

**TRANSPORT:** Northern Rail has been named the Train Operator Of The Year at the Rail Business Awards.

The train company – which runs routes between Hull and Sheffield, Bridlington and Leeds – was praised by judges for "going the extra mile" for its customers and improving the punctuality of services, which has helped secure a two-year extension to its franchise.

Judges said: "Northern's joint owners – Serco and Abellio – were required to invest £250,000 per year as part of the franchise agreement, so far they have actually invested £25 million, and have been able to attract £80 million from external sources.

Ian Bevan, managing director, said: "Everyone is committed to making sure we deliver even more for our customers over the next three years."



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# Three apprentices trained up for the renewables future

## Engineering firm prepares recruits for green energy boom

### InShort

Helix Precision Machining Ltd is preparing for an anticipated renewables boom by training up three apprentices specifically for the sector.

by **Catherine Lea**  
Business Editor

[c.lea@mailnewsmedia.co.uk](mailto:c.lea@mailnewsmedia.co.uk)

**A HULL-based engineering firm is manufacturing the foundations for further growth after setting its sights set on the renewables market.**

Helix Precision Machining Ltd, on the Sutton Fields industrial estate, has taken on three new apprentices in a bid to capitalise on the region's swiftly emerging sector.

The company designs and manufactures high performance components for a variety of different industries, from aerospace and defence to healthcare.

Over the past four years it has completed a number of contracts for BAE Systems – work which has helped fuel the company's year-on-year growth.

Now it hopes that preparing its workforce for the renewables boom will leave it in a prime position to take advantage of green supply chain opportunities.

Matthew Branton, who together with Lee Sansom founded the firm in 2003, said: "When Siemens announced its intention to build a wind turbine factory in Hull it was the biggest announcement in the city for years – definitely the biggest since we set up in 2003 – and we wanted to ensure we were in a good position.

"We were only going to take on one apprentice, so we brought in three lads from Hull Tec's School Of Mechanical Engineering, in Orchard Park, on a work trial.

"But we were so impressed and our workload has



**NEW STARTERS:** Three apprentices, from left, Dan Whitbread, Lewis Sargeson and Ollie Smith, have been taken on by Helix Precision Machining Ltd. Picture: Peter Harbour

increased so much that we have decided to keep them all on."

He added: "There is no point us running out in two years' time and trying to get someone up to speed – we want to prepare now so that when the contracts come off we have staff trained and ready for them."

Helix already manufactures for Siemens Industrial Turbo Machinery in Lincoln and Mr Branton said he hoped this would prove beneficial to the company when Siemens began searching for companies to feed into its renewables supply chain.

He said: "We spoke with Alan Clegg, of Business Link, and he said companies who wanted to be at the forefront of the situation needed to act now.

"He also said the fact we worked with Siemens already would certainly do us no harm."

## Weather fails to hamper bridge works

**HIGHWAYS:** Work to replace a major highway bridge on the A165 Hull to Bridlington road has begun.

Spencer is demolishing the existing bridge – built near Lissett in 1926 – and constructing a new one over and behind the old foundation abutments.

With more than half of the demolition complete, Spencer engineers are now starting the main phase of work to replace the bridge.

East Riding Council's civil engineering bridges team, assisted by Mason Clark Associates, is supervising and co-ordinating the project.

Site manager Joe Bennett said: "The most important element of the works is that we carry out this work without closing the highway and so we are carrying out the replacement in two phases.

"Progress has been maintained despite

encountering extreme weather conditions in December, which has caused some delays."

The contract follows on from the company's delivery of projects to East Riding Council under its framework agreement, including new facilities at Cottingham School, the replacement of bridge structures in and around the A165 and the Bridlington park and ride scheme.



**PROGRESS:** Spencer is demolishing a bridge near Lissett.



**SKILLED:** Jonathan Collins.

## Addition to the team at Larards

**PROPERTY:** Larards Residential Sales have further strengthened the team in Cottingham and Beverley with the appointment of Jonathan Collins.

A resident of Cottingham, Mr Collins has most recently been working for a firm of national builders on projects in the North East and Manchester.

Robin Kellock, director of Larards, said: "With the present property market requiring exceptional skills in the marketing, sales and negotiating of residential property, we can only strengthen our firm in the current market with the appointment of Jonathan.

"At a time when property sales have to be nurtured, to attract somebody of Jonathan's standing and bring him back to an area he knows extremely well is very rewarding for us as a firm."

## Blooming brilliant

**HULL:** The Hull branch of Leeds Building Society, in Paragon Street, will be selling daffodils throughout March to support the Marie Curie Cancer Care Great Daffodil Appeal 2011. The Hull branch of the society, at 78 Paragon Street, Hull, will sell the daffodils for a suggested donation of £1.

Branch manager Charles McLean said: "We want to help Marie Curie in its ambition to make this year's appeal bigger and better than last year's."

## Changing 100 lives in 100 days

**THE Mail** this month launched its Apprentice Challenge, which is aiming to get 100 apprentices placed with businesses in 100 days.

The challenge has seen us team up with the National Apprenticeship Service, which will handle all inquiries through the campaign and match a suitable apprentice to each business that pledges support.

Having been an apprentice himself, Mr Branton knows how vital apprenticeships are in preparing people for their chosen career.

And he believes developments in the region's renewables sector have been "the saving grace" for many local apprentices.

Partnering the Mail in the initiative are East Riding College, the Yorkshire And Humber Apprentice Training Agency and Hull College.

We are looking for people who want to become an apprentice to get in touch via the hotline number.

Businesses interested in taking on an apprentice can also call the same number. Call 08000 150600 to pledge your support.

He said: "A lot of companies have gained confidence off the back of the Siemens announcement – people now have the confidence to invest.

"Hopefully, it will drive everything in the town, from retail and leisure to house prices and construction."