



TAKING STOCK

AN UPDATE FROM THE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS' ASSOCIATION

Est. 1914

Issue 12 January 2018

Apprenticeship standard set to attract recruits to sector

By wholesalers for wholesalers, the long-awaited new apprenticeship standard – Trade Supplier Level 2 – will attract recruits to wholesaling



Attracting talented newcomers keen to launch careers in wholesale and merchant businesses was at the heart of a recent event to announce a new apprenticeship standard for the sector – Trade Supplier Level 2.

The event was hosted by the EDA and the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF) – and more than 50 guests from employers and training providers were joined by representatives from the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), the Institute for Apprenticeships and the Government's Education & Skills Funding Agency (above).

This launch marks the culmination of two and a half years' work by a group of employers, large and small, working together as 'trailblazers', initially led by the EDA and its members, who were joined later by the BMF and some of their leading members.

Tailor made

The apprenticeship is tailored specifically for new recruits to any business-to-business wholesaler or merchant business involved in selling goods and services between manufacturers and their skilled trade customers, including the electrotechnical, plumbing, timber or general

building supply sectors.

The EDA's Education and Training Programme is twofold: apprenticeships and MOL's Product Knowledge Modules, a suite of distance-learning opportunities. In 2011, the EDA partnered with EDA Apprenticeships Plus, an Apprenticeship Training Agency, to offer a full and flexible apprenticeship service for members and affiliated members.

Fantastic news

Vicky Ordish, chair of the trailblazer group and Learning and Development Business Partner with
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FROM THE BOARDROOM

As Director responsible for Regional Business Forums, 2017 has been an encouraging year. For the first time since the Forums began in 2001, we passed a significant milestone when we welcomed more than 100 delegates to Birmingham in September.

We encourage speakers to deliver relevant and topical presentations that add value to wholesalers' businesses. It's reassuring to see delegate numbers steadily rising. Forums are an opportunity for Affiliates and Industry Associations to share impartial information on key industry topics with EDA members and we would be pleased to hear from you if you have a relevant topic for 2018. Forums are also a great networking opportunity and we encourage you to let your local teams know when one is being held in their area.

I am delighted to announce dates and locations for the first three Forums of 2018 (turn to page 3 for details), with a fourth to be confirmed shortly. It's important that we bring the Forums to you, which is why we vary the locations each year. In May 2018, for the first time, we'll be in Northern Ireland. Visit www.eda.org.uk for details.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2018.

Glyn Prestwood
EDA Board of Management

More members and affiliates flock to the Association

Eight more companies have become members of the Electrical Distributors' Association – three distributors and five affiliated members.

The three distributor members are:

- J.A.M. Electrical Supplies Ltd
- Kent Electrical Supplies Ltd and
- Mike's Electrical Supplies Ltd

All are members of the IBA buying group.

The affiliated members are:

- Brother UK Ltd
- Crompton Lamps Ltd
- Doncaster Cables
- Eland Cables and
- Megger Ltd

brother
at your side



T: 020 3141 7350 E: info@eda.org.uk training@eda.org.uk W: www.eda.org.uk

[in](#) Electrical Distributors' Association [f](#) ElectricalDA [t](#) @eda_uk [@](#) EDA_UK

Apprenticeship standard

◀ From page 1

Rexel UK, said: 'It's fantastic news to receive official approval for the Standard, and to have the Standard and Assessment Plan published. It is testament to the hard work and commitment of our trailblazers.'

'We've ensured that this one-year apprenticeship is a rigorous programme of training in all aspects of a typical wholesale branch. The end-point assessment includes online tests, real-life practical observations and a professional discussion – with candidates achieving a pass, merit or distinction.'

'This is all designed to provide apprentices with the essential skills and knowledge from which to progress their careers,' she added.

Training benchmark

EDA CEO Margaret Fitzsimons said: 'This new entry-level apprenticeship, which is created by wholesalers for wholesalers, reflects the substantial commitment and knowledge sharing from across the building, timber and joinery, kitchen installation and electrotechnical sectors.'

'It has,' she said, 'been a pleasure to work with similar trade associations and their members to pool our significant wholesaling experience.'

'We've created a new training benchmark for our sectors that will have a significant impact in attracting new talent. I understand that this Standard is number 334 for the Institute for Apprenticeships but it is certainly number one for the EDA. It is a first for the Association to create a recognised Standard and I am certain that this will be the number one apprenticeship in terms of



Vicky Ordish

about 500 apprentices starting on this Standard in our members' electrical wholesale outlets each year, and I believe there will be similar numbers in other building trade wholesalers.'

'The Association will now work with our partner apprenticeship training company, EDA Apprenticeships Plus, and our roster of training providers to ensure they are fully briefed and ready to deliver the new employer-led standard for our members.'

Delighted

Phil Beach CBE, Executive Director for Vocational and Technical Qualifications at Ofqual, added: 'I was delighted to attend the launch of the new standard for which Ofqual provides external quality assurance. We are committed to working with the EDA, and other trailblazers, to ensure apprenticeship end-point assessments meet their needs.'

The Institute for Apprenticeships said: 'It is great to see such energy behind this standard. Our role is to help trailblazer groups to create apprenticeships of the highest possible quality, getting the best outcomes for employers and learners alike. This new standard will give learners across the country a fantastic chance to develop the business and logistics skills which keep our industries on the move.'

● The Government has published two key documents for the Trade Supplier apprenticeship online – the Apprenticeship Standard and the Assessment Plan. You can find them at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-trade-supplier>

popularity and take-up among our members in 2018 and beyond.'

She added: 'Its development has been crucial for our members. They need an apprenticeship standard that is of direct relevance to their businesses and allows them to use their Levy funding or Government co-funding wisely. While our members' organisations may vary in size from billion-pound operations with hundreds of outlets to one-branch businesses, the one thing they have in common is that they operate branch structures so, in effect, each apprentice is becoming part of a small business unit, dealing with skilled trade customers.'

'We will be working hard to see

“This one-year apprenticeship is a rigorous programme of training in all aspects of a typical wholesale branch”

Vicky Ordish
Rexel UK

Hinton's Jess Heppleston is Apprentice of the Year 2017

Wakefield apprentice Jessica Heppleston, 17, has been crowned Retail Week's Apprentice of the Year 2017 during a glittering ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London.

Jess's apprenticeship was made possible by the EDA's Education and Training Programme, which is available to EDA members through a partnership with apprenticeship training agency EDA Apprenticeships Plus. Jess's training was managed by The Source Skills Academy, a training provider in Sheffield.

Jess, who works for electrical wholesaler Jack Hinton's (part of national wholesale chain Edmundson Electrical) described her win as 'just amazing', after beating a shortlist of six finalists from top retailers such as Boots, the Co-op, Karen Millen, the N Brown Group and Tesco.

Profile raising

Matt Ward, Commercial Manager/Training & Development at Edmundson Electrical, said: 'Jess is typical of the bright, motivated young people we want to attract to our business. To win a national competition at such a young age – she's



just 17 – is a fantastic achievement.

'Electrical wholesaling doesn't often make the headlines, but in this case I hope her success will help raise our profile and encourage others to find out more. Edmundson Electrical is fully committed to significant ongoing investment in its many recruitment and training programmes which, in turn, open doors to greatly rewarding and successful careers with the company.'

Bright future

Dianne Wainwright, Head of Oper-

ations at The Source said of Jessica's success: 'Jessica is a fantastic apprentice who is truly a great example of what young people can achieve through an apprenticeship.'

'We have no doubt she has a bright future ahead of her with Jack Hinton Electrical and Edmundson Electrical and we couldn't be more proud of what she has achieved.'

Tricia Henry, Operations Director at EDA Apprenticeships Plus, added: 'It's just the best news. As soon as we recruited Jess we knew she had amazing potential.'

SELECT chooses wholesaler star apprentice

Scotland has a new star apprentice from across the electrical trade counter, after the winners of the SELECT Awards were announced in Glasgow. This latest addition to the sector's most high-profile celebration of excellence reflects both the vital contribution made by wholesalers and distributors to the country's electrotechnical supply chain and the importance of apprenticeships in attracting new talent.

Kellan Pirie, from Inverurie, was chosen as the first EDA (Scottish Section) Wholesaler Apprentice of the year, sponsored by EDA Apprenticeships Plus.

The SELECT Awards are the most high-profile celebration of excellence in Scotland's electrotechnical sector, and the new award is being promoted by the EDA, whose members represent about 80 per cent of the sector.

Kellan, who works at Electric Center Inverurie, a trading brand of Edmundson Electrical Limited, said: 'It is a great honour to be chosen



in this category and it's particularly gratifying to be the first recipient of the new award.'

The sector's future

Newell McGuinness, SELECT's MD, said: 'Apprentices are the future of our sector and we want to do everything we can to nurture and encourage them. The new award is designed to recognise the tremendous contribution they make.'

Kristian Van Rensburg, Chair of the EDA Scottish Section, and Angela Devine of EDA Apprenticeships Plus, presented the award at a gathering at Glasgow's Radisson Blu Hotel.

EDA MOVES EAST

The Electrical Distributors' Association has completed a move across London to its new home near Tower Bridge.

The address is Rotherwick House, 3 Thomas More Street,

London E1W 1YZ. All other phone numbers and online contact details remain the same:

Tel 020 3141 7350

Web www.eda.org.uk

Email info@eda.org.uk



From left to right: John Henry, Managing Director, EDA Apprenticeships Plus; Simon Barkes, Managing Director of BEMCO and EDA President; John Newcomb, CEO, Builders Merchants Federation; Margaret Fitzsimons, CEO, EDA; and Richard Ellithorne, Membership Services Director, Builders Merchants Federation.

DIARY DATES FOR EDA MEMBERS

Thursday 8 March 2018

EDA Annual Awards Dinner

EDA wholesaler members invite their key suppliers to the largest and liveliest event in the Association's calendar. At the Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane, London. Table bookings opened in October 2017.

Call Maeve O'Dea on 0117 909 9550

Tuesday 20 - Wednesday 21 March 2018

Light + Building

light+building

The leading trade fair for lighting and building services technology. At the Messe Frankfurt Fairground, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. For the first time in 2018, the EDA will lead a two-day delegation of 30 wholesalers to the exhibition.

Call Margaret Fitzsimons on 020 3141 7350.

Wednesday 16 May 2018

EDA Regional Business

Forum, Northern Ireland

Book your place at

www.eda.org.uk

Thursday 21 - Saturday 23

June 2018

63rd EUEW General

Convention, Bonn, Germany

EUEW

Members committed to growing their business in Europe should not miss this event.

Call Margaret Fitzsimons on 020 3141 7351

Wednesday 27 June 2018

EDA Regional Business

Forum, Nottinghamshire

Book your place at

www.eda.org.uk

Thursday 5 July 2018

EDA Summer Event 2018

Call Margaret Fitzsimons on 020 3141 7351

Wednesday 12 September 2018

EDA Regional Business Forum,

Low Carbon Vehicle Event

Cenex-LCV 2018, Bedfordshire

Book your place at

www.eda.org.uk

Product experts set the UK standard

ETIM-UK Working Groups are coming together to share their expertise and further develop the ETIM product data standard for the UK



The opportunity to create and shape ETIM for the UK has arrived. The EDA has launched the first of 25 Standardisation Working Groups, in which products specialists will pool their expertise to refine and anglicise the ETIM standard for the UK.

Product experts, drawn mainly from the EDA Affiliated Membership, have already started work with seven working group meetings in November and December 2017 – and more planned throughout 2018.

EDA Director Margaret Fitzsimons said: 'This is a crucial and detailed piece of work, not just for individual companies, but for the industry as a whole. It will provide the basis for companies to get their product data into the ETIM format, which is increasingly being demanded by wholesalers in the UK and across the globe.'

Visit www.etim-uk.co.uk to see the list of companies involved and, if you would like to take a leadership role in your product area, visit the events section to register your attendance. Alternatively, call David Bate, ETIM-UK Project Manager, on 07740 425725.



▲ Deep in thought at the Cable Standardisation Working Group, including Prysmian Group, Copper Cable Company and Doncaster Cables

▼ Experts from Cembre, Wiska, Prysmian Cables and Termination Technology pool their knowledge to shape ETIM-UK for Cable Accessories.



▲ Cable Management Tray/Rack & Conduit experts from Deta, Flexicon, Unitrunk, Legrand, Marshall Tufflex and Schneider Electric working together to shape ETIM for the UK.

▶ Cable Management Channel & Trunking experts from Unitrunk, Legrand, Marshall Tufflex and Schneider Electric working together to shape ETIM for the UK.



▲ Experts from Kosnic Lighting, Integral LED, GE Lighting and Venture Lighting pool their knowledge to shape the ETIM-UK Standard for Lamps and Tubes.



▲ Lighting Controls, Luminaires and Emergency Lighting experts from ABB, Aurora Lighting, Deta Electrical, GEWISS, Greenbrook, Integral LED LED Group Robus, Legrand, Lewden Metal Products, The LIA and Venture lighting debate the classification.



9 top tips for health and safety compliance

Getting health and safety compliance right is essential for all members.

Get expert advice If possible, appoint a health and safety expert.

Write a health and safety policy Describe how you will manage health and safety and which staff members are responsible for delivering it.

Control the risks in your business Identify what might cause harm to people and decide whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm.

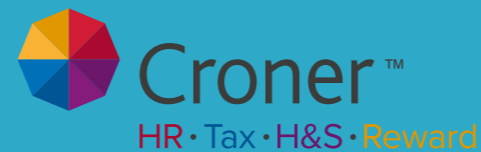
Consult your colleagues Ask about health and safety and the work they do, how

risks are controlled and the best ways of providing information and training.

Provide training and information Everyone who works for you needs to know how to work safely and without risks to health. You must provide clear instructions and information – and adequate training.

Provide workplace facilities You must provide the right workplace environment, such as toilets, kitchens and workstations.

First aid You must have a suitably stocked first aid box, a designated person who takes charge of first aid, and information for all employees with details of first aid arrangements.



Awareness If you employ anyone, you must display a health and safety law poster, or give workers a copy of the equivalent pocket card.

Employers liability insurance This covers you if an employee is injured or becomes ill, leading to a compensation claim against you.

- Don't forget: EDA membership gives you FREE ACCESS to a Business Support Helpline provided by Croner. Call 0844 7550 561. croner.co.uk

LuxLive hosts final EDA Forum of 2017

Wholesalers and manufacturers flocked to the ExCeL exhibition centre in London for the Association's last Regional Business Forum of the year



Eighty delegates from across the EDA's wholesaler and manufacturer/service provider membership came together for the final EDA Regional Business Forum of 2017, held alongside the LuxLive lighting show at ExCeL in London.

As well as an update on EDA activities, guests enjoyed these presentations before they moved to the exhibition floor for the early evening EDA drinks reception.

Paul Jones, Director, UK & Ireland, B.E.G. (UK) The impact of lighting on humans and how controlling it provides better conditions for work, learning and healing.

Steve Currier, UK Country Manager, Eaton Protecting people, property and professional reputation.

Neil Cooper, Solutions Consultant and Pamela Hollamby, Sales Consultant, Phocas Software Unlocking your greatest business asset... data.

Martyn Walley, National Technical Manager and Andy Speake, IT Manager, Aico – A gateway to safer connected homes.

With thanks to the LIA for allowing us to hold the reception on their stand.



People, Property and Professional Reputation: Steve Currier, UK Country Manager at Eaton ▲



▼ Pamela and Neil from Phocas



▲ Simon Barks, EDA President and MD of BEMCO, deep in conversation with Steve Stark and Geraldine Jones of LEDVANCE.



▲ Delegates network during a break ▲

▼ The Aico Team get ready to present (L-R) Andy Speake, James Cavan and Martyn Walley



2018 Forums

All dates and locations for the 2018 Forums will be announced online at www.eda.org.uk where you can also register your place.

Latest electric H&V collection from Greenwood

The new **Zehnder** and **Greenwood Electric** Collection Brochure – to be launched in January 2018 – offers a comprehensive range of low-energy extractor fans plus electric decorative radiators and towel rails.

All Zehnder decorative radiators and towel rails comply with the new eco-design regulations which include new controls to allow customised settings, seven days a week, open window detection and less than 0.5W standby mode consumption – maximising efficiency, economy and comfort. The products are available from stock in white Ral 9016 and chrome, and there is a choice of more than 50 colours.

The innovative high-quality Greenwood extractor fans have intermittent, continuation and commercial ventilation to help ensure better air quality to promote comfort, health and wellbeing.



These fans offer peace of mind with continued focus on Guaranteed Installed Performance. www.greenwood.co.uk/www.zehnder.co.uk

Manrose' safe wall kit installed from inside only

Ventilation specialist **Manrose** has launched the innovative Deluxe Quick Internal Fit Wall Kit. Developed to simplify ventilation installation and using patented technology, it is a new breed that can be installed entirely from a property's interior.



It has no loose parts and the external grille is fixed to the wall liner, eliminating the risk of dropping grilles from scaffolding or falls from height, reducing installation time and removing the need for costly and time consuming external grille fitting involving scaffolding or ladders. No matter the height or the weather, this kit is quick, easy and safe to install.

Ideal for high-rises, first floor bathrooms and anywhere not readily accessible from the outside, the Wall Kit simply pushes through a hole from inside. An external grille is deployed that doesn't require reaching through the entire wall tube length. Spring pins hold the kit securely in place.

Notches in the internal face allow it to be simply aligned and then the external grille and seal can be pulled back against the external wall so a tight fit can be achieved. This covers up break-out from the external surface and provides water ingress protection.

Very versatile, this kit is suitable for differing wall thicknesses and fan types, including those with or without integral shutters.

www.manrose.co.uk

USB integrated socket-outlet from MK

MK's new Logic Plus USB Integrated Socket is said to be perfect for retrofitting, having been re-engineered to fit a 25mm backbox. Inherent Dynamic Device Recognition ensures that it understands and detects the nuances between the differing charging configurations device manufacturers use. This allows the socket to react accordingly for optimal charging efficiency, rather than just be aligned to one specific charging configuration. The optimum charging compatibility is, therefore, offered across a broad range of devices.

This new product has inherent safety features, such as current limiting to 2A, which protects against an overload or short circuit to prevent damage to the socket and provide user safety. The USB ports, which are vertically stacked to ensure unrestricted access, offer easy access to power.

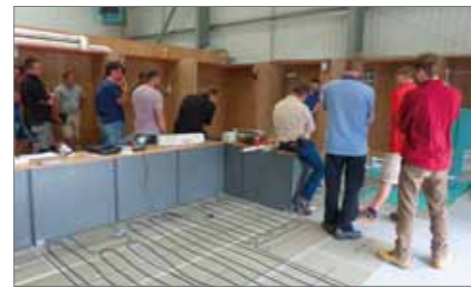
All 13A socket-outlets have a three-pin child-resistant shutter system that inhibits unwanted access to the supply. Double-pole switching ensures both neutral and live connections are broken when the socket is turned off.

www.mkelectric.co.uk



Training hot up at Heat Mat for 2018

To specify the right underfloor heating (UFH) system, installers must understand the products. This is where the **Heat Mat** Trained Installer Programme comes in. Free one-day workshops for qualified installers who fit, or want to learn how to fit, electric underfloor heating are offered to electrical distributors' customers. A product overview presentation is followed by a hands-on workshop session.



The aim is to educate attendees on the best way to fit electric UFH and convey the benefits. Electrical distributors can work with Heat Mat to send their customers along or organise training in their own venue. Forthcoming confirmed sessions include Portchester and Hastings in January and February 2018.

The firm began its popular training days in 2015 and has been building on the scheme's success year-on-year to train a network of professionals nationwide. Email training@heatmat.co.uk for more information.

www.heatmat.co.uk

An LED panel with ultra-low glare



JCC's Skytile range has been continually developed since its inception – tracking advances in LED technology. As a result of developments in performance and increases in light output, glare has become an issue in office environments.

To provide a low-glare solution, JCC has redeveloped Skytile to incorporate the latest in nano-structure diffuser technology. The 'nanotechnology structure' narrows the overall beam angle of the luminaire, which results in a reduction of high-angle light and lower UGR values.

Since their introduction, LED panels have progressively increased in lumen output, causing glare issues in some workplace environments, with reports of headaches, migraines, eyesight problems and staff absenteeism.

Skytile UGR minimises this glare and refocuses light towards the true object of illumination, dramatically improving light spillage.

www.jcc.co.uk/skytile-ugr

Advancing light with LEDVANCE this season



LEDVANCE is set for the new lighting season with the launch of luminaire ranges over coming months. With more than 100 years of experience, successful products and strong brands, this company is expanding its market position in the electrical wholesale sector.

The launches come as the lighting industry is being subjected to the radical transition to LED lighting.

Said Steve Stark, Trade Sales Director at Ledvance for UK, Ireland and Wales: 'As we head into the new lighting season, we are proud to be lead-

ing the way in a radically transforming industry with our new and upcoming range and, by that, help redefine the role of light in a connected world.'

The company also provides top tips to help ensure that installers are ahead of the game. In brief, they are: take advantage of what the new lighting trends offer; check out the latest design ideas when it comes to lighting, keep an eye on product quality, choose their manufacturer wisely and build their knowledge.

www.ledvance.com

TP&N boards for commerce and industry



Lewden Palazzoli's new range of TP&N distribution boards (Type B) provide installers with a quick and easy wiring installation and optimal cabling space. These UK-designed and engineered boards allow install-

ation engineers the versatility of a bespoke system. All earth and neutral terminations are on both left and right sides for clear identification of load circuit connections. A choice of main switch suits the exact installation.

The range, which complies with BS EN 61439-3:2012, is available in four modular sizes – 4, 8, 12 and 16 – that are compatible with the company's 10kA MCB and RCBO range (which can be purchased separately).

These robust steel boards can be wall mounted and have removable top and bottom un-drilled gland plates. The rigid outer casing prevents distortion and the lockable hinged door provides extra security.

A comprehensive range of new accessories include a cable extension box, TP&N board coupling box, 19 module extension enclosure and multifunction metering kit.

www.lewden.com

Asymmetrical flood from Kingfisher Lighting

Kingfisher Lighting has introduced a new floodlight to its growing luminaire range. Said to be 'unique', Zactis offers a high-performance optic with a low-glare, asymmetric forward distribution.

The forward throw and wide beam increases functionality and maximises spacing which, in turn, reduces light spill and makes single-pole mount designs possible in many applications. This increases uniformity and reduces design costs over conventional floodlight designs.

As well as facilitating easy installation and maintenance, the sleek, low-profile design reduces the load together with decreasing windage. The toughened glass gives increased resistance to temperature changes and helps maintain performance through yellowing resistance.

The robust, adjustable mounting bracket can be positioned easily and locks in five-degree increments.

www.kingfisherlighting.com

A time to celebrate for Deta Electrical

This year, **Deta Electrical** is celebrating its 60th anniversary. This leading manufacturer and distributor of wiring and electrical accessories has built a reputation for high quality, reliability and value for money. The company supplies the UK electrical wholesale market and has a strong presence in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean.

Deta has achieved significant growth in recent years, following continuous investment and the acquisition of complementary brands Brackenhath Briticent, Top Tubes Electrical (TTE), Channel Safety Systems and SMJ Electrical. New product ranges include the Vimark Curve and Vimark Evo ranges.



Said MD Gerry Barnett: 'We are keen to celebrate our history, and would like to thank our valued customers for their continued support and our staff for their dedicated hard work. Our goal is to stay at the forefront, maintain our position as a high-quality manufacturer and to invest in product development for the modern market.'

www.detaelectrical.co.uk

Don't miss out...

As an Affiliated Member of the EDA, you can feature your products/services in this section for FREE. To reserve your space just contact Lucy Marks on 020 3141 7350 or lucy.marks@eda.org.uk



Lighting is changing fast – and learning about it is too

LIA's Telford Academy is the lead campus for delivery of HNCs and HNDs in lighting design and technology, thanks to tie-up with University of South Wales

The **Lighting Industry Association** (LIA) has been chosen by the University of South Wales as a partner to deliver the first HNC and HND in Lighting Design and Technology. The first students started the course in September.

The university made its decision after a two-day visit to the LIA's Academy by a group of eight representatives from USW, including Julie Prior and Stuart Green (pictured, right, with LIA CEO Steve Davies).

Just over a year has passed since the Association opened the doors of the Academy.

For too long lighting education has been sadly lacking and certainly not strong enough to support the skills needed for a fast-moving and evolving lighting industry. With commitment from LIA Members and Affiliates, that changed when the Academy opened its doors.

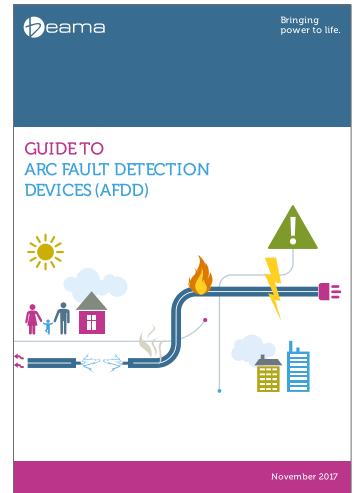
The LIA now has an extensive range of lighting-related learning and experienced trainers to deliver



it. Existing courses have been fully redeveloped and new courses introduced. More is planned for 2018.

At LuxLive 2017 in December, the Academy provided education sessions for a wide supply chain audience. Academy learning is now targeted at both industry and the supply

chain – including electrical wholesalers – and it is great to see so many distributors on Academy courses, all benefitting from Affiliate membership. The prestigious annual LIA Certificate award was won by Neil Postlethwaite from Electric Centre. www.thelia.org.uk



Cut the risk of arc-fault fires

There are more than 20,000 electrical fires in UK homes each year – but **BEAMA's** Guide to Arc Fault Detection Devices (AFDD) shows how to cut the risk.

Arcing creates high-density heat – up to 6,000°C – and could ignite surrounding material such as wood or insulation. Find out how AFDDs can help cut the risk of accidental fires by downloading this new guide from BEAMA's Resource Library.

You'll read about electrical faults, causes of arc faults, how AFDDs work, selection and installation of AFDDs, and AFDD testing.

www.beama.org.uk

Charity helps people with autism

The **Electrical Industries Charity** has launched its Employee and Family Support Programme – working with the National Autistic Society (NAS) to provide vital support for people with autism, including those in the electrical industry supply chain.

Currently, there are 7,000 UK people on the autism spectrum and at least one in three autistic adults experience severe mental health difficulties because they do not get enough support. Autism is incurable, but the right support can significantly improve a sufferer's quality of life.

With its new support programme and the NAS partnership, the Charity offers that much-needed support for employees and their families.

Over the past year, the Charity has helped more than 4,000 people who are dealing with a wide range of problems including autism, mental health and financial issues. John's story is one of many examples that highlight how the right support could help sufferers to look forward to the future.

One of John's children has already been diagnosed with autism, but because of severe behavioural problems, he needs to be managed by both his parents when visiting doctors. Their other three children are being carefully studied because they could also be on the autism spectrum.

The company for which John worked had not been very supportive, so he lost his job. He

found another one quickly but a lack of steady income meant that he fell behind in paying for the family car, and it was repossessed. A large people-carrier was essential to take his children to hospital appointments.

The Electrical Industries Charity has helped the family by providing them with a family car. The Charity has also referred John to NAS, which is supporting the family through the ongoing diagnosis with information and support – as well as putting the family in touch with others in a similar situation.

Without the understanding of others, autistic people and their families are at risk of becoming isolated and developing mental health problems. Therefore it is essential



to provide much-needed support for those who are struggling. Sign up for the Employee and Family Support Programme today and help people like John look forward to the future.

For more information, contact Vicky Gray at vicky.gray@electrical-charity.org.

www.electricalcharity.org