

Montupet (UK) Ltd - quality and competence works for business

Montupet (UK) Ltd, located in Dunmurry on the outskirts of Belfast, is an aluminum foundry. The company specialises in the design and production of parts for the automotive industry which include cylinder heads and alloy wheels. It is a division of a French owned company, which also has manufacturing plants in Canada, Spain, France, and Mexico.

Montupet competes in a global market and as a consequence the foundation of its competitive advantage is based on quality. There is also a requirement to be compliant with a number of global automotive quality standards. These standards require that the company demonstrates competence across a range of quality and process improvement tools and techniques. In order to do this, Montupet introduced NVQs in Business Improvement Techniques across levels 2, 3 and 4. These qualifications are intended to assist employees to maximise company profits and revenues by the elimination of waste and the creation of flow through the business by reducing cost and

variation. They are also intended to improve responsiveness by making more effective use of people and physical assets.

The NVQ in Business Improvement Techniques has 2 pathways:

- Process - focusing on the elimination of all process waste
- Quality - focusing on the application of six sigma principles.

The company worked with AMT consultancy at Limerick University, a specialist provider within the automotive sector, to develop a range of assessment materials. Appropriate

units were selected, from the full suite of units available, to suit specific company requirements. Currently 50 employees have engaged in the development programme with 60% gaining units and a further 40% awaiting certification.

Montupet is the first company in Northern Ireland to have achieved certificates through the awarding body ETCAL (Engineering Training Council Awards Ltd) for this NVQ. The company has a culture in investing in people and in using NVQ training for multi-skilling – it is a company that demonstrates that quality and competence works for business.

