1. The Train to Gain compact has been expanded to include a wider range of support for employers what is the benefit to employers of the compact in their sector?

The sector compact is a three year agreement covering all sizes of employers in the sector.

Within Train to Gain the ECITB compact is an agreement that enables employers to access support for second and subsequent Level 3 qualifications.

The Sector Compact therefore provides employers in a sector with three key additional benefits within Train to Gain:

- The commitment to a set of flexibilities over a three year period;
- Access to support for second and repeat qualifications at Level 3; and,
- Access to these flexibilities for all employers within a sector, regardless of size.

2. What is included in the new offer for employers through the Train to Gain sector compact?

The support through Train to Gain already enables employers within the Engineering Construction Industry, to access advice on skills and on the Skills Pledge. Train to Gain also offers funding support for a range of vocational skills and qualifications for individuals working employers of all sizes including:

- First vocational qualification at full Level 2 and Level 3
- Apprenticeships for all ages focusing on the ECITB
- Craft
ECITB Key Facts

- Technician
- Project Control
- Skills for Life

Train to Gain also provides support Leadership and Management skills in companies employing over ten and less than 250 employees.

In addition to the support already available through Train to Gain, employers in the sector will now be able to access:

- Up to 2,725 Apprenticeships
- 200 Skills Pledge commitments
- 1650 Level two qualifications of which 80% will be first achievements and 20% second achievements
- 3810 Level three qualifications of which 80% will be first achievements and 20% second achievements
- 300 Management and Leadership outcomes
- The ECITB is looking at supporting up to 1500 potential apprenticeship candidates from diverse backgrounds to obtain high quality work experience leading to employment within the sector.

The compact gives special flexibility for key vocational qualifications to be available for the first time through Train to Gain as repeat qualifications – i.e. employees who have already achieved a full Level 2 or 3 qualifications can now be supported to achieve a second full Level 2 or 3 qualification.

The ECITB is now in line with its Sector Qualifications Strategy and have identified the range of qualifications that employers believe are the priority to meeting their existing and future business needs.
ECITB Key Facts

This includes:

- Provide a strategic vision of the future qualifications landscape required by employers within a sector of the UK economy
- Define priorities for the development of new qualifications and National Occupational Standards
- Be developed through substantial employer consultations
- Based upon robust labour market intelligence
- Meet defined quality standards, including having a separate focus upon each of the four nations

3. Which companies are eligible for advice and support through Train To Gain?

All companies based in England are eligible for support through Train to Gain for companies in Engineering Construction Industry

Funding for skills and qualifications relates to individual employees in these companies – some employees may be eligible for funding support but some may not. Both the skills brokers and colleges and training providers can advise on eligibility for funding support as part of the Train to Gain service

4. When will the new offer in Train to Gain be available for employers?

This offer to employers in the sector was announced on 24th October 2008 and will be available for employers via skills brokers, colleges and training providers commencing at the start of 1st March 2009, with the main rollout across skills brokers and ECITB Account Managers from ??????

Each compact covers a period of up to three years and will be an integral part of the Train to Gain offer to employers
ECITB Key Facts

5. How can employers access the support from Train to Gain including funding for skills?

The ECITB Account Managers will work in partnership with skills brokers to visit and start the process of analysing how a company’s performance can benefit from investment in employee skills.

6. How much money is available?

The LSC have identified £18m to support the objectives of the compact over three years from within the current Train to Gain budget. The amount of funding in the compact relates directly to the level of demand predicted from employers by ECITB so if this demand does not materialise from employers over the life of the compact, this funding will not be available for employers in this sector.

For Further Information

The ECITB and LSC are finalising arrangements for delivery of this new offer and will publish further information on their websites:

- LSC - Train to Gain website at www.traintogain.gov.uk
- ECITB can be found at www.ECITB.org.uk

If you are an employer or a learner – please contact the Train to Gain service, your ECITB Account Manager or speak to your current provider.

If you are a provider – please speak to your LSC partnership manager or contact the Train to Gain service.

If you are an LSC colleague - please contact Lorna Rukin

If you are a ECITB colleague - please contact Duncan Weeks