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Systems, held its first meeting in September 2014 and is beginning to draft the new welding apprenticeship standard. It will submit the standard to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills during the spring of 2015.

Co-ordinator of the welding apprenticeship trailblazer Tim Jessop, Associate Director at The Welding Institute, said: 'The rapid increase in demand for skilled welders in manufacturing and construction across the country and the shortage of such people is a clear indication of the need for a new approach to welding apprenticeships. We hope this project will result in a boost in the number of employers taking on apprentices and encourage new interest from the young people themselves. We are looking forward to working with the group and seeing the trailblazer take shape in the coming months.'

Representing employers, sector skills councils, professional bodies and national trade associations, the Welding Apprenticeships Employer Group comprises: Alstom; BAE Systems; British Constructional Steelwork Association; Doosan-Babcock; Liebherr; Pall Europe; Rolls-Royce plc; TEi; Kellog, Brown and Root; Graham Engineering Ltd; Hudson-Swan Engineering Ltd and Billington Structures Ltd, with professional engineering contribution from The Welding Institute, and skills council involvement from Semta and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board.

For more information, or if you are employer interested in supporting this trailblazer, please contact TWI at professional@twi.co.uk. Visit the apprenticeships website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk. (According to press information from TWI)

Helping companies meet the new standards in fabrication of aluminium and steel structures

The growing complexity in manufacturing and the need to ensure all companies adhere to the most stringent and secure standards in their processes is paramount to their success. Also, standards adoption implies that products are globally accepted within a wider market, providing for vibrant competition and supporting regional markets, hence leading to the creation of the EN 1090 standard. This compliance is based on two pillars: employees and manufacturer. As such, employees must have the required qualifications, but also companies must have the technical equipment that meets the requirements. These standards are recognised by the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) to obtain CE marking and thus entry into all European Union markets.

To ensure that all companies reach this important requirement in the smoothest and quickest way, the "SAT-EN 1090" project has been created. It is focused on minimising the difficulties faced by large as well as small and medium-sized enterprises as they implement the requirements of the EN 1090 standard. To reach this goal, a harmonised training course has been created, adjusted to market requirements, especially addressing companies involved in construction and building of metal structures, being they fabricators, importers or sellers.

As the course gets further implemented, harmonisation of European companies involved in steel or aluminium manufacturing is achieved, as well as the unification in Eu-



rope of the methods in order to implement the standard. As a result, mobility will be vastly improved throughout Europe of people in vocational training, initial and continuous, as well as the quality of education and training of all types of providers will benefit.

The results of the "SAT-EN 1090" project are expected to attain a great reach in terms of recipients, since the EN 1090 standard will involve different target groups and stakeholders, from inspectors of welded constructions to associations of companies in the welding industry, given its broad scope. More specifically, EN 1090 comprises three parts:

- EN 1090-1: Requirements for conformity assessment for structural components (CE-Marking);
- EN 1090-2: Technical requirements for the execution of steel structures; and
- EN 1090-3: Technical requirements for the execution of aluminium structures.
 This project is funded by the Erasmus+ EC Programme. (According to press information from EWF)

Failure to meet engineering skills demand to cost UK £27 billion a year

Filling the demand for new engineering jobs will generate an additional £ 27 billion per year for the UK economy from 2022, the equivalent of building 1,800 schools or 110 hospitals, according to new research published in the report "Engineering UK 2015 – The State of Engineering". To meet projected employer demand, the number of engineering apprentices and graduates entering the industry will need to double.

The report, produced by the independent organisation EngineeringUK, analyses the engineering industry's capacity and capability for growth and details engineering in education, training and employment. It shows that engineering accounts for a quarter (24.9%) of UK turnover, 9% higher than at the start of the recession. Engineering companies will need 182,000 people per year with engineering skills in the decade to

2022 but there is a current annual shortfall of 55,000 skilled workers.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive, EngineeringUK, said: 'Engineering is a vital part of the UK economy, not just in terms of significant turnover but also with regards to employment. For every new engineering role an additional two jobs are created in the economy. The engineering community is increasingly involved in a collective