

Engineers retrain to transfer skills to emerging sectors

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Engineers feeling the pinch of the credit crunch should seriously consider transferring their skills to emerging sectors, according to leading recruitment specialist ATA.

Where historically the UK has experienced a shortage of young people going into engineering as a profession, the current economic crisis could lead to a number of highly skilled individuals, particularly in the manufacturing, auto and construction industries, surplus to requirements.

Yet at the same time, the emerging renewable energy sector is enjoying dramatic growth and is searching for engineers to work in areas such as onshore and offshore wind, solar power, biomass, biofuel and ground source systems.

ATA can offer candidates sound advice to help engineers discover how they can best transfer their existing skills for application to the new technologies – and it says there is no shortage of positions to fill.

“Renewable energy, in particular wind power, is a huge growth market,” said Gary Hewett, Managing Director of ATA Energy.

“We recently attended the British Wind Energy Association annual conference and exhibition in London and the opportunities were there for all to see.

“ATA saw this growth coming some time ago and set up a dedicated division to deal with it, ATA Energy, helping engineers from other sectors make the switch into renewable energy posts.

“We looked at the incredible pool of talent we have and then at the opportunities that are coming through in the renewable energy sector.

“Companies within the sector fully appreciate that due to its relative newness, in engineering terms, they need to tap into experience from other sectors and channel this resource into their business in order to sustain growth. For renewable energy companies looking to recruit, we have a host of people to call on who are already highly-skilled and experienced engineers but who also now have an understanding of their field.

“We are bridging the gap until the next generation of engineers trained specifically for work with renewable energies comes through.”

ATA can provide a complete recruitment service to clients, whether they are looking for permanent or fixed contract/temporary staff.

And it has helped hundreds of engineers from the telecoms, oil and gas, civil engineering and construction sector, to realise the potential for their skills in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and project management within the various engineering markets, from the traditional to newly

emerging sectors.

ATA is one of the UK's leading recruitment specialists, with 45 years of experience. It has 10 branches throughout the UK and handles more than 300 new vacancies every week.

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