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For attention of newsdesks / business
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Metals industry top apprentice shows his mettle

Apprentice Peter Krynicki picked up the prestigious title of 2007 Metals Industry Apprentice of the Year at the Metals Industry Awards Evening last week in Sheffield (25/04). He was among 52 high achievers from metals companies to be recognised at this year's Awards Evening organised by MetSkill, the strategic skills body for the UK metals industry.

Peter, 23, a skilled machine setter/operator at KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) Limited in Newcastle-under-Lyme, beat off strong competition from six other outstanding finalists to clinch the hotly-contested title of Metals Industry Apprentice of the Year.

Peter completed his advanced apprenticeship in March. During his time with the company he has made his mark through his exemplary attitude and “can do” approach to work. His successes include working with KMF's business improvement team to implement cost-saving and efficiency–boosting lean manufacturing practices in his work area, inputting to the New Product Development team to ensure customer satisfaction, and helping to introduce new software to standardise production procedures for best results. Along with two senior colleagues, Peter was selected to receive specialist training in operating and maintaining sophisticated new automated machinery at the Austrian manufacturers, giving him a lot of responsibility within a small select team. He has even become one of the first points of contact in the company if technical problems arise – despite his peer group consisting of more experienced personnel.

MetSkill Chairman and Chief Executive of Metsec plc, Stephen Tilsley, presided over the ceremony attended by over 180 employers and key industry partners, including event sponsors EEF Sheffield, to mark the skills and achievements of individuals and companies through a number of awards. Commending his success, he said: “Peter's achievements are testimony to the vital contribution apprentices make to their businesses so very early on in their career.”

In his welcome speech to guests Mr Tilsley highlighted the need for metals employers to boost recruitment of apprentices to help provide continuity of vital skills and knowledge and improve the industry's age profile.

“What apprentices bring to a business is vital,” he said. “Certainly most start making a genuine business contribution right from the very early stages of their apprenticeship. That’s an extremely important message that we need to convey to other employers throughout our sector. We need to re-build our training infrastructure and get back a sub-culture of developing youngsters to become our skilled craftspeople, technical experts and business managers of the future.

“Companies such as KMF, where Peter works, know that the pay-off is having a wonderful source of young people who understand both products and processes in depth. They embrace company culture and core values and grow into well motivated individuals who are highly skilled and add huge value to the business.”

Peter Krynicki was presented with £1,200 of computer vouchers by the evening’s celebrity guest, Dennis Taylor, former snooker world champion and television personality.

Peter said: “I’m thrilled and very proud to have won the Apprentice of the Year title and I’m sure it will help my career. I intend to undertake more internal training to enhance my knowledge and understanding and hope to progress to the role of team leader, then eventually become a production technician.”

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Photograph PR – 70EE available on request:



Lt – Rt Stephen Tilsley, Chairman of MetSkill with 2007 Metals Industry Apprentice of the Year, Peter Krynicki, and celebrity guest, former World Snooker Champion, Dennis Taylor.

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Note to Editors:

1. The annual Metals Industry Apprentice of the Year competition is run by MetSkill in partnership with award sponsors, the Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers.
2. The Metals Industry Awards Evening took place on 25 April 2007 at The Cutlers’ Hall, Sheffield. The event was sponsored by EEF Sheffield and EAL.
3. MetSkill is the strategic skills body for the UK metals industry and is part of SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. MetSkill aims to help companies achieve measurable and sustainable improvement in business performance through recruiting high calibre new entrants, achieving workforce competence and culture change, reducing costs, releasing cash and improving customer service, managing performance, and achieving effective supply chain relationships.