

Published by
The Society of Operations Engineers

SOE president
John Eastman

SOE chair
Shaun Stephenson

Chief operating officer
Daniel Moir

The Society of Operations Engineers is a licensed member of the Engineering Council.

Registered in England
Company No 3667147

Registered Charity
No 1081753
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered Office
22 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PR
Tel: 020 7630 1111
Fax: 020 7630 6677
Email: soe@soe.org.uk
www.soe.org.uk

Editor
Will Dalrymple
Email: will.dalrymple@markallengroup.com

Assistant editor
Ben Spencer
Email: ben.spencer@markallengroup.com

Contributing editors
Steve Banner, John Challen, Toby Clark,
Laura Cork, Dan Gilkes, Dan Parton,
Lucy Radley, Peter Shakespeare,
Richard Simpson

Art editor
Chris Charles

Production manager
Nicki McKenna
Email: nicki.mckenna@markallengroup.com

Commercial manager
Kim Reddick
Email: kim.reddick@markallengroup.com
Tel: 01322 221144

Publisher
Jon Benson

Transport Engineer
is the official journal of the IRTE,
a professional sector of the SOE.

Produced on behalf of the IRTE by
MA Business
Hawley Mill, Hawley Road,
Dartford, Kent DA2 7TJ
Tel: 01322 221144
www.transportengineer.org.uk

Transport Engineer
is distributed free of charge to SOE members,
dependent on membership sector. For
non-members, the annual subscription rate
(12 issues) is £79.50 UK and EU, or £81.50
airmail outside EU. For other SOE members,
the discounted rate is £32.

Printed by
Pensord Press UK
ISSN
0020-3122



Some of the articles and guidance included in
Transport Engineer may make a contribution to
your personal CPD requirements.

Please read our privacy policy, by visiting
<http://privacypolicy.markallengroup.com>.
This will explain how we process, use and
safeguard your data.

Views expressed in Transport Engineer are
those of the writers and do not necessarily
reflect the views of The Society of Operations
Engineers or of MA Business.

© 2023 The Society of Operations Engineers

MA Business
Part of
Mark Allen



Enter a team today

The IRTE Skills Challenge for bus and coach technicians returns to S&B Automotive Academy in Bristol in early June. It's a great chance for technicians to test their own knowledge and potentially win valuable industry recognition. Here are three reasons why bus and coach operators should put forward a team.

First, show them you care. While contestants may find the experience demanding, it demonstrates your faith in their ability, which is a great confidence-booster. And with its many competitor categories, the Skills Challenge reflects the wide diversity of experience level (apprentices, skilled technicians, master technicians) and disciplines (mechanical, electrical, mechelec, bodywork) working in the industry today. There's a spot for everyone.

Second, set a benchmark. How long has it been since your skilled technicians were assessed? How do they compare with technicians in other workshops? How do their particular skills and talents complement others in the workshop? Would extra training on some particular technology or system be worthwhile? Contestants' performance in the competition's varied tests can reveal much about their strengths and weaknesses. Equally, team captains' performance can be judged as well. As the results test skills which are broadly comparable, this means that operators can benefit from tracking performance year after year.

Third, stake your claim. Contestants span the range of bus and coach operators from the biggest - in 2022, First Group teams won big - to small, including another 2022 winner Lothian Buses. Every team is invited to the awards ceremony, and many end up collecting an award from the stage. Smaller operators have a brilliant platform to show how they punch above their weight. Even if they don't win, they still get the chance to rub shoulders with the best in industry.

For more information, and to enter, go to www.is.gd/yopika.

■ **Don't forget the reader survey! The publishers of Transport Engineer have launched an online survey to record readers' views about the magazine, the website, and their likes and dislikes. As an incentive, one lucky entrant will win £100 in Amazon vouchers. The survey is open now until 19 March at www.is.gd/aduhom.**

Will Dalrymple
Editor



To reach shortened URLs in the magazine - www.is.gd/xxxxxx - type the whole link into the address window of your web browser.