

Institute of Corrosion: One-Day ICATS Event for Trainers' Feedback

The Institute of Corrosion is organising a special opportunity for an ICATS Trainer 'Get Together' on Thursday, 4 May 2006 at Sheffield.

All ICATS Trainers, members of their Sponsoring Registered Companies and anyone interested in learning more of the ICATS Scheme should attend the meeting.

The Scheme has been in operation for a few months now and there is a need for all to be kept up-dated as to how the Scheme is developing and the progress that is being made in the field.

Some of the larger ICATS Registered Companies are forging ahead with training programmes whilst some of the more recent members to join the Scheme are 'finding their feet'.

There are of course many different ways of Trainers going about the training of their Applicator colleagues (this is indeed one of the main attractions of the Scheme as it can be made to fit-in with most work patterns).

It is believed that an exchange of views and listening to the actual work-place experience of using the training programme by ICATS Trainers from one or two of the most committed companies, will be useful to everyone.

Full details of the event and the programme can be obtained from either the Institute's web site at www.icorr.org or Argyll-Ruane Ltd, the Scheme Provider at www.ruanetpo.com



ICATS: Experience at Fairfield-Mabey

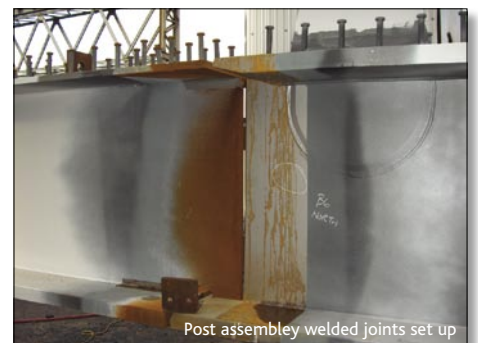
We regard ICATS as producing an essential training-based qualification for our employees who would otherwise hold no recognised confirmation of their abilities and skills in the application of industrial protective coatings. (At present the only available recognition is through training certificate for specific products from consumable or equipment suppliers).

One of the great advantages for Fairfield-Mabey is the tremendous flexibility within



ICATS to suit all forms of training schedules – classroom based, on-the-job and home study options are all catered for and may be used interchangeably where appropriate. To us, a further advantage is that we can also train our sub-contract teams, who would otherwise be perhaps too small to use ICATS at this time. In this way, we can guarantee that all our jobs, both in-house and sub-contracted, will be carried out using skilled and properly trained operatives. We intend to complete the overall training, currently for 30-40 personnel, over a 2-year period.

In terms of the training materials, the frequent use of videos and pictures within the training package enables the trainer to put the points over to the trainee without boring them with realms of technical words. Furthermore, since each module contains individual tests at the end, we can confirm that the trainee has



absorbed and understood the primary learning outcomes in a reliable manner, the intention of the tests being to permit the trainee to demonstrate appropriate levels and competence, knowledge and skills in relatively small and digestible pieces. In this way, all trainees can be proud of their achievement in gaining a place on the Institute of Corrosion ICATS register.

ICATS: Protecting the Forth Rail Bridge

The Scottish people call it the 'Eighth wonder of the world'. Visited by millions of people from all parts of the globe, the Forth rail bridge is really a truly magnificent structure.

Situated on the Forth estuary, on the North East coast of Scotland, the Forth Rail Bridge is subjected to a corrosive environment. The weather can often be very hostile with sea mist and high winds battering the structure. Management of the corrosion control is essential.

Many facts and statistics are given about the Forth Rail Bridge, including the eight million rivets, however one fact that has been certain, over the last four years a major refurbishment program has been ongoing to remove all the existing coatings and apply a high performance coating system, which should give in excess of 25 years life.

This refurbishment program will continue for another 3-4 years.

Another fact that exists belongs to the quality of the coating applicators. The coating applicators responsible for surface preparation and coating application must ensure a high level of quality is utilised during the surface treatment. The high cost of access and containment forbids the options of premature failure and re-work.

This, amongst other things is why Pyeroy Limited, one of the two nominated painting contractors, used the Forth Rail Bridge to commence the first site coating training utilising the Industrial Coating Applicator Training Program (ICATS).

After getting permission from both Network Rail and Balfour Beatty, Pyeroy Limited along with two in-house trained trainers, embarked on the ICATS training program.

Twenty five painters were enrolled onto the



Trainees conducting practical assessments on the ICATS training program



ICAT scheme in September 2005. The Forth Rail Bridge does have a major advantage over most site works, in the fact that work goes on twelve months a year. This level of continuity allowed a long term training program to be conducted without the concern of completing the training under a tight timescale.

The theoretical training is conducted during 'down-time' and specific training sessions, with the practical training and assessments conducted 'on the job'.

The training has not been without its minor hiccups. Absenteeism, sickness (albeit low) compounded by certain trainees missing training sessions due to work commitment, disjointed the levels of training between trainees.

One to one and smaller group training has to be conducted to level the training matrix.

The feedback from the trainees has been very encouraging, which was surprising considering the extent of experience the applicators have.

The tests after each session ensure the trainees understand the training units, demonstrate their knowledge and act as evidence for auditing purposes.

The documentation requirements per trainee can be gruesome at first, however individual file and dedication of the trainers has ensured the process is now a formality.

The site training program is ongoing and will continue well into 2006. In parallel with the site training, a in-house ICATS training

session has been conducted at the Company Head office in Gateshead.

Seven trainees successfully completed the full Industrial Coating Applicator training module. Both the theoretical and practical assessments were conducted by all trainees using a mixture of in-house and independent trainers.

The last question to be asked on the final day by trainees was 'who gets the 001 and 007 tickets' of course, Icorr administration makes this decision!.



Trainers & trainees on completion of the first in-house training program

The comparison between the site training and the in-house training is immense. The ICATS program can be conducted in 4-5 days for the in-house training while the on site training can take five weeks, five months or longer. The ICATS have ample flexibility to suit most requirements.

There is no doubt that, which ever option is chosen, a better trained and educated workforce is delivered, which has benefits for the Customer, Company and the individual themselves.

The Benefits of a Sustaining Membership with ICorr

In preparing its five-year Business Plan, Gemini Corrosion Services Ltd researched the market to determine what competitive advantage it had to ensure its ambitious plans would be achieved. Central to its delivery was membership of The Institute of Corrosion (ICorr), together with its associative accreditations.

Gemini has specialised in surface preparation and protective-coating applications since 1982, with custom built facilities in Stonehaven, near Aberdeen, and Montrose. The quality of a coating application is central to effective offshore corrosion protection and Gemini has the expertise and industry experience to advise on the most appropriate coating system. To corroborate, the company recently announced a strategic development programme to meet the growing demand for thermal spray corrosion protection solutions to the oil and gas industry. Gemini invested £350,000 into the new, purpose built, fully automated, state of the art computerised thermal spray hall on Gemini Montrose's site.



As protective coatings, surface preparation and application equipment has become more sophisticated, the need to have fully trained staff has increased. Also, a clear



understanding of Health & Safety issues is crucial. Failure to address these issues can have serious consequences in terms of poor quality of work, costly delays and exposing staff to unacceptable risks.

Gemini is accredited to all recognised quality, environmental and HSE standards, allowing the company to offer customers the best possible service. Through this commitment, Gemini are regularly involved with ICorr. Gemini operators are required to clearly demonstrate that they understand the operating systems and health and safety requirements, completing both oral and practical testing to ensure that the highest standards of preparation and application are met.

Gemini is a Sustaining Member of ICorr and recently sent two staff members on the ICATS 'Train-The-Trainer' course with the aim of coaching the entire workforce. The company also have ICorr Level II qualified paint inspectors supporting the in house quality department. Having ICorr qualified staff conveys to customers that the company recognises the need for uniform criteria to which all service providers should adhere.

ICorr is changing the view of the industry towards shotblasting and protective coating

applications. The Institute acts as a mediator and regulator between fabricators and coating companies, setting standards for the industry to abide by. An ICorr qualified staff member will also feel the confidence to carry out the tasks assigned to him, and will operate with a certain level of autonomy within the company. The qualification the person holds is to the benefit of both the individual and the company, as the person is seen as competent, and the company as credible.

ICorr as a regulatory body ensures that the service providers follow set standards, and Gemini fully endorse this. However, ensuring that the company has the correct qualifications is a costly exercise often reflected in the overall cost quoted to a fabricator. Unfortunately, fabricators often award their work solely on price and not the quality of the finished product – they will usually pay the price in unsatisfactory work, unnecessary costs in downtime and ultimately ineffective corrosion protection.

For some time now Gemini has been concerned over the lack of effort by many coating applicators in attaining specified industry qualifications. ICorr has noted that the Highways Agency and Network Rail will only consider working on projects with contractors who hold relevant qualifications. Yet many contractors who 'work in accordance with', but are not actually 'certified' in these industry standards, are repeatedly awarded contracts.

By laying down these criteria, ICorr as a valuable regulatory body is changing the face of the coatings industry. And by adhering to these industry criteria, Gemini is demonstrating its commitment to quality and excellence.



www.icorr.org
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website at www.icorr.org