

News February 2020

ConstructionLine - Membership Upgrade

Instalcom are in the early stages of upgrading our existing Constructionline Gold membership to Platinum which will enable us to pursue major utility diversion works on HS2 with appointed Joint Venture consortiums along the route specifically between London and Birmingham. We are actively engaging with the following to secure multiple projects that will include the diversion of power, water, gas and telecom assets.

- ALIGN JV (Bouygues Construction | Sir Robert McAlpine | VolkerFitzpatrick)
- BBVS JV (Balfour Beatty VINCI SYSTRA)
- SCS JV (Skanska Costain Strabag)

Watch out for updates on new opportunities.



Use of Initiative

We recently received some great feedback from SMB in relation to the mains replacement works we carried out in Tudor Court, Waltham Forrest. Having consulted with the caretaker of Saint Saviours School it became apparent due to before school breakfast club and after school clubs that to disrupt the water service without affecting the school would be a challenge. Richard Accolade and this gang used their initiative and arranged to meet on site at 06:00 in the morning to carry out the works on the school supply. The successfully completed works before 07:30am; causing no disruption to the school's planned activities for the day. The caretaker of St Saviours School called to say that Richard is a "breath of fresh air".

Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)



To meet the company's aspiration for sustained year-on-year growth we are seeking to raise our profile within the construction industry and our ability to influence areas of specific interest by joining CECA a representative body for companies who work day-to-day to deliver, upgrade, and maintain the country's infrastructure. Our membership will enable us to participate in sector forums and high profile industry events attended by government, regulators, major contractors, suppliers and leading design consultants, providing Instalcom with a fantastic platform for wider brand promotion, establishing new relationships and identifying new opportunities. Further updates on our membership will be provided.

Spotlight Interview with Jahdel Figaro (HGV Mechanic Apprentice)

This month, we met with Jahdel, our HGV Mechanic Apprentice who joined us in September 2019, to find out more about his role here at Instalcom.

What does a normal day look like for you?: I spend time watching Darren and Dean closely, trying to learn as much as I can from them. When I am not shadowing the guys, I am helping out with the servicing or repairs of vehicles (checking oil levels, screen wash, anti-freeze and break-lights etc.) As well as this I assist with the general housekeeping of the workshop. During quieter periods I help out Andy with stripping engines, fixing trailer boards etc. which I really enjoy.

What are some challenges you have had to overcome?: Starting from scratch with no experience working on vehicles or HGVs. At first I was really nervous, but I have eased in over time and feel really comfortable now with the team. I cant wait to be able to get further through the course and build my knowledge so I can help out more in the workshop.

What is your favourite part of the role?: When I am able to do something independently I am really pleased. For example, I took some old trailer board lamps off, cut, stripped, soldered and replaced the wires. It was a great feeling when I checked my work and it was all right first time!

How has Instalcom helped your career development so far?: Instalcom put me on a specialist HGV Maintenance Apprenticeship programme. For this, I have to travel to Derby for 1 week at a time 'block learning'. This has built on my confidence and independence. College so far has been a great learning experience, particularly collaborating with the other students and helping each other learn as well as the dedicated tutor who can focus his attention on me and ensure I understand. It has been great being able to come back to the workshop and use the knowledge that I have learned—for example, fabrication and drilling and tapping.

What have you gained from working at Instalcom?: This was my first step in my career and I already am a much more confident person. I really feel like I have value here at Instalcom and have been made to feel very comfortable. I now have a much better understanding of what the working world is like!

Do you have any advice for future apprentices joining Instalcom?: Get stuck in! Ask as many questions as you can and give everything a go—you do not know what you are capable of until you try!



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Lightfoot Trials



We have been trialing a new type of tracker/telematics called Lightfoot within our fleet. Lightfoot works by connecting to the computer within the vehicle by plugging into the OBDII port (every car and van made after 2004 has one). The device sits on the dashboard and uses lights and optional audio to tell the driver how efficiently they're driving. If the driver is pushing the engine too far and driving inefficiently, the lights will go from green to red. As Lightfoot is connected directly to the vehicle's computer, it adjusts its feedback according to live engine data. This means the driver gets bespoke guidance for their vehicle, driving style and the roads they are driving on.

After every journey, the driver gets a score that reflects how smoothly they have driven. The goal is simple—aim for Elite Driver standards by keeping the lights green as often as possible. Nobody is ever going to be 100% perfect as driving just isn't like that, that's why 85% is the Elite Driver standard.

Each week, one of the drivers taking part in the trial is awarded a prize if their score is above 85%. So far, we have had two Elite Driver winners! Congratulations to Harry Clark who won Sony Foldable Headphones and Rob Killiek who won a £25 Virgin Experience Day voucher!

We love the fact that in addition to the fuel savings and the feel-good factor of saving the planet, prizes can also be won every week by our Elite Drivers!

Positive Feedback

We recently received some fantastic feedback from the Network Manager at Haringey Council for our works on the LPT1 National Grid Decommissioning project. The feedback stated that Theresa O'Connell and the team working on the project have been nothing but professional; continuously providing clarity and purpose during meetings including presenting a comprehensive strategy for the entirety of the upcoming works in the borough.

The feedback stated "we are fully aware that no project runs without hitches, but the high levels of competence and communication I've received from Theresa and her team give me every confidence that this major project will be tackled in a very positive fashion." Thank you to the entire team for your hard work in mobilising for the National Grid LPT1 Cable Decommissioning Works; we look forward to your continued support.

Mindset

One of the 12 subjects of our 'Mindset' initiative is to ensure that you have the right information before you start work, and this will be our Health and Safety focus for March.

We realise that the amount of information you require to carry out your job is a lot and a large proportion of it will be generic from day to day, but it will be that 1% that is specific to the site that you will need to be aware of that is key to preventing an accident, an environmental incident or a defect that could cost the company a lot of time, money and embarrassment to our customer.

The majority of the information you receive may seem as though you have read it before, but take the time to read it carefully, it may save yours or someone else's life.

Critical factors to consider before you start work:

- If you don't have the right information, ask!
- If you are unclear about what your task is for the day, ask!
- Make sure that you have read AND UNDERSTOOD the method statement and risk assessment for the task.
- Make sure the risk assessment is not just a list of generic hazards—it must be specific to the site.
- Make sure that stats you have been provided with are complete and that you understand them.
- If you are a driver of a company vehicle, your driver's handbook is a vital document containing information on all the things you need to remember about driving a vehicle for work. You will be re-issued with the latest version of this this month.
- If you are working in a building you have the potential to disturb asbestos, the building owner must inform us if there is any asbestos present where you are going to work. If we are working underground, it is common for asbestos to have been buried, so you need to know what to look for if you uncover it.
- Make sure you know where you are going before you set off. Set your SatNav before you leave so that you do not have to do it whilst driving.
- You must be familiar with the emergency procedures of the site or building within which you are working. If you are working in a strange location or a client's premises, they must give you a brief induction before you start work to inform you of the building emergency procedures, escape routes etc.



If you would like a good news story relating to work, a charity activity or personal achievement to be considered for inclusion within future company newsletters please contact Amber-Rose E: amber-rose.crossley@instalcom.co.uk Tel: 0208 731 4629

