

Skills for Success



Taster Training Days

By Laura Baskeyfield, Virgin Media (SCTE Executive Committee)

SCTE recently held a series of training days for Virgin Media at Bathgate, Wythenshawe and Cardiff.



Laura Baskeyfield, Virgin Media (SCTE Executive Committee)

Laura Baskeyfield, BEng (HONS) Mechanical Engineering graduated from Manchester in 2010. Laura joined Virgin Media on the engineering graduate scheme in 2011, rotating in network planning and systems engineering before moving permanently into the core network engineering team. She is currently working on the optical elements of the network examining high capacity services, network performance and manageability.

training days were advertised on the Virgin Media intranet and targeted at Virgin Media technicians and engineers who are new to the business and would like an introduction to a number of technology topics as well as the opportunity for 'hands-on' experience with some vendors' products."

Each training day ran over an entire day in two rooms at each of the sites visited. The first room was used for short formal vendor technology presentations, offered on a drop-in/drop-out basis, which allowed the attendees to focus their available time on the areas of greatest interest to them.

The second room contained hands-on work stations with the vendors providing demonstrations which allowed the attendees to work with the products on offer and test equipment used in different parts of the network.

All Taster Day delegates and vendors were given a free buffet lunch on each training day.

Founded in 1945, the SCTE (Society for Broadband Professionals) is a non-profit making organisation whose aim is to raise the standard of broadband engineering in the telecommunications industry. The Society particularly concerns itself with the training and career advancement of technical professionals in this field.

On 12, 13 and 15 November 2013, the SCTE, along with a number of vendors, held a series of taster training days for Virgin Media at Bathgate (Scotland), Wythenshawe (Manchester) and Cardiff (Wales), to provide on-site, hands-on training opportunities across all areas of the business.

Engaging with network technologies

"These training days provided vendors with a new opportunity to engage with Virgin Media technicians and engineers in a friendly and professional setting," the SCTE explained. "The

Supporting the industry

SCTE would like to thank the following vendors for all their support, time and effort across the three days: CommScope; Corning OFS; PPC; TFC; Cablecon; Ripley; Teleste and Technetix.

Acknowledgements

SCTE would like to thank Chris Bailey, Mike Jones, Mike Thornton and Laura Baskeyfield for all their efforts on this initiative.

"I found the day very enlightening and I would recommend that both field and test engineers should attend at least one of these events."

Mark Inman, Senior CPE Test Engineer, Virgin Media

"The training day was great and this sort of thing is needed."

Colin McGeoch, Edge Networks Designer, Virgin Media



Scenes from the three taster training days for Virgin Media

"I really enjoyed the day - it had a good mix of presentations for everyone."

Danny Gaittens, Engineering Configuration Control Manager, Virgin Media

"It was an excellent day with great presentations from first class companies. Although the target audience was more for hands-on staff who use the tools/install the kit on a day-to-day basis, I still found it very useful. It was more of a cross-training exercise for me as I am a planner (IP Edge) but it's always good to get better insight into other areas and meet different people."

James Beeston, MDU Designer, Virgin Media