

Sector Skills Council: Cogent SSC Ltd

Website	http://www.cogent-ssc.com/
Footprint – areas of responsibility	Chemicals, Nuclear, Oil and Gas Extraction, Petroleum and the Polymer industries.
Key Drivers and/or SSC priorities	<p>Cogent's objectives:</p> <p>Understanding and interpreting industry's skill needs</p> <p>Influencing government and industry to ensure that there is appropriate investment in the skills required</p> <p>Ensuring skills delivery meets industry's needs</p> <p>Improving the Cogent sector industry image to make it a positive career choice</p>
Key Drivers for Skills for Life	No real drive although level 2 key skills are required achieve apprenticeships To Support for NVQ qualifications
Key contact for Skills for Life	<p>Cogent operates through a network of regional and industry advisers working with employers to identify skills issues affecting their business and providing tailored solutions to meet their needs.</p> <p>These advisers work in teams organised around four geographical areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland and Scotland • Northern England • Central England • Southern England and Wales <p>Cogent SSC Ltd, Unit 5, Mandarin Court, Centre Park, Warrington Cheshire, WA1 1GG Tel. 01925 515200 Other office: Aberdeen</p>
Main programmes offered in sector	<p>Cogent has developed Apprenticeship frameworks; Cogent's subsidiary CSSL manages on behalf of employers in the oil and gas sector a modern apprenticeship programme for entry into the oil and gas industry, this includes recruitment and placement. For the other sectors recruitment is managed by employers or training providers.</p> <p>A co-ordinated approach is also being developed in other areas by Cogent SSC in partnership with other relevant SSCs (such as SEMTA), particularly in NW.</p>
Key statutory and/or legislative influences in	The industries within the Cogent sector are heavily regulated in terms of Health and Safety. As such a

sector	<p>large proportion of training within the sector is Health and Safety related, basic skills are a minimum requirement to meet the demands of meeting health and safety.</p> <p>Environmental concerns also have an influence on how the industries operate, and on their drivers for change and technological improvements.</p>
SSC agreement completed	Consultations with sector began June 2005 – SSA not completed
Labour Market Information available	<p>Available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o National Employer Skills Survey report for Cogent 2004 o Chemicals, Nuclear, Oil and Gas, Petroleum and Polymer Industries in Scotland – 2005 o Annual Technician Review for the Oil and Gas Industry – 2005 o East of England Skills for Energy – 2005 o Chemicals – Skills for the 21st Century o The Matrix – SSDA website o Cogent Regional Fact Sheets for English Regions – SSDA website <p>To be Published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skill Needs Assessment – Feb o Assessment of Current Provision – March o Nuclear Employer Skills Survey o Polymers in the East Midlands Skills Report o Chemicals, Petroleum and Polymer Industries Skills Report
Delivery issues for providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need for highly skilled managers, researchers, engineers and technicians as well as process operators, drivers and retail staff. • Ageing workforces. • Recruitment difficulties, especially of skilled and experienced personnel. • Poor industry image and profile. • Increasing impact of legislation. • Focus on environmental impact of the industries. • The pace of technological change. • Competitiveness, particularly against overseas companies. • Potential to grow global markets for end products. • Competence Assurance requirements
Embedded learning materials available	
Case studies	
National Skills Academy established?	Cogent is working with industry partners with the aim of submitting an expression of interest for the establishment of a Skills Academy on publication of the prospectus (potentially in Q2 2006).
Skills for Life projects running	Cogent is one of 20 SSCs in Scotland who are part of an ESF funded project (£14.5k per SSC) to deliver a

	specific workplace DVD on workplace learning. The DVD will be branded as SSAScot (Sector Skills Alliance Scotland) and will feature a keynote presentation from Nicol Stephen, Scottish Deputy First Minister and Scottish Minister for Lifelong Learning.
Newsletters available	Cogent eBulletin is a monthly newsletter - developments from around our related industries and providing information about Cogent SSC itself.