

Surveying the skills scene

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor



News that the Government is to establish 12 Institutes of Technology¹ has been widely welcomed. The initiative forms part of the 'biggest shake-up to technical education in a generation' ... one that includes the introduction of new T Levels from 2020 – the technical equivalent to A Levels – as well as the provision of more high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.

David Hughes, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, said the announcement was a "Good down-payment on what must become a long-term strategy for investing more in technical skills. Our prosperity and success as a nation requires greater focus on boosting productivity and that will need far more opportunities

for people to gain the skills which will support them in the labour market."

The surveying sector is no exception, with half of respondents to the latest RICS survey² citing a shortage of skilled labour as a significant challenge. While many and varied industry initiatives are underway to address the problem, the more basic challenge is to generate interest in surveying as a career while kids are still in school.

For this reason, one can but applaud the work of #getkidsintosurvey initiative³ and its industry sponsors on both sides of the Atlantic to showcase opportunities open to youngsters in the many and varied fields of the profession.

As always, it is putting words into action that counts. This was certainly the case

when Graham Mills, Chairman of Technics Group and former President of The Survey Association, tweeted on the company's presence at a recent Science & Arts Festival in Guildford "It was a great opportunity to show surveying tech and VR visualisations. It's cool when children get to use our laser scanners and explore a 3D building model. When we tell them that what we do is like Minecraft for grown-ups, they get it!

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-first-twelve-institutes-of-technology-announced>

2. https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/knowledge/research/market-surveys/rics_uk_construction_and_infrastructure_survey_q4_2018.pdf

3. <https://www.elaineball.co.uk/campaigns/>

NEWS EXTRA

Pret Delivers 1,000 More Free Meals Every Day Using Maxoptra

Pret a Manger is using an advanced routing and delivery management solution from Maxoptra to boost deliveries of free meals to vulnerable and homeless people across London. Pret run charity the Pret Foundation collects surplus and unsold food, which would otherwise go to waste, and delivers it to charities and community groups across the UK. In London, the Pret Foundation operates its own fleet of vehicles collecting from around 200 stores, 365 days-a-year, delivering to more than 20 frontline organisations. Since using Maxoptra, the Pret Foundation has been able to support an increase in the number of stores it makes daily collections from and has added another 23 charitable organisations to its delivery schedule. www.maxoptra.com



Bluesky 3D Models Improve Mobile, 5G and Smart City Network Planning

3D digital models derived from high resolution aerial photography are helping network operators plan the rollout of services including WISP (Fixed Wireless Access), 5G and Smart City applications. The work by Leeds based Wireless Coverage uses Digital Terrain and Surface models. Derived from Bluesky's aerial photography, the models are used within Wireless Coverage's WISDM software which uses GPU Acceleration technology to create dynamic coverage maps. These maps are already being used to help operators plan network infrastructure, undertake property level look-ups and conduct marketing campaigns. Recent jumps in wireless technology allow huge uplifts in speed of data access and, in the UK alone, it is estimated that over 200,000 new small cell sites will be required. www.bluesky-world.com

Predicting plastic pathways in the Thames and beyond

HR Wallingford, has hosted a workshop aiming to better understand the sources of plastic waste in our waterways, where this waste is transported to, how and where it accumulates, and eventually sinks. Understanding how plastic moves through our rivers, estuaries and coastal waters will help to identify where impacts are taking place and the best ways to mitigate them. The interaction of plastics with the water environment now poses a real risk to aquatic species, to habitats and to the food chain, as well as impacting upon coastal communities and their economies. HR Wallingford is putting together a research proposal which aims to understand the true scale of the plastic influence on aquatic systems. www.hrwallingford.com



ADT And Sfara Launches Comprehensive Fleet Safety And Compliance Solution

Applied Driving Techniques (ADT) has teamed up with Sfara Inc. to develop a comprehensive fleet safety and compliance offering that will solve driver behavioral problems rather than simply diagnosing them. The smartphone-enabled solution will use artificial intelligence (AI) technology to deliver targeted training directly to drivers in a respectful and considerate manner. Additionally, details of any triggered event will be shared with ADT's system, so patterns can be determined and, where necessary, tailored messages or e-training modules sent automatically to the driver. Simply put, it will provide a risk mitigating solution to the driver faster than traditional fleet telematics deliver the problem to the fleet manager, who in turn can take a more hands-off approach for minor infringements and focus on higher risk, persistent offenders. www.applieddriving.co.uk