August 2021

**Ringlink Services invests in new training facility**

Based in Laurencekirk in the North East of Scotland, Ringlink Services has been delivering training for over twenty-five years to an extremely diverse customer base throughout Scotland and the wider UK.

Training remains one of the most crucial elements in maintaining not only the health & safety and welfare of the workforce but also the catalyst to encourage and promote the new skills required to support industry and growth within the economy.

Given the delicate economic position that industry currently faces, the requirement to train and develop the workforce has seldom been as important.

Ringlink Services are therefore delighted to announce the purchase of a new site in Laurencekirk which will operate in tandem with the existing facility. The new site will afford a greater capacity and diversity of training to meet the increasing demand.

Peter Wood, Training Manager says: “We have a strong network of professional trainers and assessors who have expertise in delivering a range of legislative and practical short courses, such as Health and Safety, First-aid, Forklift Operation, Pesticides, Chainsaw Operation, ATV’s and our training portfolio already exceeds 100 certified courses, along with a selection of online training events.”

“The new facility will host a more extensive range of courses which will include agriculturally related training together with construction-based training which will include: New Roads & Streetworks, Crane Operation, Excavation and Dumpers.”

Ringlink currently deliver an extensive amount of Chainsaw and Utility arboriculture training and this will be accommodated in a purpose-built workshop. Additionally, and to encourage the next generation, Ringlink will be investing in a simulator which will be designed for both agricultural and construction training.

The facility will also be accessible for schools and colleges to give students the opportunity to get a ‘taster’ of the various industry sectors and learn about the wide range of career opportunities available.

Peter Wood says: “As the agricultural sector looks to the future, there must be a greater focus on continuous learning so that businesses not only survive, but thrive”.

Given the location of the new centre, just off the A90 between Dundee and Aberdeen and with a mainline train station the new facility is well located to attract businesses and trainees from the entire North East of Scotland and beyond.

This is without doubt an exciting time both for Ringlink and also for training in Scotland.

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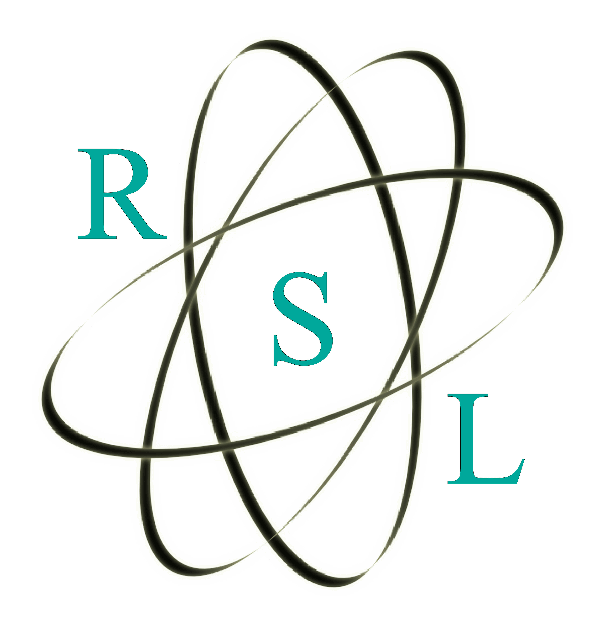
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**About Ringlink Scotland Ltd**

Ringlink Scotland is a rural business co-operative, owned by its 3000 members and managed on behalf of its members to provide a cost-effective platform for efficient member to member trading.

Established in 1988 Ringlink has seen significant growth progressing from a company focusing entirely on agriculture into a business with diverse activities to cater for the full scope of membership sectors which include: agriculture, haulage, construction, forestry, public sector and utility providers.

The company has a turnover exceeding £50 million and the business continues to invest and grow year on year.

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**About Ringlink Services Ltd**

Founded in 1995, Ringlink Services was originally formed to satisfy the training and labour requirements of the growing membership of Ringlink Scotland.

Now, however, with Lantra and NPTC City & Guilds accreditation – and over 20 years expertise in providing the highest quality training solutions – Ringlink Services Ltd are proud to be a trusted training provider at business level providing courses for local council authorities, government bodies and utility companies.

Typically the business provides courses to approx.8000-9000 trainees annually, with a training turnover of approx. £1million.