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## Building & Construction MONTH

# The Polish Solution

*An alternative approach to filling the skills gap*



**It is hardly a secret that the Construction Industry is undergoing a shortage of skilled people which is approaching the crisis level. In fact, there are those who refer to Newcastle as a 'black hole' when related to the amount of work due to be started and much the same can be said of Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield.**

Solutions are a little thin on the ground, as training has not been a fashionable activity since the 'great recession', and of course would take too long to be of assistance in the present situation. An additional problem is that the industry is aging, 60% of trained people are within ten years of retiring.

Into this rather gloomy picture comes a ray of sunshine. Central European Staffing, a company providing Polish workers with offices in the UK and a keenness to provide staff for the North. Agnes Wrodczyk who runs CE Staffing UK operation explains "we are here to ensure that the regulations and requirements are fulfilled

and that both parties to the contract are treated fairly. We are capable of providing all types of trained and qualified personnel; the qualifications and education are not so different to those in Poland. This is not a way of getting cheap labour but it is a sure way of filling vacancies with qualified people". Language is the most often expressed concern by potential employers. CE Staffing have taken this concern in an impressively practical manner and have removed most of this concern.

We have spoken to employers who have used CE Staffing and without exception they speak with glowing praise of the efficiency of the agency. They cannot speak too highly of the Polish personnel with some of them even being considered for Senior positions.

Perhaps some of you might see a solution and have the courage and foresight to grasp it.

Charles Dundas-Sleath