

SUMMARY REPORT ON SECOND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PERIOD

NAME: David Mark Wozny

COURSE OF STUDY: BEng Honours Computer-Aided Engineering

PERIOD OF TRAINING: 10th February 1992 - 25th September 1992

NUMBER OF WEEKS TRAINING RECEIVED: Thirty Three

TASK: The rationalisation and re-organisation of the stores facilities within the company

COMPANY: GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators Limited,
Large Generators, Lichfield Road, Stafford

Summary of Work Undertaken

As a consequence of the merger of GEC Turbine Generators with ALSTHOM of France, GEC ALSTHOM Turbine Generators, Large Generator Division will now concentrate on the manufacture of rotors. Apart from the necessary changes in working practices, it also means that large areas of the factory will now be redundant and hence rationalisation of the factory is needed, this leads to my project brief.

My original brief was to rationalise and re-organise all the facilities within the company under the umbrella of stores. These facilities are situated at several different locations on site, this causes problems for employees who may have to visit several different locations to obtain all of the parts that he or she may need, and also for stock control and the effective use of stores personnel. However, the scope of the project was too wide to be engineered in my six months within the company, so my first task was to decide what was feasible and then make a master plan of the work in hand, once this was done I could proceed.

I tackled the project in two distinct steps, those being:

- i) rationalise material currently stored;
- ii) design new layout and engineer the re-organisation / re-location.

Rationalising material involved investigating past, current and projected future usage of material within the different stores and then making a decision as to whether the material currently held needed to be retained in the present quantities, whether the buffer level could be reduced, whether the material should be scrapped or sold off, or whether the material should be transferred to our sister company in Belfort, France.

In engineering the re-organisation or re-location of facilities I was responsible for the layout design, tendering, preparing sanctions, placement of orders, supervising sub-contractors and the closing of the order. I also initiated new procedures for binning parts that has been adopted with success.

Skills Acquired and Experience Gained

On a personal level I am more than satisfied with what I have achieved during my seven months with the company. I believe that I have made a worthwhile contribution to the manufacturing side of the company, both in terms of the new facilities that have been built and also the new practices that are to be adopted in the main production stores.

Throughout my project I was given authority to spend large sums of money, this instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility and I feel that I have spent the money in a competent and rational way. I ensured that people who were charging their time against my projects were well briefed on their tasks and I diplomatically encouraged them to get on with it! In no way would I accept 'shoddy' work or lethargic attitudes, in fact several times I had to tell shop supervisors to take their men off my jobs because they were not working as well as I believed that they should be.

My project in the stores coincided with a severe shortage of stores personnel and the stores controller for various reasons, because of this I had a great deal more responsibility thrust on me than I had planned. I feel that I responded very well to this added responsibility, but it obviously took up a considerable amount of my time that should of been used implementing my own ideas.

In engineering the re-organisation of the stores, I have been exposed to the difficulties that can be encountered when dealing with outside contractors, organising shop labour and co-ordinating the multitude of different activities that need to be programmed to ensure that a project is completed on time and within budget. I feel that my placement has been a personal success and of substantial benefit to the company.