PRELUDE TO THE FUTURE

THE SUCCESS of a four-way partnership to generate skilled local workforce has been extended to 20 new Territorians.

Energy giant Shell Australia’s Prelude FLNG project, in partnership with the NT Government, GTNT and Charles Darwin University, has extended the $800,000 program to a second group of apprentices.

Prelude FLNG and the NT Government split the program costs.

Shell Australia is pioneering the use of floating LNG through the $49.6 billion Prelude project, where the world’s floating off-shore facility is being built to process gas from the Prelude field in the Browse basin.

GTNT Employment Services Manager, Amelia Seipel, said the “Prelude to the Future” program was modelled on similar projects such as the Katherine Automotive intensive apprenticeship program.

“This program aligns under Prelude’s social investment strategy,” Ms Seipel said. “The program was designed to allow pathways into the oil and gas industry and was flexible enough for apprentices to move into other trades.

“We train them at Charles Darwin University who put them through an intensive first 26 weeks employment program where they package 12 months of training in the 26-week period. Also completed are work placements with various local employers. “From there they were moved into full-time opportunities. To date 18 of the 20 have gone into employment and training.”

Mrs Seipel said the program, although targeted at diesel fitters, was flexible enough for apprentices to move into other trades including plumbing and carpentry.

“CDU created a class of its own for this group. The CDU has been very selective in the units which give them cross-range exposure to other trades,” she said.

The first Prelude to the Future program focused on heavy vehicle industry and the second which started on July 4, is to focus on the transport and logistic industry.

Applicants had to apply online to GTNT and go through a formal recruitment process, including aptitude testing, to be considered.

From there 20 apprentices commenced training in January 2015 using 18 host employers.

The second Prelude to the Future program has another 20 people. Out of the 20, six are indigenous and six are female.

Mrs Seipel said the transport and logistics industry was critical in supplying the oil and gas sector.

Participants started their study two weeks ago,” she said. “To increase the employability of participants each will receive training in first aid, operating a forklift, employability skills and a number of certificate qualifications including the construction industry White Card training.

The objectives of these programs are aligned to the “Prelude’s Social Investment Strategy 2014–2017” and the Northern Territory Government’s “Framing the Future Strategic Plan.”

“We encourage more local employers in the Transport and Logistics sector to support this program by providing work placements that will commence on 31st October 2016 and ongoing employment at the end of the 26 weeks intensive training.

I’m a fitter machinist by trade and I’ve always had an interest in how LNG plants operate,” Nathan said. “This traineeship was a chance for a total career change and new opportunities.”

Run through Charles Darwin University’s North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas, which was established with the support of $3 million from the Ichthys LNG Project, the program is overseen by Australian Apprentice ships NT.

Nathan and his fellow trainees will complete their course at the end of the year.

“I feel very fortunate to be a part of the traineeship program,” he said.

The Ichthys LNG Project has an expected operating life of at least 40 years.

TRAINING FOR TERRITORIANS

With two major LNG plants land service and supply bases located at the gateway to Asian markets, Darwin is cementing its place as one of Australia’s key oil and gas hubs.

The growing industry is creating opportunities for Territorians to establish a career in LNG at home.

Palmerston man Nathan Evans is one local taking up the opportunity for a career transition.

He is among 10 Territorians selected from more than 1000 applicants nationwide to undertake a two-year traineeship with the INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG Project to complete a Certificate III in Process Plant Operations.

“I’m a fitter machinist by trade and would like to pursue a career in the oil and gas industry,” he said.

Kevin Christensen, CEO of the Northern Territory Government’s Training and Employment Central Australia (TnECA) said the program was offering a unique opportunity for locals.

“Going forward in 2017, the Ichthys project will need 50-60 trainees who will fill the positions of apprentices and trainees,” he said.

The program is split into two phases:

Phase 1 - Applications have been taken for 10 trainees to commence in July 2016.

Phase 2 - Applications are being taken for a further 40 trainees to commence in January 2017.

Trainees will be offered a paid program of intensive training with a formal employment outcome at completion.

Trainees will complete a Certificate III in Process Plant Operations.

Applications are now open until 26 August 2016.

Applicants must hold a year 10 schooling qualification, and gain acceptance of a job offer from a trainee employer.

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions of the traineeship program, ensuring they meet all eligibility requirements.

For more information, please contact GTNT for more details. 

Gala dinner tickets on sale now

Be part of the Northern Territory Training Awards and celebrate excellence and achievements in vocational education and training in the NT.

Tickets include live entertainment, a three course meal, select beverages and official MC Lochie Daddo.

Date: Saturday 10 September 2016
Venue: Darwin Convention Centre
Time: 6.30pm - 12.00am
Cost: $150
Dress: Territory Formal
Bookings: trainingawards.nt.gov.au or call (08) 8935 7750

Tickets are on sale now until 26 August 2016.