



## PRESS RELEASE

### TLS launches UK workshop apprenticeship programme

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As part of the ongoing development of its 3<sup>rd</sup> party maintenance programme, GE's TLS Vehicle Rental has announced the launch of the TLS UK Workshop Apprenticeship Scheme, with the rental company seeking to make a long-term investment in additional qualified technicians for its UK branch network.

The TLS's Apprenticeship scheme will have an intake of twelve students who will start a three year programme with the final qualification being an NVQ Level 2/3 in Vehicle Maintenance. For this City & Guilds approved qualification, the twelve selected apprentices will attend formal college training at Stephenson's College in the Midlands as well as undertaking on site training at twelve of the TLS UK branches.

"The decision by TLS to invest heavily in training goes back to the major changes that took place with our maintenance programme, when we in-sourced all of our UK-based workshops. By placing more emphasis on in house service staff, we identified a need for additional qualified technicians," said Carl D'Amassa, CEO, TLS Vehicle Rental and GE Plant Hire.

This is the first time that TLS has made such a significant and serious investment in a long-term apprenticeship scheme and, concurrent with this announcement, the UK Apprenticeship Programme is also being rolled out at other businesses within GE's Equipment Services Division.

"Our investment in training is just not just limited to this new apprenticeship scheme. We will be using Stephenson's College and their facilities for other ongoing TLS staff training activities as well," added D'Amassa.



GE  
Equipment Services  
TLS Vehicle Rental

TLS's UK Workshop Apprenticeship Programme rolls out with immediate effect targeting school leavers in the 16 – 19 age category in May and June, with the formal college training commencing in September 2008.

“Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Maintenance Programme has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months with the introduction of substantial in-house skills and expertise. However, we do recognise that there is a national shortage of qualified technicians and believe that by introducing our own apprenticeship programme, we will go along way towards providing a long term answer to that shortage, whilst giving our customers even better support from our depots,” concluded D’Ammassa.

TLS are recruiting on a national basis for its UK Apprenticeship Programme and any potential applicants should contact the college via their website [http://www.stephensoncoll.ac.uk/courseDetails.asp?course\\_id=1216](http://www.stephensoncoll.ac.uk/courseDetails.asp?course_id=1216) or visit the TLS website on [www.tls.co.uk](http://www.tls.co.uk) for more details on how to join this progressive new training initiative.

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**Equipment Services TLS Vehicle Rental** operates one of the UK's largest commercial vehicle hire and rental fleets with more than 18,000 vehicles operating from 27 locations across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.tls.co.uk/>.

**GE Equipment Services** improves customer productivity by providing customized solutions for the renting, financing, servicing, and tracking of transportation, accommodation, construction & commercial vehicle assets. With \$16B of assets, GE Equipment Services is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, USA.

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