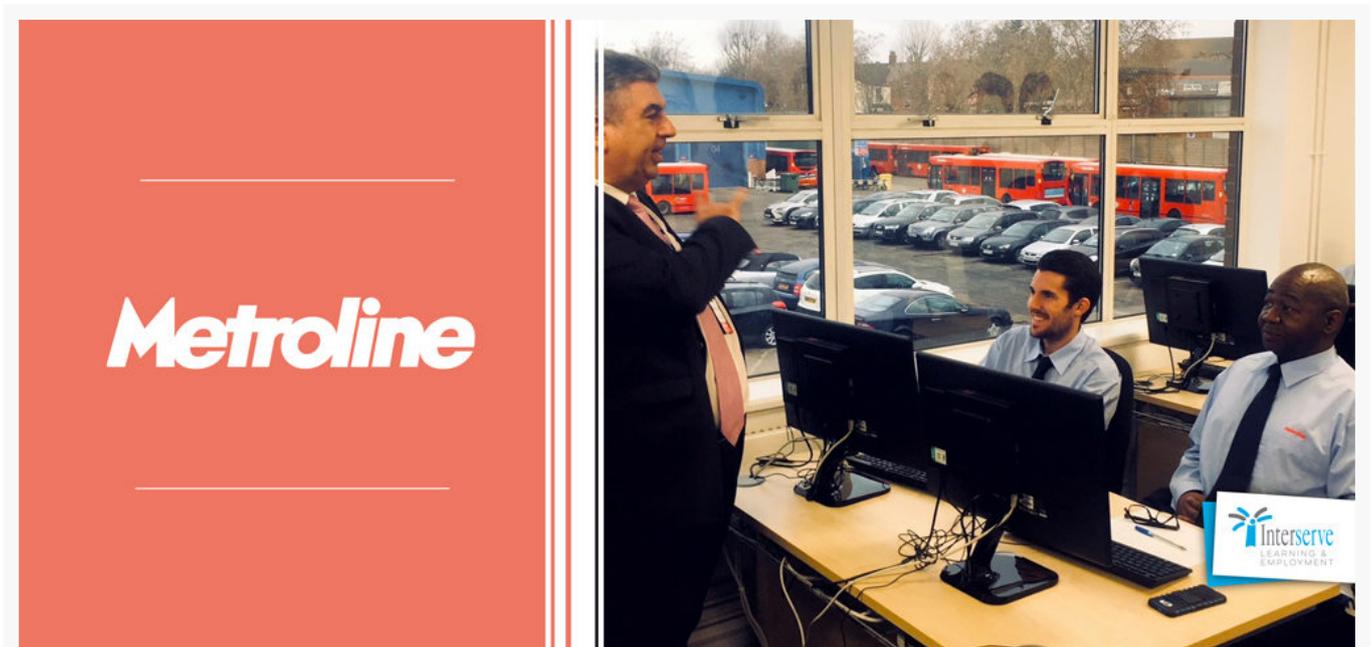




Metroline launches bus driver apprenticeship scheme with Interserve



Metroline, one of London's leading bus operators, is the first London Passenger Transport Operator to launch the new Bus Driver level 2 apprenticeship standard for bus drivers.

The apprenticeship will benefit new recruits, providing them with a 12-month apprenticeship programme which has been collaboratively designed by Metroline and Interserve Learning & Employment.

The apprenticeship programme is being launched at the new Metroline Skills and Development Centre in Willesden with 24 places initially on offer.

Metroline is working in partnership with Interserve Learning & Employment to ensure that apprentices are well-supported and that the scheme is as comprehensive and beneficial to



trainees as possible.

The programme is based on Metroline's existing bus driver training module; which has been enhanced and extended with the support of Interserve to deliver practical, on-the-job learning with theory-based training.

Each year Metroline trains about 600 drivers to provide high-quality driving, excellent customer service with a key focus on safety as core aspects of the programme.

Metroline, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based ComfortDelGro, one of the world's largest passenger land transport companies, employs more than 5,000 people, almost 4,500 of these are drivers, with a team of more than 250 engineers. It currently operates 99 routes, mostly for Transport for London (TfL), and operates two commercial routes in Hertfordshire.

Stephen Harris, Metroline operations director, said: "The Bus Driver Apprenticeship provides a fantastic opportunity to learn all the skills required to become a competent, confident and safe bus driver with Metroline while being supported by Interserve Learning & Employment's training professionals.

"We have worked closely with Interserve Learning & Employment, combining our passenger transport industry experience with their proven apprenticeship knowledge, experience and management of the apprenticeship levy.

"Together we have created a training programme to make the scheme as advantageous to our business as it is to the learner. We are now excited to be able to deliver this pilot scheme before rolling it out to the 600 new drivers who join Metroline each year."

Gregg Scott, Interserve Learning & Employment's director of national accounts, said: "With a proven track record in delivering apprenticeships across a wide range of sectors, including transport, we are delighted to be working with Metroline, an industry leader in this area, to launch an apprenticeship programme which will create the next generation of London's bus drivers.

"Over many months our teams have worked with a true partnership spirit to create a programme that supports new drivers in all aspects of their role and the first of its kind in London."

Metroline has a track record of successful apprenticeship schemes; its engineering apprenticeship programme has benefited hundreds of trainees since it began more than a decade ago.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT INTERSERVE LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT

Interserve is one of the world's foremost support services and construction companies. Our vision is to redefine the future for people and places. Everything we do is shaped by our core values. We are a successful, growing, international business: a leader in innovative and sustainable outcomes for our clients and a great place to work for our people. We offer advice, design, construction, equipment, facilities management and frontline public services. Headquartered in the UK and FTSE listed, we have gross revenues of £3.6 billion and a workforce of circa 80,000 people worldwide.

ABOUT METROLINE

Metroline is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore based ComfortDelGro; one of the world's largest passenger land transport companies. As part of the successful ComfortDelGro Group, Metroline's main focus is to become the best London bus company in the capital, carrying more than one million Londoners each day. Metroline employs more than 5,000 people; almost 4,500 of these are drivers, with a team of over more engineers. It operates 14 garages across London and operates a purpose-built state of the art engineering facility in West Perivale called the Central Engineering and Logistics Facility. It currently operates 99 routes, mostly for London Buses, and operates two commercial routes in Hertfordshire. The Metroline fleet consist of 1,682 buses, which includes over 100 hybrid buses that have the highest environmental credentials. The fleet also includes 32 New Bus for London models and is the first operator in London to provide an entire route, route 24, served by this bus.

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