

2015

Apprentice of the Year | **Winner:** Ben Freeman, Safran Aircelle

Celebrating young people demonstrating the potential to contribute greatly to the future of their company and the industry as a whole

Overview

At the time of the award, Ben Freeman was a composite apprentice in his fourth and final year of the programme at Safran Nacelles. He completed his HNC in Mechanical Engineering, passing at a very high grade. Ben also completed his phase tests in the composite department of the company with flying colours.

Ben was consulted in the development of the Composites Assured Practitioner Scheme (CAP) and provided a major contribution to producing the first assessment criteria allowing the scheme move forward. Ben visited numerous composite companies to help set up the programme throughout the country.

Safran Nacelles recruit both Aircraft Fitting Apprentices and Composite Engineering Apprentices which allows for young engineers to be developed to meet the specific needs of the company. In year one, Ben worked practically towards his NVQ Level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations at the company's training partner, Burnley College, to achieve the basic skills required – pre-preg laminating, hand-fitting, turning and milling.

In year two, Ben participated in work onsite at Safran Nacelles including clean room, lab, autoclave, composite finishing, NDT, sheet metal, aircraft fitting, quality engineering. This led to year three with dedicated time in the clean room dictated by units chosen for his Level 3 NVQ in Composite Engineering.

Ben now works in the Quality Department at Safran Nacelles.



“The award Ben achieved is testament to his hard work and endeavour throughout his apprenticeship. As a company we are very proud of Ben and looking to the future we are confident in the knowledge that the apprentice pool in Composites are all at an extremely high standard. This is a tribute to the behind the scenes work of the Training Department here at Burnley and the mentoring and guidance from our team of Process Managers.

“We are continuing to work in conjunction with Composites UK to develop the CAP Silver Award after developing and training 100 operators to the Bronze standard.”

**Graham Banks, UAP Leader
Composites, Safran Nacelles**

The Composites UK Industry Awards are presented at the black-tie dinner on the first Wednesday in November. The event is aligned with the Composites Engineering Show in Birmingham.

Keep an eye out for our annual nomination process every May for your chance to apply.

www.compositesuk.co.uk/awardsdinner