

Hays Reports Construction Sector Seeking Flexible Freelancers

Hays has reported that employers in the construction sector remain keen to utilise the skills of individuals on a freelance or interim basis following ongoing investment in the public sector

(FV Newswire) December 30, 2009 -- Hays, the world's leading recruiting experts in qualified, professional and skilled people, has reported that the construction sector is seeking flexible freelancers with a first-rate career history and experience in the public sector.

Ongoing investment in the public sector has generated a demand for experienced individuals to work on a range of refurbishment, rebuild and extension projects, including local authority buildings, hospital renovation projects and the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Social housing (<http://www.hays.co.uk/socialhousing/>) is another area that has remained resilient.

"Site managers with Decent Homes or Responsive Repairs experience working with contractors on behalf of housing associations, councils and schools are sought after," said Tony Keel, Regional Manager at Hays Construction.

On the commercial side, the demand for estimators, bid managers and business development managers has also remained steady, as many contractors are preparing their bids for future project work.

"There is a demand for pre-contract and tendering expertise as well as estimating (<http://www.hays.co.uk/construction/estimating/>) and bid management skills in the current marketplace," continued Keel.

A visible trend in the market is how the way in which the role of the temporary and interim workforce has evolved, due to the flexibility they offer an employer.

"Temporary roles are more in demand than permanent positions and we are seeing an increase in registered temp to perm jobs," continued Keel. "Candidates need to remember that the temporary option offers them a foot in the door and those with strong CVs will be in a great position to benefit when the market recovers."

There is still activity in the residential market, particularly in the larger cities, with affordable housing and shared ownership through house builders' refurbishment activity providing constant project work. The demand for trades and labouring jobs has remained steady overall, although the average length of a contract has been reduced.

"Contractors working on these developments are still busy and this has fuelled demand for quality trades in this area. There are also excellent opportunities for companies with strong cash flow to upgrade properties now and resell when prices rise again," added Keel.

Employers can afford to be more selective as to the calibre of applicants they recruit and the specific requirements needed given the volume of experienced site staff in the marketplace.

"Candidates need to focus on their CV's, clearly outlining how their skills differentiate from others and also concentrate on their interview technique - creating a positive first impression is critical," concluded Keel.

About Hays Construction:

Hays Construction is part of Hays plc (the "Group"), the leading global specialist recruiting group, specialising in a range of construction jobs (<http://www.hays.co.uk/construction/>) from labouring jobs (<http://www.hays.co.uk/construction/labouring/>) to quantity surveying jobs (<http://www.hays.co.uk/construction/quantitiesurveying/>). It is the expert at recruiting qualified, professional and skilled people worldwide, being the market leader in the UK and Australia and one of the market leaders in Continental Europe. It operates across the private and public sectors, dealing in permanent positions, contract roles and temporary assignments.

The Group employs 6,933 staff operating from 345 offices in 28 countries across 17 specialisms.

For the year ended 30 June 2009:

The Group had revenues of £2.4 billion, net fees of £670.8 million and operating profit of £158 million. The Group placed around 50,000 candidates into permanent jobs and around 270,000 people into temporary assignments. The temporary placement business represented 56% of net fees and the permanent placement business represented 44% of net fees.

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