

BOOSTING THE METROLOGY WORKFORCE – ONE APPRENTICE AT A TIME

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The greying of hair in the metrology field warns of an impending shortage of skilled technicians. The Measurement Standards Laboratory (MSL) is New Zealand's national metrology institute and has recognised that metrology services are key in helping NZ businesses remain competitive in rapidly advancing technological areas on the international stage.

To achieve this vision, MSL looked at various ways of promoting metrology as a career choice. Should we be looking for school leavers or more experienced workers seeking a change in direction? Should we focus on theoretical education through schools, polytechnics and universities or practical based on-the-job training in conjunction with employers? How to identify individuals with the right mix of personal qualities and practical skills?

In this presentation I will provide an overview of apprenticeships in New Zealand and how MSL's motivation to address the lack of metrology education available in NZ led to forming our own metrology apprenticeship scheme.

I will discuss how we went about recruiting and choosing a candidate, the program of education and work that we've followed and the things we've learned along the way. I'll introduce MSL's first ever Early Career Measurement Technician and report on her progress so far.

Example from
previous conference
only