

# Merger strengthens service

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Together: Syntax, the East Midlands' largest independently owned IT and technical recruitment consultancy, has merged with UKCC. From left, Charlotte Coe and Roger Frost

Nottinghamshire specialist recruitment agency The UK Career Consultancy has merged with Derby-based Syntax Consultancy to strengthen its service to engineering and technical businesses throughout the UK.

The company, based in Tollerton is headed up by Director Charlotte Coe who has more than 20 years experience in engineering and technical recruitment and who will now head up the specialist division at Syntax - the East Midlands' largest independently owned IT and technical recruitment consultancy.

The move follows Syntax's merger last October with Arcanza IT support services and Software Training Services Ltd – which has enabled it to expand its service-offering to clients.

As Syntax Managing Director Roger Frost explained, the merger with The UK Career Consultancy will particularly benefit engineering and technical businesses who are facing skills shortages and require specialist recruitment support in this tough trading climate.

He explained: "Although Syntax started life more than 20 years working with the IT industry for their permanent and contract recruitment needs, we have successfully expanded over recent years into engineering and technical recruitment and have more recently diversified to offer clients the additional services of IT support and training.

"We have a solid client base of larger engineering and technical clients particularly in the energy and aerospace industries and The UK Career Consultancy has an excellent reputation working with Midlands-based SMEs.

"This merger will therefore enable those smaller companies – many of whom are suffering from skills shortages particularly at management level – to also benefit from our wider services and proven expertise."

Charlotte Coe continued: "This merger brings together two businesses - each with more than 20 years' recruitment experience - under the same banner.

"This combined strength enables us to work closely with the engineering and technical sector and find them the right people for the right job so that they have the skills to survive the recession and thrive when the inevitable economic upturn comes.

“Businesses in this sector have undoubtedly suffered in this tough economic climate but they all share the common goal of ensuring that they maintain and build on the skills levels in their businesses to secure their long-term futures.

“There is a great deal of synergy between our two businesses, not least an ethical and added value ethos which secures long term business relationships rather than short term wins.

“I am looking forward to heading up the Syntax engineering and technical recruitment team and strengthening our profile on a local, regional and national level.”

The merger coincides with Syntax’s re-brand to reflect its wider services and the company’s acceptance onto East Midlands Development Agency’s flagship HighGrowth scheme in recognition of its continued strong performance in the recruitment, training and IT services sectors.

It has joined more than 70 fellow high growth businesses in the region in the business support scheme which helps ambitious and forwarding thinking businesses achieve their full growth potential at a time when the company has seen a 35% increase in gross profit in the first six months of its 2009/2009 financial year – achieving £6 million turnover and £1 million gross profit.

Roger Frost concluded: “Syntax is proof that diversification and expansion in a climate when many businesses are batoning down the hatches really does pay and we are certainly bucking the trend in the recruitment industry.”