

# Project Controls are for Everyone

**GO FORTH ECITB** Project Controls training comes to you from a global expert. **Steve Welch** finds out more from **Shane Forth**

Shane Forth



**S**hane Forth is Principal Consultant and as GO FORTH delivers ECITB Project Controls training courses to the UK engineering and construction industry.

**Steve Welch:** Could you tell me a little about your background in the industry?

**Shane Forth:** I started out as a planning engineer and progressed into project controls. I am a recognised worldwide expert and a Fellow of APM and ACostE, who has been involved in numerous large-scale engineering and construction projects.

During my thirty years in leadership positions at companies like Costain, AMEC and Whessoe. I have pioneered innovative project control methodologies.

My industry leadership has brought people and groups together to benefit the wider project controls community. The first project controls modern apprenticeships, career pathways, graduate programmes, competency frameworks, and

professional recognition are a few examples. Afterwards, I was Chair of the Trailblazer groups for the Apprenticeship Programmes in Project Controls Technician and Project Control Professional.

As an experienced thought leader, I share my knowledge widely, speaking at prestigious international conferences. I have developed close ties with academia as a visiting lecturer and am author and consulting editor of the Practitioner Handbook of Project Controls.

**SW:** Could you provide a summary of your organization and offering to the market?

**SF:** In 2019, my wife Maureen and I established GO FORTH as a self-employed partnership.

After I developed the learning material, I taught two cohorts of project controls apprentices at Middlesbrough College, moving from classroom to virtual delivery due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In March 2021, GO FORTH became an ECITB Approved Training Provider (ATP) for:

- ECITB Introduction to Project Controls
- ECITB Managing Risk as Part of a Project Team
- ECITB Estimating Methodology and Practice
- ECITB Project Document Managers Course

**SW:** Who in the main are the companies you engage with and in what way?

**SF:** In just three years I have delivered project controls training for 40 ECITB member companies in the UK engineering & construction industry. Many are now regular customers.

Understanding and satisfying customer needs is the cornerstone of the GO FORTH operating model, that consists of a distinct offering and some important differentiators that include:

**QUALITY** I teach all courses. My 49-years in-depth experience bring the courses to life for delegates from lots of real-world examples.

**HIGHLY INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM** (Microsoft Teams) with real world project case studies, individual and group exercises, break-out rooms, quizzes and easy access to digital course materials.

**SMALL CLASS SIZES** (4-8 delegates) allow delegates to quickly bond as a team. This improves focus, engagement, participation and collaboration. Delegates learn from each other's and my own experience.

**FLEXIBILITY** half-day delivery format and plenty of comfort breaks prevent screen fatigue. Employers also benefit with delegates returning to their 'day job' in the afternoon.

**PROJECT CONTROLS ARE FOR EVERYONE**

Attendees to our Courses include Directors, Managers, Lead & Senior Engineers, Consultants, Graduates, Apprentices, Trainees and Administrative staff from many project team roles that include and go beyond project controls, encompassing 16 job families and

almost 100 job roles. So, whether our customer's training needs are for apprentices, graduates, early career project controllers, project control practitioners, or to upskill their project teams in other roles, this just goes to show that project controls are for everyone. Delegates are 40% Female 60%, Male so heading towards 50/50.

**AFFORDABILITY** as a small business, GO FORTH course costs are significantly lower than other training providers offering the same courses.

**SW:** Do you have a project or case study you could provide some details of?

**SF:** I can give two examples: Shepley Engineers have been delivering engineering excellence for over 70 years, working on several nuclear plants, restoring the Houses of Parliament and other complex projects.

In 2023-24, as part of a strategic initiative for a standard approach to project control and risk management, based on best practices like APM methodologies and to gain a shared understanding, GO FORTH have delivered a series of ECITB Introduction to Project Controls and ECITB Managing Risk as Part of a Project Team courses to 19 key staff, including UK Projects Director, Head of Restoration, Contracts Managers and project team members from Project Management, Project Engineering, Commercial & Q.S., Production, Project Controls and Cost Engineering.

Course feedback shows the success of the training delivery ...

**CONTRACTS MANAGER:** one of best training providers I've encountered in almost 30 years in the industry.

**SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER** I was initially worried about the length of the course and it being virtual, so it surprised me how effective and efficient it was. I preferred it to traditional classrooms and it had a good mix of interaction and exercises. I stayed engaged better and the sessions and five days went quickly. I enjoyed it and got some

Projects Director	Commercial Manager
Head of Business Unit	Quantity Surveyors (2)
Contracts Managers (2)	Assistant Quantity Surveyor
Senior Project Managers (2)	Production Manager
Junior Project Manager	Trainee Project Controller
Trainee Project Manager	Assistant Cost Engineer
Project Engineers (3)	Trainee Cost Engineer

Shepley  
Engineers: Job  
Roles who have  
attended ECITB  
Project Control

good learning and refreshment from both courses.

Following the training, risk management, earned value analysis, performance measurement and project reviews are all being implemented consistently and effectively on complex projects as part of the Shepley Way.

Jacobs develops its future workforce with an industry-recognized Graduate Development Programme.

In early 2023, GO FORTH was asked to assist the programme in the UK by delivering ECITB Introduction training for ten project controls graduates from Major Programmes, Consulting & Advisory, Nuclear and Defence.

Two courses were delivered with five graduates on each. The graduates enjoyed the interactive and collaborative nature of the course and valued the small class size and half-day format. A further seven graduates participated in 2024.

**SW:** What are your reflections on 2023?

**SF:** At 68 years of age, I continue to enjoy my work immensely. A 2023

highlight was receiving the Global Project Controls Lifetime Contribution award at the Project Controls Expo.

**SW:** What do you see as the key trends in the sector?

**SF:** The 4th Industrial revolution and growing impact of AI.

**SW:** What are your objectives looking ahead to 2023 and beyond?

**SF:** Keep enjoying what I'm doing and continue to help my customers.

**SW:** What are the main challenges facing the sector more generally and for you specifically?

**SF:** For the sector as always, upskilling and attracting new entrants. For myself, no major challenges. Stay healthy to keep enjoying what I do.

**SW:** How would you sum up your message to the market.

**SF:** Let's continue to work together to help build and develop the people and their knowledge, skills and behaviours to ensure project success.

[www.goforth.org.uk](http://www.goforth.org.uk)



Jacobs Graduates  
attending ECITB  
Introduction to  
Project Controls  
training course.