

Case Study: Gateshead College and Aberlink – A Partnership Driving Industry-Relevant Learning



Overview

The latest revision of the *Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) - HNC in Mechanical Engineering for England* has emphasized the need for educational institutions to collaborate with industry specialists. These partnerships ensure that students gain industry-relevant knowledge and practical skills aligned with real-world expectations. When Gateshead College began revising its Quality Control modules, finding the right partner became a critical step in shaping the future of its engineering curriculum.

The Challenge

Gateshead College faced the challenge of identifying a partner capable of delivering cutting-edge quality control solutions, providing hands-on training, and enhancing the overall learning experience for students. The ideal partner would not only supply state-of-the-art technology but also support the program with industry expertise, ease of implementation, and cost efficiency.

The Solution

After evaluating several options, Gateshead College chose Aberlink as its quality control partner. This decision was based on Aberlink's reputation for delivering high-quality, easy-to-use Coordinate Measuring Machines (CMMs) and its commitment to supporting education.

The college invested in two Aberlink systems:

- A **Fulcrum Manual CMM**, designed for first- and second-year students to develop foundational skills.
- An **Extol CNC CMM**, allowing students to progress onto more advanced, automated measurement techniques later in their course.

This two-tiered approach ensures that students gain a comprehensive understanding of quality control processes, preparing them for careers in engineering and manufacturing.



Industry Integration and Support

The partnership goes beyond equipment.

Aberlink plays an active role in enhancing the educational experience by:

1. Hosting tailored training sessions for students, both at Gateshead College's state-of-the-art engineering facility and at Aberlink's office in South Shields.
2. Sharing industry insights and expertise, ensuring the curriculum remains aligned with current and future engineering trends.

Outcomes and Benefits

The collaboration with Aberlink has brought multiple benefits to Gateshead College, including:

- **Enhanced Learning Experience:** Access to the latest quality control technology prepares students for industry expectations.
- **Practical Skills Development:** Tailored training ensures students can confidently operate modern CMMs, making them highly employable.
- **Industry Relevance:** Regular input from Aberlink ensures the curriculum remains aligned with the demands of the engineering sector.



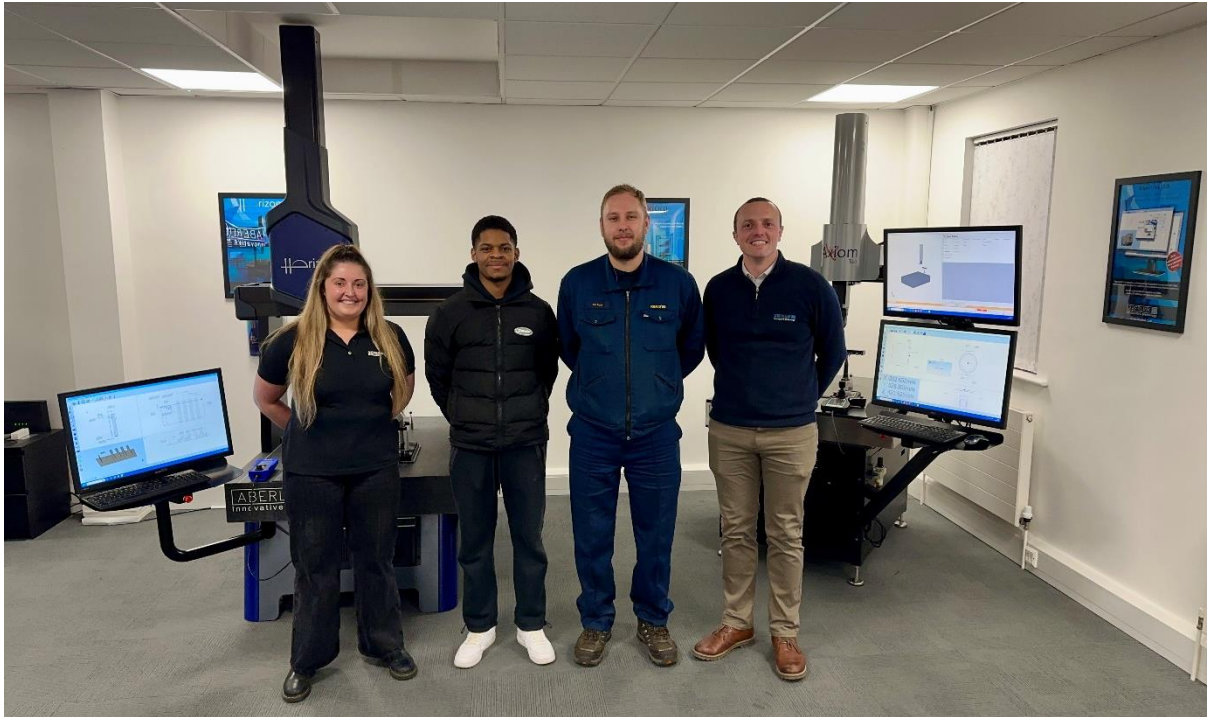
[Quote from Charlotte Brass, Curriculum Leader, Gateshead College:

"Our partnership with Aberlink is transformative for both our students and staff. Aberlink's cutting-edge technology, combined with their commitment to education, ensures our students are prepared for the demands of modern engineering and manufacturing. The hands-on training and real-world insights provided by Aberlink make a measurable difference in the quality of education we deliver at Gateshead College."

Looking Ahead

This partnership demonstrates how collaboration between educational institutions and industry specialists can bridge the gap between education and employment. By equipping students with the tools and knowledge they need, Gateshead College and Aberlink are setting a benchmark for industry-relevant engineering education.

[Quote from Charlotte Brass: "This collaboration sets a new standard for industry-integrated education. By aligning our curriculum with industry expectations and leveraging Aberlink's expertise, we are not just preparing students for jobs; we are equipping them with the skills to excel in their careers. The positive feedback from both students and staff underscores the value of this partnership and its potential to shape the future of engineering education."]



ENDS

Editors Notes

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About Aberlink:

Now the largest UK owned CMM manufacturer, Aberlink’s comprehensive range includes 23 standard sizes of both CNC and manual CMM variants. Aberlink CMMs enable the precise measurement of the smallest of components, to parts of over 3metres long and up to 6 tonnes in weight. Customers can select from a wide range of probing and non-contact measurement options and on-machine fixturing. The company’s wide range of available solutions allows Aberlink to offer high quality CMMs and vision measuring systems to suit all applications and budgets.

Based in Eastcombe, Gloucestershire, Aberlink has established a global reputation for its metrology products which are innovative, easy-to-use and competitively priced.