

JOB TO BE CREATED AND NEW ENERGY ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS

British Gas plans to create 2,600 jobs by 2012 as smart meter roll-out gathers pace

British Gas plans to create 2,600 skilled new jobs by 2012 to lead the roll-out of smart meter technology across Britain.

The announcement comes as British Gas opens its new Energy Academy in Leicester, which will train the engineers of the future - including the smart energy experts who will install British Gas smart meters in millions of homes.

Phil Bentley, managing director of British Gas, said: "British Gas is committed to making our customers' homes the greenest in Europe - cutting their carbon emissions and fuel bills. And we're leading the roll out of smart meters. The announcement of 2,600 new jobs by 2012 shows we

are creating skilled green jobs in Britain and training the experts who will help customers become more energy efficient in the future."

The 2,100 new smart energy experts, who will install smart meters, will also help householders understand how smart meters give them the control to cut their energy use, reduce their carbon footprint, and save money on their fuel bills. The other jobs created will be 400 supporting team members and 130 managerial staff.

As well as installing smart meters, they will be able to:

- * advise customers on the range



of tariffs available - such as time-of-use tariffs, which reward customers for using energy at off-peak times;

- * conduct energy efficiency audits of customers' homes;
- * give tailored advice on measures that could cut energy use, such as insulation;
- * help customers learn about ways of generating their own energy; and
- * install and maintain the low-carbon microgeneration technologies of the future

The announcement of 2,600 new jobs at British Gas is in addition to the 1,500 new green jobs the company announced earlier this year.