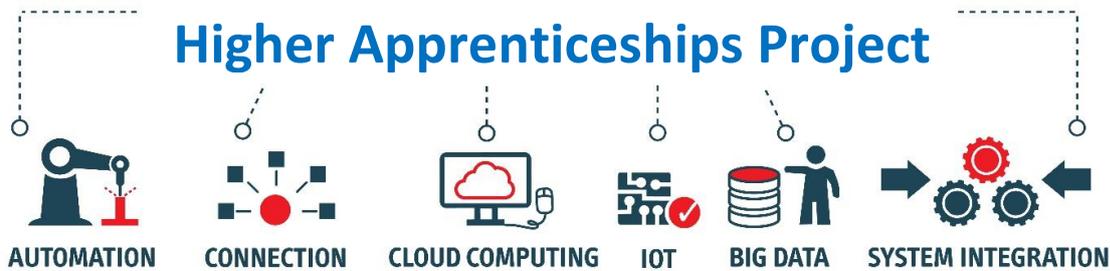


INDUSTRY 4.0

Higher Apprenticeships Project



The fourth industrial revolution is transforming industry, once again making it the source of global growth. Called Industry 4.0, it is about the next stage in industry, driven by digitisation.

Automation, sensors, cloud computing, big data analytics and machine-to-machine communications are driving new business opportunities through integration with the global supply chain. Industry 4.0 technologies make it possible to gather and analyse data across machines enabling faster, more flexible, and more efficient processes to produce higher quality goods at reduced costs.

To remain competitive, businesses will need to embrace these technologies and use them professionally and consistently. Developing new and different skills to use the right digital technology will be vital. This will require us to rethink much of our education and training provision, as well as its intersection with work. The apprenticeship system sits neatly in this space.

Leading a project in collaboration with Siemens Ltd and Swinburne University of Technology, Ai Group has developed a new model that could reinvent apprenticeships in Australia. An initial pilot group of 20 apprentices is working at Siemens and learning higher level skills about Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things, IT Disruptive Technologies, Engineering, Design and Business.

Instead of the traditional Certificate III level of apprenticeship training, these apprentices are undertaking a Diploma and then Associate Degree in Applied Technologies at Swinburne. Once they finish, they will have the option to transition to a new Bachelor of Applied Technologies.

This is a ground-breaking initiative. Not only will this provide higher level qualifications, it will also appeal to a broader cross-section of young people who will gain these qualifications while working in companies that are technology leaders.

The pilot has received funding by the Australian Government through its 'Apprenticeship Training – alternative delivery program'. This has helped cover the cost of designing and managing the pilot and developing the qualifications.

Already, there are efforts to expand the program from the initial pilot to make it available nationally. The vocational Diploma has been accredited in Victoria and is eligible for subsidised training. The apprenticeship will soon be declared as an Approved Training Scheme by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. Discussions with the relevant union to agree on wages in the Award are well advanced. Once these processes are complete, Ai Group will start discussions with other state governments to seek approvals in their jurisdictions.

For further information, contact Peter Canavan on 03 9867 0264 or at peter.canavan@aigroup.com.au.

