

# Purpose Statement

## Open Awards Level 3 Award in Fibre Optics Installation and Testing (RQF)

The primary purpose of this Award qualification prepare you to enter or progress within the growing Communications Networks sector. You could progress onto the nested certificate, which enables smaller periods of learning, ie for the Awards, which could build into a Certificate.

### Who is it for?

The qualification is for you if you are:

- Wishing to enter/train for the field of fibre optics as: installers; joiners; splicers; maintenance technicians and fibre engineers
- Already employed in the industry wishing to formalise their learning and training in the field
- From other industries such as it/datacoms, oil/wind industry and aerospace and security industries using fibre optic cables
- Working in management, sales and equipment related roles in the sector.

### What does this qualification cover?

By the end of the qualification you will be able to:

- Understand the terminology and principles of light transmission through optical fibres
- Understand the principles of working safely with optical fibres
- Understand the components of a fibre-based communications network
- Understand the standard techniques used to join fibres
- Know how to work out system power budgets
- Know how to prepare a fibre optic cable and join cables by fusion splicing
- Understand test requirements and perform standard tests on optical fibre systems
- Know to perform OTDR testing on optical fibre networks and overcome common measurement problems

## **What are the Entry Requirements?**

There are no specific entry requirements, however, you will need basic numeracy, literacy and English language skills.

As colour-coding is used for identification of fibre optic cables, this qualification may not be suitable for those with specific visual impairments such as colour vision impairment.

## **What are the Assessment Methods?**

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence. This will be made up of a variety of coursework and assessments set by your training provider.

Examples of assessment types include:

- Written evidence of knowledge
- Practical skills assessments (tasked based)
- Skills observation
- Verbal question and answer

## **What are the Progression Opportunities?**

This qualification provides a route into employment opportunities and further learning and training in:

- Highways Fibre Optic Installations/Maintenance
- Umbilical Cables Installations/Maintenance
- Telecommunications Engineers/Installation/Maintenance
- Fibre Optic Installations
- Network Planning and Design

## **Who supports this qualification?**

This qualification was developed in partnership with Lucid Optical Services Ltd and is supported by the Fibre Optics Industry Association.