

## **Further education for microtechnologists to the “Staatlich geprüfter Techniker Mikrotechnologien” (State-Certified Engineer)**

In close cooperation with partners from companies and research institutes the microtechnology department of the vocational school Itzehoe (Berufliche Schulen des Kreises Steinburg, Itzehoe) has developed a special three-year practice- and process oriented training course. The further education is especially targeted at experienced microtechnologists pursuing a degree in microtechnology engineering while working full time. Consequently experts either in semiconductor or microsystems or packaging of integrated circuits technology are more than welcome. Based on their vocational training as microtechnologists participants of this three-year course will get the opportunity to enhance their professional skills especially in the above mentioned technologies. Furthermore, topics like technical service, quality and personnel management as well as business studies are dealt with. Both partners, the companies and research institutes on the one hand and the microtechnology department of the vocational school on the other hand, have an important part during this closely coordinated further education. In order to gain experience in microtechnology engineering and its role in daily business operations the companies and research institutes are responsible for letting their participants inspect all the different areas of their companies, e.g. product and process planning, process development as well as project and quality management. Finally, an insight into the realisation of commercial strategies and human resources planning has to be provided.

The companies and research institutes carry out the internal promotion of their future engineers. Naturally, this depends on their facilities and possibilities. During the further education the participants will be able to care of most of their ongoing projects and tasks. However, participants will attend classes at the microtechnology department of the vocational school Itzehoe four times a year. Each period will last four weeks, so altogether they will be away for sixteen weeks per year. During these block releases the technical college instructs the participants in those fields which are not covered by the single company or institute; so all of them will gain the same level of experience. Furthermore, the college is in charge of providing the necessary organisational tasks during the three-year training and will carry out the examinations which are developed in close collaboration with all partners.

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