

1 JUNE 2010



THEY HAVE MANY CHOICES AMONG GREAT JOBS

By KNUT W. HERMANSEN

CAPTION: First Row from L-R: Arne Trandal, FMC Technologies; Even Engebakken, Volvo Aero Norge; Tone Lonhdal Hogstad, Kongsberg Automotive; Second Row from L-R: Volker Heierhoff, FMC Technologies; Levi André Berg Vigdal, Dresser-Rand; Anders Kjensjord, Aker Solutions; Vebjørn Nedrestøl, FMC Technologies; Third Row from L-R: Richard B. Kristofferson, FMC Technologies; Erlend H. Seppola, Aker Solutions; Ola Kalager, Kongsberg Maritime; Anders Ekholdt, FMC Technologies; and Jan Magnus Røkke, Dresser Rand.
PHOTO: Elin Hansson

The master degree in Systems Engineering is the key to a great job.

The second cohort graduated from Buskerud on Monday. Applicants are lining up, as the program is getting better known. This year, there are about 90 applicants for 25 spots. The Systems Engineering Masters program has become one of the flagship engineering degrees at Buskerud. With this many applicants the program can pick the best. The graduates receive a high number of job offers once they have finished their final exams.

Working and Studying

The 12 students that just graduated have completed three years of study [after their Bachelors in Engineering] whereas they have combined their studies with a part-time job in one of the local technology companies and one semester at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey.

This combination of work and studies is called an Industry Masters [degree]. Another option is to get the Master degree as a part-time student over four years.

The relationship with the American university was celebrated by having the 12 graduates wearing the Stevens cap and gown during the graduation ceremony. Dean Verma from Stevens Institute of Technology was present at the ceremony on Monday.

All graduates have been offered [the opportunity] to publish their master thesis in scientific journals. That is a stamp of quality.

Laagendalsposten talked to some of the graduates and asked them to sum up the 3 years of combined work and study. They talk about hectic days where the normal work hours are spent doing their day job and the evenings are dedicated to their studies. Their employers have given them contacts within their companies, which will be a valuable network now and for their future career. "We were treated as any other employee," one of them tells.

Laagendalsposten

Top of the class

The best student was Even Engebakken (25) who was employed by Volvo Aero Norway while studying for his Masters Degree. Now he has a permanent full-time position as a Systems Engineer at the aircraft-engine manufacturer.

Gunnar K. Berge and Jan Erik Korssjøen in the Systems Engineering Department [at Buskerud] reports a significant and increasing interest in the Industry Masters program from their partner companies.

Agendaspøsten

Some [companies] would like to adopt even more students than they already sponsor. The companies see this as a good opportunity to recruit competent employees. That way, this is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

The studies benefit from the close contact with day-to-day application in the technology companies.

The industry benefits from young specialists with up to date competence on the latest knowledge in the field of study.

EVEN ENGEBAKKEN THE ROBOT BUILDER

Even Engbakken who graduated on top of the class, likes to work with robots. He is a good example of what Systems Engineering is about: To integrate smaller units into a larger system. Engbakken is now one of the speakers during Kongsberg Systems Engineering Event. He will present his master thesis to the attendees.

His robot labels components in the production facilities of Volvo Aero Norway. It is ready to go, and Even Engbakken continues with Volvo Aero Norway as well.