



How York
Engineering
broadened
EKF Diagnostics'
employment
scope to react to
Covid-19



Case Study

yolk



EKF Diagnostics are a Penarth based medical manufacturer of point-of-care products and tests for global use.

They needed to rapidly evolve a branch within their business to help the UK combat the global Covid-19 pandemic.

EKF's involvement in the fight against Covid-19 has been to manufacture a sample collection device called PrimeStore® MTM. PrimeStore® is now being supplied to the NHS laboratory testing service provider, as one of the "safest forms of sample collection and transportation in the world."

The Challenge

With the requirement for the NHS meaning manufacturing of the device in the UK needed to be stepped up, it meant there was the need for more workers, which involved the creation of a team of Production Operatives, and a new social distancing safe facility for them to work in.

As Yolk have supplied EKF with successful permanent recruitment solutions in the past, they reached out to us as a first port of call to share thoughts on this exciting new project. It required the rapid creation of a team of temporary workers with specific skills, technical aptitudes and staff reliability was critical.

How we tackled it

✔ **Yolk are well versed in providing temporary recruitment solutions on time and to budget**

Our processes are proven to enable a quick response that doesn't sacrifice on quality, relieving our customers' administrative burden while ensuring compliance with legal and recruitment industry standards.

✔ **Yolk and EKF worked in partnership together throughout the process**

From the initial enquiry, through to sharing knowledge on the logistics and administration that comes with a different way of hiring staff, Yolk acted as EKF's recruitment partner through-out the entire process, reacting to the short term problems, but also mapping ahead for the future. EKF were also able to utilise our knowledge of the marketplace to advise on suitable pay rates and benefits.

We anticipated and solved particular problems in advance that could arise as a result of the pandemic and ensured multiple backup workers were poised for either the next wave of expansion or changes in staffing availability as a result of potential self-isolation.

✔ **Engaging with new and existing candidates**

In addition to advertising with the most successful job boards for this work, we were able to quickly engage with temporary workers who had already received strong references and who had proven reliable from previous temporary assignments with Yolk, re-interviewing and assessing each in line with agreed criteria.

EKF had generated their own ready and willing talent pool through friends and family eager to support the initiative, and we applied the same interview process to these interested applicants to ensure the most suitable candidates were selected.

Results

Yolk have a success rate **98%** of temporary workers completing work to a high standard and remaining in post for the full length of the assignment.

100%

Fulfillment on project

1 week

Project completed on time

40

Production Operatives:
Full team hired

100%

On time attendance
and achievement of
production targets

The Penarth site is expected to produce **12,500** sample collection tubes a day once normal production is established.

EKF will continue to build up its production capacity in the UK and in Europe to fulfil the demand created by the UK Government's testing targets.

Don't just take our word for it. Here's what EKF Diagnostics said...

"Having already worked with Phil and his team on permanent recruitment projects, it was a no-brainer to turn to Yolk Engineering when we had a sudden need for a temporary team of Production Operatives.

With temporary recruitment being a brand new way of hiring for us, partnering with Yolk meant the project was tackled swiftly, we were confident that the best candidates were delivered, and we've been able to hit our strict deadlines on time. Relying on their recruitment knowledge and processes has been incredibly important when getting the new team recruited, on-boarded, and the financial and legal admin sorted immediately.

With the impact of Covid-19 meaning demands are high for medical diagnostics businesses such as ourselves, we can't recommend Phil and his Engineering recruitment team enough when it comes to delivering a professional and quality driven service at speed, especially during such a turbulent time for many businesses."

Gary Dowthwaite PhD, Special Projects Coordinator

Yolk are incredibly grateful to EKF for coming to us with such an important project at what can be seen as a pivotal moment in history as businesses and the NHS come together in the fight against Covid-19.



If you'd like to hear more about how
Yolk Recruitment can help reshape your
recruitment needs, get in touch.

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