

In association with



New training centre is aiming for the heights

■ £120,000 centre to tackle skills shortages

■ Staff specialise in health and safety

KEVIN FEDDY

HEALTH and safety experts Simon Hughes and Ian Fyall hope to scale new heights with their Warrington-based business after investing in a training centre for scaffolders. The duo aim to take

turnover at Simian Risk Management from £580,000 to £1.5m within two years.

They opened the centre in a warehouse next to their premises at Birchwood Park.

They have invested £120,000 to equip the building, which they hope will help to address nationwide skills shortages.

Managing director Simon, 39, said: "Our aim in launching the centre is to deliver accessible, high-quality courses presented by trainers with practical industry experience.

"There is a recognised skills gap in the industry, with a lack of qualified senior scaffolders

and accredited trainers." Simian, which the pair established in November, 2005, employs eight staff and specialises in health and safety training and risk assessment for the construction sector.

Its consultants work for industry giants such as Carillion, Alfred McAlpine, National Grid

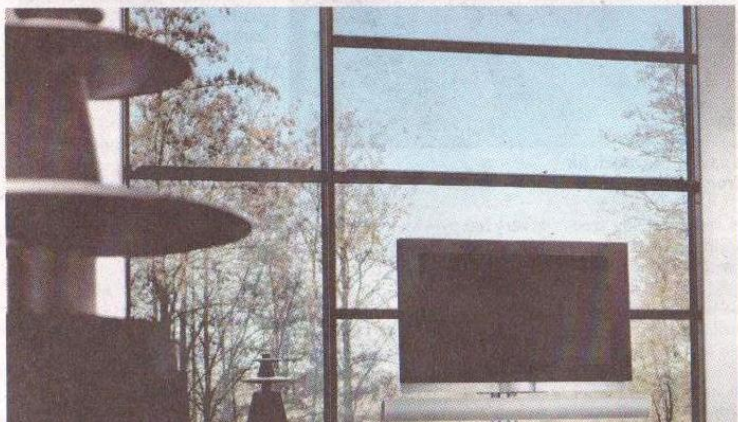
and Scottish Power across building sites, power stations, wind farms, university, school and residential schemes. Simian also carries out checks for insurance companies.

Ian, 43, the firm's operations director, worked for 20 years as a scaffolder before moving into the health and safety arena.

He said today: "We are looking to train the next generation of scaffolders. There's a major demand for training, with too many people seeking too few places. Although there are centres in Manchester, Blackburn and Cumbria, capacity is being outstripped by demand."



MAJOR DEMAND
Ian Fyall, operations director of Simian Risk Management



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Chamber boss makes vow

THE new president of the Altrincham and Sale Chamber of Commerce intends to keep lobbying the government on behalf of small businesses.

Jackie Campbell took the chain of office at the chamber's annual meeting last week.

Mrs Campbell - who has taken over from Altrincham solicitor Michael Lister - founded Faddies Dry Cleaning



>> **UP THERE LIKE A MONKEY** A Simian Risk Management trainee at work in the company's new warehouse centre

BRIEFING