



British Engineers in France

“International Opportunities with a major French Construction Group” ran the advert on various websites. A French contractor, Bouygues, wanted British construction professionals to work in its French business?

“Oui” is the response. Although France is not suffering from a chronic shortage of Engineers like the UK, the organisation wish to encourage innovation by recruiting personnel from across Europe into what was traditionally a very French company.

“The idea is that a company with staff from different countries is more dynamic” says David Myerscough, Bouygues UK’s Senior HR Manager who is selecting candidates along with Julian Anthoney, director of Allant Europe Limited, a specialist recruiter within the construction & property sectors worldwide.

As organisations expand internationally they now require their staff to be mobile, multi-lingual, multi-talented individuals. Only by having mixed nationality teams can this expansion be effectively achieved.

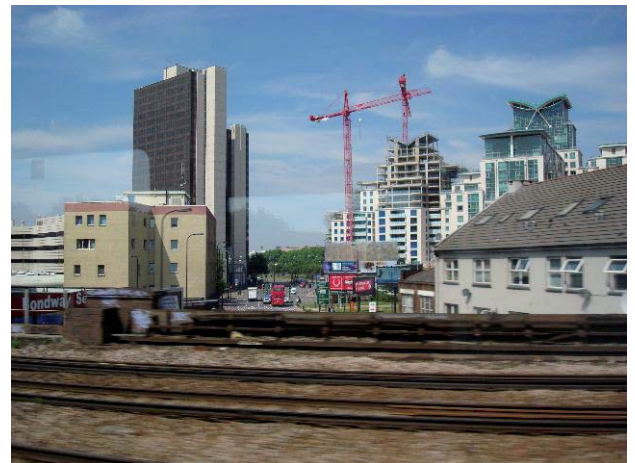
Of course the British have a fascination with France but making the move across the channel was often hampered by a lack of professional opportunities for UK based engineers. That has now changed & applicants can look forward to more holiday, better healthcare & childcare and of course the French way of life.

There is of course a catch. You must speak French to a reasonable level. The company directors are quick to point out that pigeon French spoken by a British quantity surveyor or engineer just isn’t good enough.

“Not many people speak a second language well enough to make a presentation at meetings,” said Julian.

“We test applicant’s language skills. All of our consultants speak fluent French and are able to advise if it’s not quite right. The main problem is sourcing these people - there are thousands who would like to go to France but their language skills are not up to it.”

For those who have the correct level of French the interview process begins. There will be an initial meeting with a consultant from Allant Europe followed by two meetings with Bouygues, one in London & a final level in a French subsidiary.



Anyone interested? So far, Allant Europe has recruited several individuals for the group but is always looking for more. So, if you fancy trying the French way of life & are looking for a new professional challenge give Allant Europe a call. ■

“Allant has become a true partner for our International recruitment.”



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