



May 9th, 2019

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills launches new Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship

Guildford, United Kingdom – Signify (Euronext: LIGHT), the world leader in lighting, today announced the launch of the Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship by the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills. The Apprenticeship is part of Signify's work with the Illuminated River project to illuminate up to 15 bridges on the River Thames, in what will be the longest public art commission in the world, led by the Illuminated River Foundation.

The Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship will be divided into three core elements from 2019 to 2022. The successful apprentice will divide his or her time between: studying towards a qualification such as engineering through Signify's educational partner, the Farnborough College of Technology; supporting work exclusively dedicated to the Illuminated River project; and working across other exciting lighting projects within Signify's UK and Ireland business. This will help them to develop their learning and knowledge, all while earning recognised external qualifications. The Apprenticeship is fully paid, with the starting salaries sitting at £15,000 (for those below 20 years old), and £17,000 (for those over 20 years old). Also, the chosen apprentice will receive the same benefits as permanent employees, including pension contributions and annual bonuses.

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills commented:

"I'm thrilled to help launch the Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship. Apprenticeships offer people of all ages and backgrounds a high-quality route to skilled employment, including the option to gain a degree. Signify is doing fantastic work with its apprentices offering them great support and in return, the apprentices are bringing new inspiration and fresh talent to the business. The Minister added: "Apprentices get paid while they train and can start a great career in a huge range of technology industries including cyber security, aerospace engineering and digital marketing. It's great to see more businesses like Signify embracing our new higher-quality apprenticeship standards which were designed in partnership with leading businesses to make sure apprentices are learning the skills employers need."



(Above: Minister of State the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP and Signify UKI CEO Joao Pola (Centre), with current Signify apprentices)

Sarah Gaventa, Director, Illuminated River Foundation, added: “The Illuminated River project will use connected LED lighting across up to 15 bridges in what will be the world’s longest public art commission. This is a great opportunity for an apprentice to experience it first hand and become part of the team to create an inspirational artwork seen by 200 million people a year, which will have a lasting legacy for London.”

Joao Pola, CEO, Signify UK and Ireland, said: “At Signify, formerly Philips Lighting in the UK, we have invested in training over 15 apprentices over a six-year period. This new Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship builds on our existing schemes for those looking to gain strong work experience with a blue chip, global organisation alongside valuable qualifications, helping them learn skills such as graphic and practical design, customer interaction, and technical skills. Also, it gives them the opportunity to work closely on the Illuminated River project – a groundbreaking public and architectural lighting scheme that will transform the River Thames and areas around it.”

For those interested in the Signify and Illuminated River Project Apprenticeship, please apply by visiting: <https://www.careers.signify.com/jobs/illuminated-rivers-london-irl-lias-apprentice-guildford/>

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About Signify

[Signify](#) (Euronext: LIGHT) is the world leader in lighting for professionals and consumers and lighting for the Internet of Things. Our [Philips](#) products, [Interact](#) connected lighting systems and data-enabled services, deliver business value and transform life in homes, buildings and public spaces. With 2018 sales of EUR 6.4 billion, we have approximately 29,000 employees and are present in over 70 countries. We unlock the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world. We have been named [Industry Leader](#) in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for two years in a row. News from Signify is located at the [Newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Information for investors can be found on the [Investor Relations](#) page.

About Illuminated River

Celebrating the important role of the Thames' bridges in connecting communities on the north and south sides of the river, this major art commission will enhance the public realm at night and create new opportunities for enjoyment and exploration of London's riverside environments.

Responding to social activity and built form on and around the river, the artwork will subtly unfold compositions of sequenced light patterns across the bridges, using dynamic colours and shifting hues inspired by the Thames paintings of Impressionist Masters and English Romantic artists. The unified lighting concept imagined by artist Leo Villareal refocuses attention on the Thames bridges, revealing their distinctive identities and the architectural and engineering heritage of each structure.

Illuminated River's energy-efficient LED technologies, smart networks and customised software will provide a long-term sustainable lighting solution for the bridges. Using networks of responsive LEDs, the project will cut down existing energy consumption, light pollution and light spill onto the river. Illuminated River will provide an improved environment for the Thames flora and fauna, addressing the environmental impact of existing light pollution.

The artwork offers a new river-focused London experience and promotes walkability and public safety along the Thames embankments. Illuminated River will enrich the experience of travelling along and across the river on foot, encouraging London's residents and visitors to use the river – currently the city's most under-used artery – as a means of transport.

Illuminated River provides a best-practice model of collaborative urban practice, demonstrating how different sectors and boroughs can work together to support cultural initiatives that enhance public space, making the city more attractive and accessible for everyone.

The competition-winning design team, led by acclaimed American artist Leo Villareal and award-winning British architecture practice Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, was announced by London Mayor Sadiq Khan in December 2016.