



EMPLOYER STORY

SMaRT Garage & Halfords – Virtual Garage

First Step Trust has worked over many years with the long term unemployed to provide a safe learning space that will enable them to develop confidence and demonstrate skills and competence in a practical workplace environment – motor vehicle being one of the main areas.

They are developing Smart Pathways, in collaboration with Halfords and the IMI, which is a 12-module programme in motor vehicle maintenance aiming to break down barriers in the automotive employment sector through the prototype of the Virtual Garage.

The Discovery Phase confirmed that many of the workforce members had difficulty with understanding written instructions and proving their competence through written tests.

They also lacked significantly in confidence in their learning.

The proof of concept that is being developed will incorporate VR (Virtual Reality), video, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and other vocational technologies to develop a training tool that allows users both to learn and to demonstrate success without requiring high levels of literacy.

The long-term aim is to enable those furthest from the labour market to show that they have the skills to succeed in stable employment.

Watch the video at [VocTech Trust](#)



INSTITUTE
OF THE **MOTOR**
INDUSTRY

Registered office

Fanshaws, Brickendon, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 8PQ

theimi.org.uk

+44(0)1992 511 521

hello@theimi.org.uk

