

HIRE HOUSTON

Companies providing training for operators

and evaluation and in the tools we manufacture, allowing us to handle pressures, temperatures. In Houston, we also have facilities in the area.

In Houston, all operators. Safety is a very important factor for operators who have a strong background in a conscious environment of machines. We also have assemblers," French

Halliburton is varied. We have been with Halliburton a long-term career machine operator needs detail. These are very complex equipment we are involved in machine operation.

charge of ensuring quality in our quality and front-line positions,

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■ For more about FMC Technologies Inc., visit www.fmctechnologies.com.

■ For available positions with Halliburton, visit www.halliburton.com.

which are leadership roles, once they become familiar with what we are manufacturing and our processes. There is the opportunity to get into the maintenance program, where all the machine maintenance is performed. Halliburton is very good at having multiple

career paths, so depending on what area they enjoy, they could also go into the field or into supply chain. There are really no boundaries for what opportunities they have."

The continuing demand for oil and gas, and the increasingly complex extraction process mean the outlook for those with the skills to create the needed tools and equipment have a bright career outlook.

"The subsea oil and gas industry is growing at an unprecedented rate and the hardware is getting more complex, so the need for this type of talent is only going to increase," Muszynski said.

"Candidates for machine operator positions have quite a bit of opportunity here at FMC. They can progress to a higher grade of machinist, move into other manufacturing opportunities or into manufacturing engineering or technologist roles. I would say that the future is a good one for machine operators."

questions that show you're prepared

you have any question ones for the end of the interview. Fewer could be wrapped up too quickly. Focus on the next question as what you can

you manage your time to help you clarify the background that most of the role, such as the career path associated with the position. Generate information and skills.

less than I previously have in my career going back-

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ward? The employer thinks I am a good match for the position, yet my needs are not being met. Whose needs are most important, the employer's or mine?

A: Your reasons for accepting a job offer should involve more than compensation.

You also should consider such things as career growth, interests, travel distance, location, management style and work culture.

Many times what looks like a step back can open doors as you meet people and add new skills. Before you write off a low-dollar offer, ask about compensation areas other than financial, such as help paying for training, more vacation or a flexible work schedule.

Consider identifying your needs and your wants, because they aren't the same things.

Making decisions based on your needs gives you a sense of ownership and choice. Needs usually outweigh wants in times of financial stress, and they can be a factor in accepting a job.

During tough times, you may need to take a job paying less. It helps to keep the big picture in mind instead of focusing on what might seem to you to be a backwards move.

Good career moves are not always vertical. They can appear to go sideways or resemble a patchwork quilt.

Opportunities often are related to market trends and what the employer needs to stay in business.

Kimberly Thompson is a national board-certified counselor. Send questions to careerrescue@yahoo.com or *Houston Chronicle*, P.O. Box 4260, Suite 233, Houston, TX 77210. Visit Kim Thompson's blog at blogs.chron.com/careerrescue.

EMPLOYER PROFILE

Helping companies fill growing need for those in skilled trades

Skilled Craftsmen of Texas Inc. has more than 20 years in staffing field

By BECCA MAITLAND
Jobs Correspondent

Skilled Craftsmen of Texas Inc. has been helping Houston's manufacturers and repair facilities with its blue collar/industrial staffing needs for more than 20 years.

"We work with companies in various industries such as, but not limited to, pump companies, valve repair and manufacturing, machine shops, wellhead companies, bearing manufacturing, hydraulic repair and manufacturing, weld shops, pressure vessel companies, drill pipe companies, separation towers companies, refinery field service and many others," said Daniel L. Gibbs, vice president, Skilled Craftsmen of Texas Inc.

Gibbs said those highly skilled in the trades, such as machinists, are hard to find.

"Fewer and fewer people are going into the trades. A large number of baby boomers were in these trades, but the generations that followed were encouraged to go to college or into a business school so there is a large gap, and the demand continues to grow for these fields," Gibbs said.

With the oil and gas industry entering another boom season, the demand is growing all around the Gulf Coast, including Houston and surrounding areas.

Gibbs said high school students or those looking for a new career might want to consider the trade industry.

"College is not for everyone, and there are other fields that do not require a college degree. The trade industries, such as machinists, welders, electricians, mechanics and other industrial trades are good careers and pay \$25-\$30 an hour. Most of the (community) colleges in the area, such as San Jacinto, Lone Star and Houston Community College have certificate programs in these fields," Gibbs said.

Skilled Craftsmen of Texas' eight employees stay busy filling the open positions with qualified workers.

All positions are listed on its website, and those interested are asked to complete an online application.

LEARN MORE

■ For more about Skilled Craftsmen of Texas Inc., visit www.skilled.com.

■ The company offices are at 9193 Winkler Drive, Suite H.