



£10 MILLION DIGITAL NETWORK BOOST FOR SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

Pupils Benefit From Instant Access to Online Learning Tools

EDINBURGH, Scotland, 29 June 2005 – The Scottish Executive is investing £10 million in a country-wide digital network to boost delivery of the school curriculum. Pupils in almost 3,000 schools will benefit from this groundbreaking initiative, aimed to put Scotland's schools at the forefront of modern education in Europe.

The Scottish Executive selected Cisco Systems, Bull, ntl Business and Serendipity Interactive to design and build the digital network, which will provide both students and teachers with the most up-to-date learning materials to enhance lessons – such as DVD-quality video programmes, which can be delivered country wide using the Internet and streamed for local viewing over the schools local area network (LAN), and interactive websites. Teachers will benefit by being able to use technology more effectively in the classroom environment.

All schools throughout Scotland's 32 local authorities, including those with limited connection in remote areas, will benefit through faster, more reliable and user-friendly access to online resources as part of this visionary initiative.

The Scottish Executive worked closely with the 32 local authorities to select the four technology companies to design and build the digital network, which was implemented in just under three months. The rapid installation of the network means local authorities have an early opportunity to play a role in refining the user interface with teachers over the next few months and to work with the Executive and Learning and Teaching Scotland to develop the service over time.

With Bull serving as G-CAT prime contractor through its G-CAT status, the project includes 100 Bull Express5800 servers; a Serendipity Interactive content directory service, residing on the servers, that will help enable teachers to easily locate curriculum mapped resources for pre-positioning; a Cisco Application and Content Networking System (ACNS), comprising 3100 content engines, to distribute high-bandwidth web materials to each end-user without creating

Internet traffic 'bottlenecks'; ntl Business has designed and configured the complete solution while being responsible for the integration, implementation and roll out of the network. ntl Business will also maintain the network as part of a contract lasting for the next three years.

“The Scottish Executive and local authorities have displayed huge foresight by interconnecting all Scottish schools to the same content delivery network, rather than developing individual networks in each local authority area,” said Gordon Thomson, General Manager for Cisco Systems Scotland. “Not only will it cost less to maintain a central system, it will also be easier for content publishers to distribute materials to a broad audience and it will deliver learning benefits to the next generation.”

“The decision by the Scottish Executive to implement what will be one of the largest content delivery infrastructures in the world puts Scottish schools right at the forefront of online learning – bringing benefits to teachers and pupils alike,” said Mike Dunk, CEO, Bull UK & Ireland.

“Undertaking a project of this scale, under a deadline of three months, is a testament to the strength of the relationship between the Scottish Executive and the technology partners.”

Tony Harris, Managing Director, ntl Business, said: “This project ensures that real benefits are delivered to all school children across Scotland by ensuring that curriculum content is updated, managed and delivered consistently in an effective and timely manner by exploiting technology. This initiative has placed Scottish education ahead of most other public sector and commercial organisations. ”

“Serendipity Interactive has worked closely with Learning and Teaching Scotland to deliver MYcontentdirectory, a customised Scottish curriculum version of our established MYiNTERNET software, to allow teachers to quickly locate relevant online Scottish curriculum content shared between their peers across the country. Our 'teacher friendly' interface maximises the Scottish Executive's investment in Cisco's excellent content delivery technology and delivers a powerful opportunity for shaping and sharing leading digital content in every classroom and for every child,” said Brian Dickson, Director of Client Sales & Services for Serendipity Interactive.

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About Cisco Systems

Cisco Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: CSCO), the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, celebrates 20 years of commitment to technology innovation, industry leadership, and corporate social responsibility. Information about Cisco can be found at <http://www.cisco.com>. For ongoing news, go to <http://newsroom.cisco.com>. Cisco equipment in Europe is supplied by Cisco Systems International BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cisco Systems, Inc

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About Bull

Bull designs and develops servers and software for an open environment, integrating the most advanced technologies. In this respect, Bull's range of NovaScale servers combines the openness of standards with the robustness of mainframes. It brings to its customers its expertise and know-how to help them in the transformation of their information systems and to optimise their IT infrastructure and their applications.

Bull is particularly present in the public sector, banking, finance, telecommunication, utilities and manufacturing sectors. Capitalising on its wide experience, the Group has a thorough understanding of the business and specific processes of these sectors, thus enabling it to efficiently advise and to accompany its customers. Its distribution network spreads to over 100 countries world-wide.

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About ntl Business

ntl Business is a leading provider of communications services to businesses and public sector organisations. It offers a range of reliable voice services supported 24x7 by ntl's network and service management centres, and data solutions, from broadband internet access to fully-managed business critical communications networks.

ntl Business makes it easier and more cost-effective for customers to do business by bundling products and services together. Customers include T5, Cambridgeshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Next.

ntl is the UK's largest cable company with 3 million residential customers, and the UK's leading supplier of broadband services to consumers with over 1.3 million broadband customers. ntl's network can service 7.9 million homes in the UK.

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About Serendipity

Serendipity Interactive's vision is "to develop software solutions that deliver productivity that benefits everyone".

Since 2000, it has developed Internet Access and Email Management Solutions, Next Generation Digital Signing software for Secure Document Transfer and Anti-Fraud Ticketing Solutions that have been bought by the Oil & Gas industry, Scottish Police & Local Authorities, Central Government and various Stadia/Sporting venues.

The company markets its solutions through approved Sales & Systems Reseller Partners who vary from small local consultancies to some of the largest and most respected International ICT Systems Integrators.

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