



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**6th April 2008****SUPPORTS THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS FROM ONE OF THE SMALLEST ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO) have this week released their online CPD system in a partnership with AXIA Interactive Media. The partnership effectively demonstrates that AXIA Interactive Media is able to use its innovative NOW.net platform, to support the development of health workers, whatever the size of the professional body to which they belong.

BAPO has a membership of less than 1000, but their members now have access to a similar e-portfolio as the one used by the Royal College of Nursing who have nearly 400,000 members. The company's innovative NOW.net platform contains a number of tried and tested components, which can be easily customised to meet the specific needs of organisations. As a result, a bespoke solution is available at a cost within the reach of organisations with relatively small budgets.

Richard Etheridge, Director of Technology and architect of AXIA Interactive Media's NOW.net platform explained that the platform has inbuilt economies of scale:

"Scalability is the key. We designed NOW.net so that professional bodies of all sizes could use it to help develop and assess their members' competency. The only variable cost relates to hosting and maintenance, which reflects the size of the membership. Furthermore, by becoming a part of the rapidly increasing group of organisations using the NOW.net platform, any upgrades of the platform are available to all users at no extra cost."

The Health Professions Council (HPC) regulates all Prosthetists and Orthotists, BAPO's members. Starting in May 2008, the HPC will be auditing a sample of the CPD records of the Allied Health Professions that they regulate. The audit requires registrants to provide a summary portfolio, which demonstrates continuous and varied learning, and reflection, which fulfils the five key standards, set by the HPC. Through investing in a new online CPD system, BAPO is helping its members prepare in the best way for their audit, which is scheduled to take place in September 2009.



Steve Mottram, Chair of the Association comments,

"We selected AXIA Interactive Media in February following a competitive tender and within two months we have been able to launch to a fully functioning site to our members. It has already received a very positive response and we see it as a real member benefit which will continue to grow and develop over time to ensure that we are providing benefits to enable our member's meet their registration requirements."

About AXIA Interactive Media

AXIA Interactive Media specialises in providing e-learning and online CPD assessment systems to enable both public and private sector organisations to achieve best practice. The company has developed a single technology platform, NOW.net, which can be used for the following applications: provision of e-learning (information and guidance services), online CPD administration with e-portfolio facilities and online assessment. NOW.net is the online assessment system supporting the administration and assessment of Care NVQs in the UK.

AXIA was formed in 1997 and has customers around the world including Italy, Canada and South Africa. The company is committed to enabling both developed and developing countries to improve the standards of professionals working across all sectors of industry through the provision of cost effective yet highly rigorous skills and capability assessments.

For more information on AXIA please visit www.axiainteractive.net
