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AXIA HELP OUT 'YOUNG BRITS AT ART' AND SHOW HOW FLEXIBLE NOW.net IS

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have an annual art competition for young people aged between 11 and 19. This year's competition invites young people to 'imagine what the world would look like if we lived without prejudice' and portray this using any sort of artwork including paintings, drawings, photography, videos, animation and sound. For this year's competition the young people were encouraged to submit entries online for the first time. After short listing, the work of those on the short list is presented directly to the judges.

A key challenge this year was the introduction of stricter guidelines to ensure the security of individual's data and their work. This meant that EHRC quickly needed to find a suitable supplier who could deliver a fully-functioning secure online solution within a tight timeframe. Clive Holdsworth, Head of Digital at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, explains:

"When we were faced with this challenge I remembered, from when I was in a previous role, being briefed on how some e-portfolios could be used to meet a range of different educational purposes so I put it to the test. Having first won the competitive tender, Axia then came up trumps delivering an e-portfolio within two weeks which has fully met our requirements. Without their support this important competition, that engages young people in this key issue of prejudice, would not have run anywhere near as smoothly. I am particularly pleased that we were able to use an innovative small business for this important project."

The competition has been very successful with over 1300 entries submitted online Richard Etheridge, Axia IM's Technical Services Director, who was responsible for quickly creating the solution commented,

"We were particularly pleased to work on this project. Aside from the objectives of the competition which we fully support, it has given us an opportunity for our data management procedures to be subject to a rigorous assessment against government standards and it was great that we passed. The nature of the competition has also meant that we have been able to fully exploit the new functionality we have developed in version 6.0 of our core NOW.net platform. This has allowed us to break out of our usual user interface, creating a customised experience that very closely matches the clients user interface."