



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 FEBRUARY 2009

TAKING NVQ E-PORTFOLIOS ON THE ROAD WITH CITY & GUILDS

Over the past two months, over 150 people have attended events across the UK, designed to inform attendees about the benefits of using an e-portfolio for the assessment of NVQs.

City & Guilds hosted the events and are the UK's leading awarding body. They invited their centres to send representatives to attend. The events proved so popular that many were over subscribed.

Chris Peat, Customer Services Director for AXIA Interactive Media commented:

"One of the benefits of being a City & Guilds endorsed e-portfolio supplier is that we are able to contract with them to organise events with us. This enables us to spread the word about e-portfolios across the UK. Although we use our generic product NVQnow, as the example of how an e-portfolio can support centres to deliver and assess NVQs more effectively, our primary goal is to raise awareness of the positive impact e-portfolios can have on assessment."

The particular focus of all the events was on how the e-portfolio can increase the involvement of the workplace in assessment.

"These events are great ways to inform people about e-portfolios. Because they are organised in conjunction with the awarding body those who attend are left in no doubt about the fact that awarding bodies are encouraging centres to make e-portfolios available to their learners."

One of the challenges assessment centres face in engaging the workplace in assessment, is finding people who are both competent enough to comment on someone's work and have the time to do so. This is despite the fact that awarding bodies welcome the involvement of workplace witnesses in assessment.

The new Expert Witness/Witness functionality that AXIA Interactive Media has developed, allows an assessor or candidate to invite a witness in the workplace to authenticate or comment on their work. The witness receives an invitation by e-mail to view someone's account of a candidate's work including all the attachments. In effect, they are given temporary access to that part of the individual's portfolio. They can review the person's work make a comment and this is then seamlessly attached into the relevant part of the portfolio.

The final event of this series will be in Birmingham on Thursday 12th March. This seminar was originally due to take place in January was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. However, this proved to be a 'blessing in disguise' because it has allowed two sessions to be delivered on the same day to cope with the demand for places at the event.