



---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**01 May 2008**

# MEETING THE NEEDS OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES TO USE THE INTERNET TO SUPPORT CPD. OUR RESPONSE TO 'ONLINE CPD TRENDS, CHANGES AND CHALLENGES.'

PARN the Professionals Association Research Network launched on Tuesday 29th April one of the first reports on the use of on-line systems to support CPD. We were at the event and one of the CPD sites we developed and delivered for the Society and College of Radiographers is featured as a case study in the report.

In the report they provide advice to professional bodies about the key factors that they should consider when selecting a supplier. We have outlined below, how we already meet the key requirements they identify in this report, that professional bodies should consider when selecting an online CPD system.

- To create a comprehensive specification as possible from the outset.

We will (and have), without obligation, work(ed) with professional bodies to clarify their requirements from the outset. In our organisation we have technology and education consultants with a long experience of working with professional bodies to clarify what they require.

- To keep it simple and test it with your members.

All our CPD platforms are highly intuitive and can be accessed without any training. To assist the user we do provide on-line Help and support.

We 'test' all our sites with the members who will be using them before they are finally launched. This process is assisted by our ability to use on-line surveys through which we can receive immediate feedback.

- Consider the pros and cons of off the shelf vs bespoke systems.

In our case this distinction does not really apply. We are able to deliver a bespoke solution using a range of 'off the shelf' already programmed components. This means we are able to provide organisations with a solution that meets your specific needs but which is based on tried and tested components. There is therefore a significant saving in the time taken to deliver a solution and in the cost.

---



- Creating an effective agreement with your supplier.

We have long standing and positive relationships with all the professional bodies we work with in part because there is real clarity about areas of responsibility and because we are committed to creating a partnership approach.

- Make sure that the system is flexible enough to grow.

Our NOW.net is always developing and professional bodies who use the platform have access to all the new functionality that is developed and delivered. Critically no charge is made to users of the system for any upgrades that are made.

- Look at other professional bodies have done.

We are proud about the number of professional bodies that are now using our system and particularly the range of occupational areas they represent. Our current list of professional bodies includes;

- The Institute of Chartered Foresters
- The Society and College of Radiographers
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists.
- Royal College of Nursing

These professional bodies have chosen us because of the other key benefits our NOW.net platform provide to professional bodies. These include;

- The ability for our CPD systems to interact with membership databases
  - Supporting regular surveys of membership to ensure the system meets their requirements.
  - Users are alerted to any changes made to the system next time they log-in.
  - We do not make an additional charge for professional bodies for them to introduce enhancements to the core platform.
-