

Advanced boosts digital skills development with new apprenticeship fund

Submitted by: Advanced Computer Software Group Limited

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Ahead of the new apprenticeship levy which will be introduced from 1st April, Advanced (<http://www.oneadvanced.com>) has pledged its commitment to introduce 60-70 apprenticeships per year focused on developing digital skills. As one of the UK's leading software and services companies, it believes that providing opportunities to build a more digitally skilled workforce is the secret to ongoing success not only for Advanced but for the Government, which has ambitions around its industrial strategy to drive sustainable growth across the UK.

Advanced's apprenticeship fund will be circa £500,000 per annum and the company wants to ensure the technical training focus for apprenticeships will support its regional hub strategy. This aims to attract local talent with high potential to take up new apprenticeship positions as well as ignite the passion for existing employees, in non-technical roles, to make a career move into a technology focused position.

According to Paul Bason, Director of Digital Innovation at Manchester Metropolitan University, despite the fact that the digital sector in the UK is growing at a faster rate than in any other G20 economy, there are still significant regions that have a dearth of the right skills. Advanced has transformed its business over the last year to commit to significant regional hubs, and has found certain areas challenging to find suitable digital talent.

Gordon Wilson, CEO at Advanced, comments: "The lack of up-to-date digital skills represents a significant risk, essentially throttling digital transformation success and threatening to hold back business prosperity. As a leading supplier of technology solutions and services, we have a responsibility to ensure we constantly refresh the skills within our workforce. Using the apprenticeship levy to focus on precisely this will not only support our goals but will also deliver digital career opportunities around our regional hubs."

Advanced is already a part of the West Midlands digital community supporting its flagship regional hub at the Mailbox in Birmingham and is looking to take an active role in the development of the Northern Powerhouse, which already has an active community looking to address the North-South divide around technical skills. It is holding a roundtable debate with prominent leaders from across the North West region on 24th March to debate how businesses, academics and the Government can work together to address these very issues.

Advanced's technical training of apprentices will be delivered by QA Training and will commence from May 2017.

-ENDS-

Note to editors

About Advanced

Through our enterprise and market focused solutions we positively impact millions of people's lives through continually investing in our people, partnerships and own technologies to stay focused on our markets', customers' and their stakeholders' needs.

We enable our customers to drive efficiencies, savings and growth opportunities through focused, right-first-time software solutions that evolve with the changing needs of their business and the markets they operate in.

True partnership is the defining thing that makes us different from the competition.

We pride ourselves on delivering focused software solutions for public sector, enterprise commercial and health & care organisations that simplify complex business challenges and deliver immediate value.

Advanced is a Sunday Times Top Track 250 Company 2016 and was ranked in the Deloitte UK Fast 50 which recognises the 50 fastest growing technology companies in the UK and a winner of the Tech Company of the Year in PwC's UK Tech Awards in 2014.

www.oneadvanced.com

For further media information, please contact

Andrea Hounsham, Firework PR - email: andrea@fireworkpr.co.uk or call: 07783 535928

Clare Wall, Firework PR – email: clare@fireworkpr.co.uk or call: 07974 161127