

CIMAGE EARNS MICROSOFT GOLD

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A top developer of software solutions for the oil and gas industry continues to make the grade as a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner.

Cimage, based in Brentford, Middlesex, can now offer its clients additional benefits as a result of its new status as a member of the Microsoft elite.

Microsoft Gold Certified Partners have access to many of the corporation's exclusive resources and early product information. These include priority access to a support team of Microsoft certified systems engineers and non-disclosure evaluation of new products and technologies. They can use a variety of innovative tools for developing new software and will be kept up to speed with the latest Microsoft product enhancements and plans for the future.

Cimage's customers also have the assurance that products developed by the company will continue to be compatible with new Microsoft technologies and to integrate with widely-used solutions such as Sharepoint.

Phil Wattleworth, Sales & Marketing Director at Cimage said: "This is excellent news for us and for our customers. They can now be sure that we will continue to be fully compatible with Microsoft and that we meet their very rigorous quality standards."

"It is especially important in the sectors where we work – particularly the oil and gas industries – to be able to demonstrate that we meet the highest criteria for security and reliability."

Before admitting Cimage to the Gold Partnership Program, Microsoft subjected the company's Web Services 2.4 software to a rigorous assessment. Their authorised tester was commissioned to check that it met stringent standards for being manageable, reliable and secure.

The product was successfully certified for use with Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition and can now be listed in the Windows Server Catalogue. It can also carry the Microsoft "Certified for Windows" logo.

Cimage also had to demonstrate its commitment to the Microsoft platform and its track record in developing robust and reliable software products.

Microsoft Certified Partners are recognised as the elite of software development. To gain the coveted partnership status, they are required to meet demanding criteria for specific solution areas, including enhanced certification and a portfolio of verifiable customer references.

Cimage solutions are well established within the oil and gas sector, where customers include BP

Exploration, Centrica and Marathon Oil. The company dramatically reduces the cost and risk associated with managing technical information in a regulated environment. Cimage solutions enable organisations to reduce costs, increase operational efficiency and productivity, ensure regulatory compliance and improve business performance and overall return on investment through better management of their information.

Testing Cimage's software for certification was conducted by VeriTest, a testing service of Lionbridge Technologies (Nasdaq: LIOX) and the authorised testing provider for Microsoft's "Certified for Windows" program.

Steve Nemzer, VP of Global Development and Testing Solutions for Lionbridge, said: "By meeting Microsoft's rigorous standards, end-users are assured they can experience a higher level of reliability than if they were to purchase a similar non-certified product. The Windows Server 2003 certification program was designed by Microsoft to improve the experience of customers when using applications in enterprise environments. Certification for Windows Server 2003 is based on a rigid technical standard which verifies that business-critical applications are secure, manageable, and reliable when running on the operating system."

About Cimage

Cimage, a SWORD Group Company, dramatically reduces the cost and risk associated with managing technical information in a regulated environment. Cimage solutions enable organisations to reduce costs, increase operational efficiency and productivity, ensure regulatory compliance and improve business performance and overall return on investment through better management of their information.

Cimage solutions are based upon the Cimage Fusion platform. Fusion combines Document Management, Content Management, Workflow, Collaboration, Knowledge Management and Records Management into a single integrated web framework. A comprehensive web services interface supports web-based integration with popular ECM platforms, web application servers and portal environments.

Fast business benefit, rapid user adoption, reduced training – all benefits that flow from this innovative approach.

Cimage has over 650 installations in over 30 countries and its customers include AMEC, BP Exploration, British Energy, Centrica, Marathon Oil and Talisman.

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