

IT Quality Experts Call On UK Companies To Adopt TickITplus

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London, August 1, 2012 – Leading IT governance and compliance experts are urging UK organisations to upgrade to the new, accredited TickITplus IT certification scheme or risk losing valuable business.

TickITplus aims to improve the quality of software for business and industry internationally, covering sectors as diverse as finance, construction and transportation. The goal is to help software suppliers, including in-house developers and IT service and system providers, define and implement a quality system that covers all the essential business processes in the product lifecycle, within the framework of the quality management systems standard ISO9001.

Peter Lawrence, director of global quality excellence at CSC and chair of BSI's Joint TickITplus Industry Steering Committee (JTISC), says: "Building on the established TickIT scheme, TickITplus is now the recognised software and IT quality assurance benchmark for UK businesses. Any company without TickITplus risks being overlooked for valuable contracts by potential customers, who will seek the assurances of quality control TickITplus certification provides."

Lawrence continues: "Launched in 1990, the original TickIT no longer meets the rapidly evolving requirements of 21st-century IT. Technology and working practices have changed. TickITplus, however, represents a solid long-term investment because, unlike TickIT, the new scheme is flexible enough to evolve at the same pace as the business, industrial, IT and software communities in the UK and abroad.

"Furthermore," says Lawrence, "TickITplus provides better criteria for customers selecting a supplier than TickIT, by assessing each supplier's unique capabilities. This assessment therefore presents a perfect opportunity for suppliers to outperform their competitors and become the supplier of choice."

Lawrence says: "In quality assurance, complacency is not an option. If a company fails to ensure product quality, and that product fails, the consequences could be disastrous, ranging from reputational damage through to legal action by the customer. TickITplus is therefore particularly important for any organisation developing software to sell to third parties."

TickITplus, which is accredited by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), represents a far more cost-effective option than alternative quality assurance schemes. Lawrence explains: "TickITplus certification costs, on average, less than 20% of the six-figure cost of complying with the requirements of alternative international schemes. TickITplus is therefore particularly appealing not only to large organisations but also to small and medium-sized enterprises, which rightly take quality very seriously but are operating with limited budgets."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

TickITplus (<http://www.tickitplus.org>) aims to improve the quality of software for business and industry internationally, covering sectors as diverse as finance, construction and transportation. The goal of TickITplus is to help software suppliers, including in-house developers, define and implement a quality system that covers all the essential business processes in the product lifecycle, within the framework of the quality management systems standard ISO9001.

The Joint TickITplus Industry Steering Committee, or JTISC, refers to the committee of technical experts that has written, and continues to maintain, TickITplus scheme documentation. Managed by the British Standards Institution (BSI), its membership includes a wide range of stakeholders from across the ICT and quality sectors, all of whom are committed to developing robust solutions that both meet and adapt to the needs of end-users. The JTISC includes representatives from the UK Accreditation Service, three certification bodies (BSI, DNV, LRQA), organisations offering TickITplus training, industry associations (Intellect, BCS – the Chartered Institute for IT), academics and Logica, an early scheme adopter (now certified).