

<b>1. Application Ref:</b>	DICTP0010
<b>2. Proposal Title:</b>	Assigning Level and Credit to Digital Vendor Skills and Employer-Based Training (EBTA)
<b>3. Abstract:</b>	Vendor skills are commonly in demand from businesses within the digital industries, but often carry no weight within FE and HE institutions. By assigning level and credit to the most common Vendor skills (and potentially some local employer-based training) we would aim to ensure that West Yorkshire learners (particularly those already in employment) have a form of currency within FE and HE, which could be used not only as entry criteria but also for APL for relevant courses.
<b>4. Version:</b>	1.0
<b>5. Contact Name:</b>	Linda Broughton
<b>6. Contact Details:</b>	nti Leeds Metropolitan University Old Broadcasting House 148 Woodhouse Lane Leeds LS2 9EN T. 0845 122 1555 E. <a href="mailto:Linda@ntileeds.co.uk">Linda@ntileeds.co.uk</a>
<b>7. Contact Expertise:</b>	Linda Broughton is Head of nti, part of Leeds Metropolitan University, a provider of a variety of Vendor Skills Qualifications within the digital industries, including Apple, Adobe and Open Source products amongst others. nti has a strong relationship with employers across the region, including a number of employers operating their own training schemes, many of which incorporate one or more Vendor skills certificates.
<b>8. Institution:</b>	Leeds Metropolitan University and others
<b>9. Validating Institution:</b>	Leeds Metropolitan University
<b>10. Partnership:</b>	Leeds City College

	Kirklees College
<b>11. Curriculum Requirement:</b>	<p>Vendor Skills are recognised as being both desirable and often essential qualifications within the digital industries. More and more employers require specific Vendor certifications within certain job roles, ranging from Apple and Adobe in creative digital roles, to Microsoft, IBM and Cisco in more technical roles.</p> <p>There is already some integration of Vendor skills within HE and FE programmes across West Yorkshire, but these are still predominantly full-time degree programmes, rather than employer-accessible learning such as bite-size courses, standalone modules or flexible learning programmes.</p> <p>There are also a number of employers across the West Yorkshire region running their own training programmes in digital and ICT, also often including Vendor skills, but which are not yet mapped to FE/HE provision.</p> <p>This project seeks to assign level and credit to some of the most common Vendor skills in the digital industries, and to assist those institutions within West Yorkshire who offer them to integrate these programmes into their overall curriculum offering. It will also seek to engage with a number of employers to consider accrediting in-house training programmes and map these to existing FE/HE curriculum for the consideration of APL and progression opportunities.</p>
<b>12. Objectives:</b>	<p>To work with partners and Vendors to assign appropriate level and credit to selected Vendor skills qualifications in the digital industries</p> <p>To work with selected employers to consider Employer-Based Training Accreditation (EBTA) to give academic value to courses for the benefit of the learner</p> <p>To work with partners to map out common FE / HE qualifications where Vendor qualifications and/or employer-based training could be used as selection criteria for progression or APL</p>
<b>13. Target Market:</b>	West Yorkshire learners already in employment within the digital industries (up to circa 13,000 individuals)
<b>14. Qualifications:</b>	A selection of Vendor skills and employer-based training courses (TBC)
<b>15. Progression:</b>	The project will involve mapping of Vendor and employer-based training requirements to existing FE/HE provision to identify

	potential progression routes and APL		
<b>16. Student Numbers:</b>	TBC		
<b>17. Approach:</b>	<p>A number of delivery partners (including FE/HE and private sector) for Vendor skills and employer based training will take part in round-table discussions and curriculum mapping exercises. Expertise from within FE/HE partners will be engaged to assign level and credit to each of the selected qualifications, in collaboration with Awarding Bodies / Vendors as appropriate.</p> <p>Selected qualifications will also be mapped to the Curriculum Map for this sector to identify progression and APL opportunities.</p>		
<b>18. Employers:</b>	<p>Northern Technology Institute (nti)</p> <p>Northern Centre for Digital Imaging (ncdi)</p> <p>Zenos</p> <p>Biskit</p> <p>(Others to be confirmed)</p>		
<b>19. Sector Skills Council links</b>	<p>e-Skills UK</p> <p>(plus Digital 20/20 who are not a Sector Skills Council but an essential partner in this work)</p>		
<b>20. Outcomes:</b>	<p>A minimum of 9 Vendor certifications / employer-based training courses will be assigned level and credit, and will considered for progression agreements and or APL mapping as appropriate.</p>		
<b>21. Timescales:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>	June 2009	<b>Finish Date:</b> Jan 2010
	<p>Identify partners</p> <p>Agree Vendor skills and employer-based training for mapping and accreditation</p> <p>Undertake round-table discussions</p> <p>Conduct mapping exercise for level and credit with academic partners</p> <p>Consult with Vendors / Employers / Awarding bodies as appropriate to agree recommended level and credit</p> <p>Accredit as necessary</p>		

	<p>Map to existing curriculum to identify progression / APL opportunities</p> <p>Develop associated guidance for partners and progression agreements as appropriate</p>	
<b>22. Competition:</b>	<p>There are a number of regional providers of Vendor skills and employer-based training within the West Yorkshire region, not all of whom will be involved in the project. This work will also follow-on from work commenced by Digital 2010 and will continue to work with it's successor Digital 2020 as a key partner.</p>	
<b>23. Future Potential:</b>	<p>Vendor certifications are among the most highly valued qualifications in the digital industries. The funding of this project will ensure that these certifications are embedded within the FE/HE system, rather than being viewed as supplementary or alternative qualifications. It will also allow more employers to access FE/HE through accreditation of existing skills gained through vendor certifications or employer based training for other FE/HE programmes through APL.</p>	
<b>24. Assistance Required:</b>		
	<b>Staff Costs:</b>	£8,000
		£1,500
		£2,500
		£1,500
	<b>Match Funding:</b>	
	<b>Grand Total:</b>	£13,500
<b>25. Other Funding:</b>	None	

<b>26. Project Participants:</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>  Linda Broughton Nick Cope Alison Creedon  Michael Schonborn  Marian Watson Simon Le Geyt George Anderson (Zenos) Edward Ryder (Biskit)	<b>Project Role(s)</b>  Project Manager (Leeds Met) Faculty Expertise (Leeds Met) Project Manager (Leeds City College) Faculty Expertise (Leeds City College) Consultant (nti) Consultant (ncdi) Employer contact Employer contact		
<b>27. Additional Notes:</b>				
<b>28. Statement of Risk:</b>				
<b>29. Declaration:</b>	I/(We) confirm that I/(We) wish to apply for funding from the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network Curriculum Development Fund. The information presented in the application and accompanying proposal is accurate to the best of my/(our) knowledge.			
	Name:		Date:	

Please return the completed form to:

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