

PRESS RELEASE

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ITACS – Independent Trade Association of Computing Specialists

NEW TRADE ASSOCIATION FORMATION

In recent months it has become clear that there was a growing demand for a Trade Association to proactively represent Independent Computing Specialists in the UK, of which there are approximately 23,000.

Whilst other organisations exist that purport to already do this, it was felt by a sizeable group of Computing Specialists, across many sectors of the industry, that this was not the case. They felt as though their considerable knowledge, expertise and customer-service strengths were not being adequately represented to media, public and government. Several regional meetings of potential members were held over the last 3 months and the need for forming such an Association was discussed at length. At all of the meetings, it was agreed unanimously that current organisations are not meeting the needs of the businesses represented and that a new, dedicated Trade Association was required.

A formative committee has been established to form this Association and this met for the first time in Manchester on August 12th 2006.

The Chairman, Mike Hoffman, said:

"Our primary aims are:

- 1) to offer representation across the Independent IT industry for, and of, the most professionally competent and ethical professionals in the UK;
- 2) To offer the members of ITACS improved representation with the DTI, the OFT and other government & Industry-leading Departments and Organisations;
- 3) We will aim to improve the all-round technical skills & qualifications of members, and within the Independent IT industry as a whole.
- 4) We aim to build relationships with organisations who are actively addressing the major issues affecting and concerning our members, on areas such as piracy for example.

"ITACS recognises that there are many organisations who offer something to our members and potential members, however, there is not a single organisation that has proved to be dedicated to and effective at addressing the many concerns of our members. Whilst we are happy and willing to work with all other organisations who share our aims, we know that there are areas where Independents are being badly let down right now, and have been for years. We intend to address those areas and to rectify that position."

The Vice Chairman, Kevin Meader said:

"It is important to express that, whilst many of the formative members have come from the ranks of Brigantia members, this Association will be completely Independent and shall not be unduly influenced by any external organisation. The formative committee includes one ex-NASCR committee member, Steve Clancy, and future representation of other organisations and indeed non-aligned businesses is encouraged and will be welcomed."

A full, formal launch will be presented on 5th September at BT Tower, London. Further statements of intent, actions and policy will be forthcoming shortly.

The Chair of the new Association was elected as Mike Hoffman, of One36 Computing Ltd in Edinburgh, the Vice-Chair was elected as Kevin Meader of Amberley Computer Systems in Guildford and the Secretary was elected as Hendy Armstrong of Assesstec Systems in Leek.

Other committee members are located across the country and anyone wanting more information regarding membership of, or interested in developing working relationships with ITACS should email info@itacs.org.uk or contact us via www.itacs.org.uk.