

M7 Earns Accredited UK Certification

Cardiff, UK – 22 March 2011 – M7 Managed Services Limited (www.m7ms.co.uk), a leading ICT Services provider based in Nantgarw, near Cardiff, today announced that it had attained the ICT Company Certification from Accredited UK, the first company in Wales to achieve this.

As well as meeting all the General ICT Company Quality requirements M7 has also gained accreditation for the Hosting Specialty, a key component in the provision of Cloud Computing.

The scheme is being introduced in Wales via the Software Alliance Wales project, a WEFO (Welsh European Funding Office) funded project aimed at fostering innovation and growth in the ICT sector, along with increasing ICT skill levels and business adoption in Wales. The auditing organisation is Accredited UK who set the Standard for Suppliers and Purchasers of ICT Solutions.

Developed by the National Computing Centre, Accredited UK is a quality standard, recognised UK wide that is designed to allow ICT Suppliers to prove their excellence. Holders can prove that they have the right people, excellent processes and a track record of first-class performance.

The Accredited UK Standard is more specific and is further specialised to segments within the ICT industry than ISO9001. It has been designed for small and medium businesses in line with standards development procedures and the BSI.

Commenting on the award M7 Managing Director Neil Cornish, said; “We are delighted to receive this accreditation as it recognises the hard work, skills and commitment of our people as we continue to deliver ever more important and complex IT solutions to our customers”

“This accreditation provides our customers with an assurance that we take our responsibilities for looking after their IT Systems seriously. I would like to thank SAW for their sponsorship of this program, making it easier for companies such as M7 to participate. I also look forward to the Accredited UK standard now becoming an integral part of the Assembly’s ICT strategy for selecting local suppliers.”

About M7

M7 Managed Services Limited hosts and supports a wide range of Business and Manufacturing applications in the Cardiff Data Centre and provides cloud computing solutions to customers in the UK, Europe, Middle East and the United States.

Utilising a ‘Software as a Service’ model (SaaS), the company hosts applications from US software companies such as Infor and Microsoft, based on an IBM, VMWare and Cisco infrastructure. The 24x7 help desk and remote monitoring service is provided from the Cardiff Headquarters and caters for a wide range of applications running on a variety of operating systems and hardware platforms.

In addition to hosting and managing customers’ IT systems, M7 provides a SaaS platform for Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to offer their customers a new way of using and paying for their

applications. The knowledge and skills developed in providing these data centre services are also being deployed in installing IBM infrastructure based solutions on customers' sites.

The recognition of M7 by IBM in 2008 as their first European ISI Business Partner (Industry Systems Integrator), has resulted in M7 being the IBM partner of choice for a number of UK ISVs and Systems Integrators (SIs), taking software and services to a global market. For more information please visit www.m7ms.co.uk

About Software Alliance Wales

Software Alliance Wales is a £13m European Social Fund (ESF) financed project aimed at boosting innovation, growth and developing technical skills within the ICT and software sectors in Wales, with particular emphasis on the Convergence Area.

The project is led by Swansea University in partnership with the Universities of Bangor, Glamorgan, Aberystwyth, and University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

The project supports individual ICT professionals through funded Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in technical areas – keeping them at the forefront of their field.

The ICT certification scheme is aimed at supporting ICT SMEs in growing their businesses and fostering a greater mutual trust and respect between ICT suppliers and purchasers.

Regular ICT business workshops allow SMEs in each region to get exposure to the latest technological developments that are likely to have an impact on their business and gain an understanding of how they can harness that technology for positive ends.

SAW is also keen to support the ICT professional of tomorrow by providing live Student Development Project (SDP) opportunities within local businesses. SDPs give the student some real life exposure to technology in a business environment and the business receives an additional technical resource to develop a product or concept.

For more information about the Software Alliance Wales project, please email Business Liaison Officer Jaime Hindle at j.hindle@softwarealliancewales.com