

**Association of Learning Providers**  
**Press release – 24 August 2009**

**Workplace e-learning gets further funding boost  
as innovative project enters fifth phase**

Training providers are being invited to bid for £3 million of funding to help transform the way people learn in the workplace by using technology innovatively.

The latest tranche of funding from the Learning and Skills Council, which supports the delivery of the Government's e-learning strategy 'Harnessing Technology', brings the total amount of money invested in the highly successful Learning Innovation Grant (LIG) project to nearly £13 million over five phases.

WBL providers will be able to apply for the new LIG funding from **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** when the LIG 5 prospectus is published on the website [www.elearningproviders.org](http://www.elearningproviders.org). The Association of Learning Providers, which manages the programme on behalf of the LSC, is keen to encourage applications from providers that have not bid before as well as consortia bids which involve several partners.

The latest evaluation report on the previous LIG 4 project shows the continued and ongoing appetite of the work based learning sector to adopt new technology and explore new ways of applying ICT technologies to WBL delivery. Feedback from LIG 4 again indicates that LIG funded programmes are having a direct impact on learner engagement, motivation, retention and achievement, with 88% of providers reporting improvements.

Providers are improving their e-learning capacity and capability which sees continued integration of ICT/e-learning into work based learning delivery processes. The evaluation also shows the publicly funded investment is succeeding in leveraging extra private investment into technology and e-learning with many providers finding additional funding to scale up their own programmes or by bringing forward their own investment in their e-learning capacity.

Chris Young, Director of Jobwise Training which works with employers in the transport sector, said: "The LIG 4 project has given us the opportunity to acquire state of the art equipment that would have been way over our budget but which has now given hundreds of learners additional road and fuel saving skills and additional job skills for the transportation industry. "

Commenting on the aims of the next phase, Chris Swingler, ALP's business development director, said: "We would like to see the LIG 5 project build on the very encouraging impact made with learner retention and achievement rates, whilst increasing the access to e-learning among the workforces of businesses to help improve business efficiencies and take advantage of the economic upturn when it comes."

Successful applicants could receive funding in the single bid range of £25 -100k or the consortium bid range of £50 -150k range. Providers are being encouraged within their LIG 5 bids to address the increasing importance of issues such as sustainability, accessibility, green technologies, e-safety and where the use of technology can help providers to operate more efficiently.

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**For more information, contact Aidan Relf on 07710 305182**

#### **Notes to editors**

##### **1. About LIG 5**

Work based learning providers can find out more about the LIG 5 project and how to bid for funding at the ALP e-learning website: <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=alp> . ALP will once again provide a matching service, via the website, which will offer bidders the opportunity, where appropriate, to collaborate on LIG programmes with other providers. The LIG Phase 4 final evaluation report can be downloaded from the same site.

##### **2. About the Association of Learning Providers**

The Association of Learning Providers (ALP) is the leading trade association for vocational learning and employment providers in Britain. The majority of its 470 members are independent private, not-for-profit and voluntary sector training organisations. Membership is open to any provider committed to quality vocational learning and it includes over 60 FE colleges involved in work based learning. ALP members train a significant majority of the apprentices in England and are the major deliverers of New Deal and Train to Gain contracts on behalf of government. More information is available at: [www.learningproviders.org.uk](http://www.learningproviders.org.uk) .