UKCES
UK COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

SSC RELICENSING PANEL RECOMMENDATION

E-SKILLS UK

1   BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1   e-skills UK was licensed in 2003, following mergers between e-business National Training Organisation and IT National Training Organisation and the incorporation of National Training Organisation Telecom. The SSC has responsibility for the Business and Information Technology workforce which comprises "the IT & Telecoms industry vertical and IT professionals in all sectors". e-skills UK also has lead responsibility for IT skills throughout the workforce, including the strategic technology skills of business leaders and the IT user skills of the general population.

The number of employees covered by e-skills UK can be broken down as follows: 1.5 million IT professionals; 4 million managers and leaders; and 21 million IT users. Out of the 1.5 million people in the IT & Telecoms workforce, some 890,000 work in the IT & Telecoms industry itself and some 590,000 are IT or Telecoms professionals in other industries. There are over 109,000 businesses in the UK's IT & Telecoms industry. Six companies employ 20 per cent of the industry and 50 per cent of the workforce is accounted for by just 328 companies. The industry has a high proportion of very small companies, partly due to the popularity of self employment.

2   PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AGAINST SSC RELICENSING FRAMEWORK

2.1   Overall Rating – **Outstanding**

Key Themes	Does not meet standard	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding
Well Run SSC				✓
Core Products and Services				✓
Sector Specific Solutions				✓
Results and Impacts			✓	

3   RECOMMENDATION

3.1   The Relicensing Panel believe e-skills UK to be a high performing organisation delivering strategic solutions which offer both scale and impact, not only for the sector, but also for the individual IT user. The SSC therefore achieved an overall assessment of "**Outstanding**".

The following areas were identified as particular strengths:

- The SSC has an exceptional Board and Chief Executive. The Board is also deeply involved in both developing and delivering the SSC's strategy.
- e-skills UK produces excellent Labour Market Intelligence and research data. Some 6,200 employers contributed to its research in 2008 and the SSC was also able to evidence the wide reach of its research with employers, government departments, academia and the media.
- Over 124,000 girls have participated in the Computer Clubs for Girls programme in

3,799 schools. The programme is also supported by over 500 partners.
- The Information Technology Management for Business degree is offered in 13 universities and student numbers are growing significantly. It has a 100% success rate of leading into employment.
- 29,000 Skills Passports are being used by individuals to track progress in IT user skills.

3.2   The SSC was also able to evidence a real strategic ambition for the future, particularly around:
- Improving the capability of teachers delivering IT provision in schools.
- Bringing more structure to the continuing development of IT professionals.
- Working at a European and Global level to widen the impact of its influence on behalf of the UK.

3.3   The Panel will be highlighting these areas of best practice with Ministers and would like to work with the SSC's Chair and CEO to discuss how best to share their best practice more widely across the SSC network.

3.4   The Panel also endorsed the small number of areas for improvement highlighted in the National Audit Office report and have recommended to Government that these should form part of the SSC's continuous improvement plan. The Panel believe that e-skills UK should fall into the low risk band for ongoing performance assessment.