

Ixion Holdings joins Anglia Ruskin University



Ixion Holdings, the leading business and skills support provider to the Thames Gateway region including London, East of England, SE of England and East Midlands, announced today that it has joined the Anglia Ruskin University group, creating an integrated education and skills offering with a combined turnover of £140 million.

The tie up between one of the UK's fastest growing higher education institutions and one of the country's most ambitious training and skills providers, will consolidate the range of business development and employer engagement opportunities on offer to forward-thinking companies and organisations throughout the Thames Gateway.

Companies within the Ixion Holdings group include East of England IDB Limited which runs Business Link East and Ixion Business Limited which offers outsourced business support services such as business advice, marketing, events and management and Essex Business Support Limited.

As an employer-led specialist organisation, Ixion will continue to provide tailored, Government-funded, business-to-business support, including brokerage, skills development training, knowledge transfer and business creation, both nationally and internationally.

Priorities for the newly-enlarged education and training provider will be to increase interactions with businesses, public sector bodies and other organisations, to develop course-related, employer engagement activities and to develop new, dedicated, campus-based business incubator facilities.

Ixion Holdings Limited

Alexandra House, 36a Church Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7HY
T 01245 241 412 F 01245 241 500 W www.ixionholdings.com

Anglia Ruskin University has recently won one of the largest awards of funds from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), for the new 'Higher Skills @ Work' programme which will provide degree level skills training for people in the workplace. The specialist 'Higher Skills @ Work' team will operate within the new and overarching education and skills training offering for businesses, as well as individuals seeking career development and enhancement.

Under the new arrangement, Ixion will keep its identity and continue to maintain its own portfolio and business development functions. Ixion's existing service provision and clients will be unaffected by the new ownership arrangement.

Professor Michael Thorne, Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University, comments: 'We are delighted to welcome this new move to put employer engagement more firmly on the map. Ixion's outstanding record for meeting the training and skills needs of businesses in the East of England and London made it the perfect partner to further develop our business skills portfolio.'

'This new arrangement will provide additional business growth which will, in turn, lead to further improvements in the social, cultural and economic well being of the region.'

Graham Baker, CEO Ixion Holdings, comments: 'It is a measure of Ixion's hunger for growth that we are joining with a University equally as ambitious. It opens considerable future development opportunities in areas of innovation, skills and professional services for business, both in the UK and internationally.'

Ixion is a business and skills support provider and works with all major Government funding bodies and policy-makers to ensure that public funds meet the needs of businesses and individuals.

Anglia Ruskin University has two main campuses, in Cambridge and Chelmsford, with over 24,000 students and 1,000 academic staff. Other links to create new university facilities are in place at King's Lynn, Peterborough and Harlow. The University serves students within the East of England and throughout the UK and has a growing number of international students.

Ends

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Notes to editors:

Ixion Holdings

Ixion Holdings Ltd is a limited by guarantee, not-for-profit organisation, passionate about giving back to the community. Founded in 2001, Ixion's headquarters are in Chelmsford, Essex with a presence in central London and Brussels.

Companies within the Ixion group include:

- a. East of England IDB Limited – runs Business Link East;
- b. Ixion Business Limited - Offers outsourced business support services such as Business Advice, Marketing, Events, Management and delivers Train to Gain brokerage to the London Region
- c. Essex Business Support Limited delivers Train to Gain brokerage to the East of England

For more information please visit: www.ixionholdings.com

Anglia Ruskin University

Anglia Ruskin University is passionate about the advancement of knowledge and the education of students, and we pride ourselves on taking university education in imaginative new directions.

The title 'Anglia Ruskin University' was granted by the Privy Council in 2005. It is a title that reflects not only the University's heritage but its contemporary values.

Heritage

Anglia Ruskin University has its origins in the *Cambridge School of Art* opened in 1858 by John Ruskin, which became the *Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology* (CCAT) from 1960. This merged with the *Essex Institute of Higher Education* in 1989 to form the *Anglia Higher Education College*. The merged college became a polytechnic, called Anglia Polytechnic, in 1991. Anglia Polytechnic was awarded university status in 1992, and so became Anglia Polytechnic University (APU).

In 2005 the University considered a name change. From over two hundred suggestions and consultations with staff, students, local residents, communities and businesses, the University chose *Anglia Ruskin University*, with the new name taking effect following the approval of the Privy Council on 29 September 2005.

Anglia Ruskin today

Anglia Ruskin University is open to anyone interested in exploring research, learning and collaborative experiences within its five distinctive Faculties:

- Ashcroft International Business School
- Faculty of Arts, Law & Social Sciences
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health & Social Care
- Faculty of Science & Technology

We are unequivocally committed to:

- Raising our research profile
- Becoming more globally focused
- Embracing our region
- Remaining demand led
- Investing in new and inspiring learning environments
- Continuing to develop flexible learning for students everywhere
- Striving to become greener and more efficient

Anglia Ruskin University

Please can you refer to Anglia Ruskin University in full. The University should not be referred to as ARU. The name Anglia Polytechnic University no longer exists.

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achieving aspirations through growth

For more press information please contact:

Anglia Ruskin University:

Andrea Hilliard on 0845 196 4727
or mobile 07771 653 111 or
Alison Baker on 01284 703357
or mobile 07771 658 612
Anglia Ruskin University
email: andrea.hilliard@anglia.ac.uk
alisonbakerpr@aol.com

or

Ixion Holdings Ltd:

Chris Newman, Fleishman Hillard, 020 7395 7029 or 07725043100 chris.newman@fleishmaneuropa.com

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Alexandra House, 36a Church Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7HY
T 01245 241 412 **F** 01245 241 500 **W** www.ixionholdings.com