Westminster *e*Forum Keynote Seminar: Skills for the UK Digital Economy - delivering the IT professionals of the future
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 9th February 2011
Venue: Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place,
St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Agenda subject to change

8.45 - 9.00   Registration

9.00 - 9.05   **Chairman's opening remarks**
Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, Chairman, PITCOM

9.05 - 9.35   **Assessing the Independent Review of Skills for the Video Games Industry**
What is the nature of the UK IT skills gap? What are the UK's short and long-term requirements? What is currently being done to address the shortfall in skills and what measures need to be taken? Where will the initiatives come from?
Ian Livingstone OBE, Life President, Eidos and Chair, Computer Games Skills Council, Skillset

9.35 - 10.20   **Perspectives on the review and IT skills shortages**
Senior views on issues raised by the Independent Review of Skills for the Video Games Industry. Outside of video games, where are the shortfalls in skills, and what action needs to be taken? What should be the priorities for Government to help address IT skills gaps? What is likely to be the long-term effect on the UK's international competitiveness? How can young people be encouraged to enter careers in IT?
Philip Virgo, Secretary General, EURIM, The Information Society Alliance
Dr Sue Black, Senior Research Associate, Software Systems Engineering Group, University College London
Carrie Hartnell, Associate Director, Industry Strategy, Intellect
Questions and comments from the floor with **Ian Livingstone OBE**, Life President, Eidos and Chair, Games Council, Skillset

10.20 - 10.25   **Chairman's closing remarks**
Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, Chairman, PITCOM

10.25 - 10.45   Coffee

10.45 - 10.50   **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord Boswell of Aynho, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education

10.50 - 11.40   **The IT crowd: an attractive career?**
To what extent does IT still suffer from an image problem in the UK? What can be done to encourage young people to choose a career in IT? What career paths and prospects are open to IT professionals? Are there adequate pathways into IT? Why are men more likely to enter the profession than women?
Allan Pettman, UK Managing Director, Global Knowledge
Justin Cooke, Chief Executive Officer, Fortune Cookie and Chair, British Interactive Media Association
Kevin Streater, Executive Director, IT & Telecoms, The Open University
Steve Beswick, Director of Education, Microsoft
Questions and comments from the floor

11.40 - 12.35   **Teaching IT and computing in schools**
How fit for purpose is IT teaching in schools? How might teaching in primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities be adapted to meet the requirements of business employers? How can links between industry, universities and secondary schools be improved to create a more IT-literate workforce and encourage young people to choose careers in IT? Why are young people, whilst users, not entering careers in the video games industry and other specialist IT sectors?
Andy Palmer, Head of Skills, BT Group
Miles Berry, Senior Lecturer in ICT Education, Roehampton University
Rachel Jones, Head of Education, Steljes
Simon Humphreys, Co-ordinator for Computing at School, BCS Academy of Computing
Drew Buddie, Head of ICT, Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth
Questions and comments from the floor

12.35 - 12.55   **Filling the UK's IT skills gap**
Karen Price, Chief Executive Officer, e-skills UK
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00   **Chairman's and Westminster *e*Forum closing remarks**
Lord Boswell of Aynho, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
Thomas Raynsford, Senior Producer, Westminster *e*Forum