

## University of Chester Academies Trust appoint European Electronique as its ICT Partner



European Electronique to provide University of Chester Academies Trust (UCAT), amongst many others, a central and shared service across all schools

### Background

European Electronique has, for over 20 years, been providing ICT products and services to the education sector and was delighted to be chosen as the ICT partner for the University of Chester Academies Trust (“UCAT”).

UCAT is one of a small number of Universities that are multi-sponsors of academies and have been accredited by the Department for Education. Currently lead sponsors for two open academies and three prospective, UCAT have aspirations of sponsoring up to 20 schools of varying levels. Partnership with a single ICT supplier such as European Electronique will facilitate a consistent ICT strategy and with the company’s reputation for delivering innovation, the latest educational technologies can be offered to each school.



European Electronique’s goal was to deliver an ICT solution that can support UCAT’S vision of raising attainment and aspirations, sharing best practices and facilitating the ICT support and resources for the wider community. Features to be implemented are central and shared services across all of their academies which will aid in the development of a regional “family” of academies each sharing their drive towards outstanding achievement and success for every student.

The University Church of England Academy in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire was the first to open in September 2009 and within a year, was recognised as one of the most improved and hence was awarded the Scottish Power / Trinity Mirror “Champion School of the Year 2010” title. Following this success, University Academy, Birkenhead opened in January 2011 which also enjoyed greatly improved GCSE results in their first year. Planning approval has been granted in Ellesmere Port to commence building work on a new multi-million pound school which has an opening date of October 2012.

The solution proposed by European Electronique to accommodate both the current and future development comprises a virtual desktop infrastructure, complex AV systems and a fully integrated Microsoft business intelligence workflow system, linking office productivity tools with a unified communications system and a SharePoint document management system.

Also proposed is a digital section within the library. This will aim to raise aspirations and create resources which can be provided to students more used to a digital culture. European Electronique suggested a number of Kindle E-book readers and iPod touches.

Raising aspirations will be a key part of the academy’s goal and European Electronique will be working with its industry partner, Sony UK, to provide inspirational AV technology. A video wall situated in the entrance space will display the academy and local community’s information which will provide an area for students to showcase their work.

The wider community will also play an important role in the Trust’s development and European Electronique has ensured the ICT solution has been designed to allow the Trust to support the community through the extended use of ICT resources. Community services such as youth clubs could also benefit through the deployment of terminals linked back to the main servers. The solution will also support start-up businesses through the potential of offering business services such as hosting and back office systems support services.

In addition, there is a number of training courses which can be delivered such as the Microsoft Academy programme. European Electronique has experience of working with schools on such programmes and getting support from organisations such as Microsoft.



Yolanta Gill, CEO of European Electronique, said: *“Providing cutting edge ICT solutions especially to educational establishments is a passion of European Electronique and with our continuing success in this area, we are delighted to be chosen as ICT partner to UCAT and look forward to putting our plans into action. This appointment once again shows the determination and skill set of the company and staff who strive for perfection every time.”*

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## **About European Electronique**

European Electronique is a leading technology company with 22 years' experience in ICT and a reputation for innovation. The company is a market leader in the education sector while delivering innovative customised solutions to other markets including; Local and Central Government, Emergency Services, Housing and Healthcare.

European Electronique's skills are recognised at national Government level and the company is accredited by Buying Solutions, the national procurement framework for UK public services, an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce in the Treasury; and is an Approved Supplier for the Department for Education's ICT Services Framework Agreement, providing solutions to the education sector.

European Electronique's principal areas of business activity are the provision of:

- ❖ One-stop supply chain solutions (Procurement Services)
- ❖ Infrastructure Services Projects
- ❖ ITIL and FITS Compliant Full & Hybrid Managed Services and many other IT Support Services