

## Press Release

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

### **PTS Consulting Group (incorporating Improcom) is appointed by Keele University to develop strategic plans for a new telephony network**

PTS Consulting Group (incorporating Improcom) has been chosen by Keele University to assist with the development of a strategy roadmap that will lead to the replacement of the University's ageing telephony infrastructure, which is presently used by approximately 5,000 students and staff members across the Keele campus.

Keele University was founded in 1949 to promote interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary scholarship and make a distinctive contribution to higher education by emphasising the strength of a broad educational programme. Located in Staffordshire on a site of 617 acres, Keele is the UK's largest integrated campus university and is a major contributor to its local economy. With a turnover of £80m, and a total staff of some 1,700, the University generates around £140m of business in the region. The project to replace the telephone system coincides with a 70-acre campus development scheme, which will see the upgrade of the campus backbone fibre-optic network. This presents an ideal opportunity to integrate the different systems on campus across all academic offices and buildings, the university science park and the halls of residence.

The appointed consultancy team will use its extensive experience in the fields of digital PBX replacement and IP Telephony implementation within the Higher Education sector to work with Keele University's key service areas to clearly identify the University's: current ICT strategies, policies and technologies; the organisational business drivers and user needs; the potential technology and suppliers currently available in the marketplace to meet the new requirements; development of the key stages of the project and timescales; budgetary cost estimates; and, appraisal of technical, commercial and operational risks. The initial strategy planning work will ensure that all relevant business, technical and commercial issues are properly considered prior to procurement and implementation of any new equipment.

Edward Youngman, Planning and Project Officer for Keele University commented:

*"I am delighted to be working with PTS Consulting to develop a strategic plan that will ultimately improve the service our telephony network provides to our students and staff members. Since the replacement of Keele University's telephony infrastructure is anticipated to coincide with a wider 70-acre campus development scheme, it is vital that our plans are correctly aligned with organisational processes and requirements before we move ahead with procurement and implementation."*

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#### **Notes to editors:**

PTS Consulting Group PLC (PTS) is one of the world's leading IT consultancies with a reputation for innovation and thought leadership. PTS is also renowned for its project management expertise. As the global leader in IT relocation projects, working with some of the world's largest companies, PTS has earned a world-wide reputation for independence, professionalism and quality of

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service. Founded in 1983 and headquartered in the UK, PTS has worked in over 40 different countries, over 50 cities and employs more than 300 staff in North America, Europe and Asia. [www.pts-consultinggroup.com](http://www.pts-consultinggroup.com)

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