

New community technology and learning centre opens at Union Haddiema Maghqudin

A NEW centre for technology and learning has been opened at the premises of the *Union Haddiema Maghqudin* (UHM) in Floriana. The centre is the fourth in a series of community centres forming part of the HelloIT programme, which is administered by the Ministry of Investment, Industry and IT. The aim of these centres is to increase accessibility to new technologies and lifelong learning in the community.

Investment, Industry and Information Technology Minister Austin Gatt said information and communication technologies were tools that could bring new opportunities and better living standards. The HelloIT programme attempted to provide inclusive education for those in the lower social strata and should eventually create an information-conscious society that could meet the challenges of tomorrow, he said.

The launch was attended by Franz Scherz, managing director for HP

Country Development Group, who explained: "HP's 'e-inclusion' initiative is to provide people with access to greater social and economic opportunities by closing the gap between technology-empowered and technology-excluded communities."

The centre will provide a number of services enabling people to feel comfortable to go to try out technology for themselves. The services include access to broadband Internet, learning programmes, training and employment services, programmes for persons with disability and specialised programmes for children, adults and housewives on the use of eGovernment services.

The aid amounts to a capital injection of Lm9,000, plus an extra Lm8,500 yearly to cover recurrent expenses. The other three centres are at ACCESS Centre in Vittoriosa, the National Council of Women's offices in Blata l-Bajda, and at the Eden Foundation Complex at Bulebel.



Dr Gatt said two other centres would be opened soon at the Richmond Foundation and the first centre in Gozo.

The centres are being set up with the help of Microsoft (software and funding), HP (hardware and curricu-



FRANZ SCHERZ, managing director for HP Country Development Group (second from right) with (from left) John Gatt, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Investment, Industry and IT, IT Minister Austin Gatt, Gejtu Vella, general secretary, UHM, and Pierre Mallia, manager for Microsoft in Malta during the press conference inaugurating the fourth Community Technology and Learning Centre at the *Union Haddiema Maghqudin*.

lum for learning programme), Maltacom (Internet and telephone equipment) and Enemalta (water and electricity expenses).

EU-funded project on B2B financial networks

FLUID-WIN (Finance Logistics Production in Web Information Networks) is an EU-funded research project under the 6th Framework programme that officially kicked off last January and continues for 32 months.

The project has been funded under the key action line of the fourth call of the IST project to help the enlarged European area and has partners from the new member states of Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Malta, among others from Germany, Italy and Spain.

The aim of the project is to assist existing B2B networks to work seamlessly together with finance and logistics service providers to allow for better integration within their information systems.

Within the lifetime of the project, the aim is to allow several business nets that already collaborate together, like in the diesel engine manufacturers, domestic appliances manufacturers and, where possible, also other secondary sector industries to not only share data, but to facilitate their logistic and trade financial planning.

The Maltese partner, AcrossLimits, is a dynamic local company with strong roots in the ICT sector that has excelled in European projects and also has a representative office in Brussels. The task of AcrossLimits is to investigate several banks in Malta, Spain, Italy, Slovakia and Hungary with the aim to integrate where possible these financial institutions within the FLUID-WIN platform.

Angele Giuliano, EU projects director of AcrossLimits, visited Spain where she held meetings with local banks and also attended the fourth project meeting of FLUID-WIN in Bilbao. "We are proud to form part of this aggressive project," she said, "and we believe that the banks that are joining us will help to create a European trade financing platform that goes beyond and surpasses the aims of this project."

For more information on the FLUID-WIN project and AcrossLimits visit www.acrosslimits.com.

The future of consumer payments

PHILIP Toledo Limited, a leading local IT solutions provider, together with S1 Corporation, a worldwide global provider of payment solutions for financial institutions, recently organised a half-day seminar with the theme 'The future of

consumer payments'.

The event was targeted at Maltese financial institutions and focused on topics such as:

- trends in the consumer payment world;
- increasing regulatory challenges

in the consumer payment area;

- Malta payment data;
- Malta ATM and point of sale usage; and
- banking delivery channels and profitability.

SEPA, EMV and PCI regulations, currently hot subjects in the international financial sector, were also discussed. Delegates appreciated this European view on these subject areas and how these regulations may be turned into opportunities.

S1 Corporation (incorporating Mosaic Software), delivers customer-facing software solutions and offers unique product sets for specific market segments, including banks, retailers, processors and telecommunication companies. S1 employs 1,700 people worldwide with more than 4,000 customers.

S1's Postilion payments software solution drives all consumer payments through ATMs, POS terminals,

mobile phones and Internet access points. Postilion provides consolidated management information, integrated card management, EMV chip card enablement and loyalty software solutions.

Postilion reduces transaction processing costs, speeds time to market for new products and offerings, improves analysis of customer transactions and business opportunities and increases profitability. Postilion is at the forefront of next-generation payments processing software. For more information, visit www.s1.com.

Philip Toledo Ltd has been providing solutions and support to Maltese financial institutions for over 40 years. Specialising in leading solutions, it has been in business for 60 years and currently employs 73 professionals. For more information on financial solutions contact Tony Muscat on 2144-5566, tmuscat@pil.com.mt or visit www.pil.com.mt.

EUROBASKET TEAM SUMMER SCHOOL



Join us again this year at our fun-filled and exciting Basketball training sessions between July 3 and 28

Choose from: Naxxar, Zebbug and Gudja

To receive details send sms with name and address to

coach Bane Vukovic on 9942 8496

- LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE -

STAGECOACH SUMMER WORKSHOPS

ADULTS

1 WEEK WORKSHOP

culminating in a showcase for adults from 16 YEARS OLD (divided according to experience) From 10th - 15th July Everyday from 19.00 to 22.30 at St James Cavalier with Denise Mulholland ACTING & Gavin Mole SINGING

CONTACT US ON:

Tel: 21419306 Mob: 79445030 Email: marika@stagecoachmalta.com

KIDS

1 WEEK WORKSHOP

culminating in a production for kids from 4-15 YEARS OLD From 10th - 14th July Everyday from 10.00 to 17.00 at St James Cavalier with

Denise Mulholland ACTING
Gavin Mole SINGING
Emma Loftus DANCING



THE Philip Toledo Ltd S1 Corporation seminar

Island Insurance Brokers Ltd revamps corporate Website

ISLAND Insurance Brokers Ltd has revamped their corporate Website, which can be viewed at www.islandins.com.

"We are very pleased with the new design of our Website," managing director Lawrence Pavia said. "Following the move to our new offices in Psaila Street, Birkirkara, we also felt the need to upgrade our Website to better reflect the increased activities of the company and to cater for the advances in the use of the Internet in modern times.

"Our new Website has been designed to allow Internet users to have clear and concise information about our company. It also allows easy access to the company's departments/

specialists via e-mail link facilities and online/printable proposal forms.

"Internet is the future for the insurance world, where we can already see some foreign insurers transacting business exclusively through the Internet. As one of the leading insurance brokers in Malta, we intend and need to be on the frontline in the development of new platforms for transacting insurance business.

"Hence the facilities on our new Website will be kept constantly upgraded to increase the interaction with its users."

Island Insurance Brokers was formed in April 1989 to provide professional, efficient and cost effective insurance broking and risks manage-

ment services. From modest beginnings, Island Insurance Brokers can now boast a well established and respected insurance broking office, loyal clientele and 27 professionally-trained and qualified staff.

The portfolio handled by Island Insurance Brokers now includes some of Malta's major industrial and commercial entities involved in the manufacturing, trade, services, maritime and other sectors.

The company forms part of Island Holdings Ltd, which also includes Island Financial Services Ltd. Island Insurance Brokers Ltd is an enrolled company regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority to transact business of insurance broking.