

Alta and Scholar: Two Class Acts

SCHOLAR – Scotland’s world class provider of high quality web-based courses – is collaborating with Alta Systems an innovative, education driven software company specialising in online assessment to support teaching and learning within the UK.

The collaboration is based on a shared determination to improve the quality of teaching and learning through the use of innovative use of web-based assessment technologies. The collaboration combines the strengths and expertise of both organisations – Alta with formative and diagnostic profiles of pupils’ strengths and areas for improvement for primary and lower secondary and SCHOLAR’s qualification focused educational and e-assessment resources with its 'virtual college' support network for 21st century learning.

Subject specialists from schools and colleges have authored the SCHOLAR materials drawing on the specialist expertise in interactive and distance learning of Heriot-Watt University. Best practice in innovative learning along with tried-and-tested educational approaches are embedded in the SCHOLAR materials.

Alta Systems has worked successfully with LTS, SQA and education authorities in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and England to develop customised assessment solutions, localised to the regional curriculum. Localised solutions providing formative, diagnostic and summative information have been deployed in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and England to raise standards in Numeracy and Mathematics.

Both organisations are committed

- to supporting high quality teaching and effective learning
- to individualise learning based on high quality assessment information.
- to making effective use of ICT to support autonomous learning.

Scholar and Alta will work jointly to support existing and new qualifications in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.

About Scholar

The SCHOLAR programme is one of the largest online learning programmes in the world with over 50,000 registered students in Scottish secondary schools. It provides online educational resources and a 'virtual college' support network.

Drawing on its special expertise in interactive and distance learning, SCHOLAR materials have been specially written by subject specialists from schools, colleges and the university. They bring together the best of innovative learning with tried-and-tested educational approaches.

About Heriot-Watt University

www.hw.ac.uk

Heriot-Watt University is the eighth oldest higher education institution in the UK. It originated as the School of Arts of Edinburgh in 1821 and, in 1966, became a University by Royal Charter. The University, one of the UK's leading research institutions, is building on its strategic research themes and has a reputation for innovative education, enterprise and leading edge research in science and engineering, mathematics, business and design.

Heriot-Watt has four student campuses: three in Scotland - Edinburgh, the Scottish Borders and Orkney - and a campus in Dubai.

More than a quarter of our 7000 on-campus students in Scotland are from outside the UK and this international focus is also demonstrated by the 10,000 students worldwide studying on our international programmes.

Heriot-Watt has an internationally renowned expertise in distance learning and computer-supported open learning.

For further information about SCHOLAR please contact Professor Phillip John, Chair, SCHOLAR Forum. Tel: 0131 451 3247. e-mail p.john@hw.ac.uk

About Alta Systems (NI) Ltd
www.alta-systems.com



Alta delivers Adaptive Learning Teaching & Assessment solutions. Alta improves learning outcomes by informing self-assessment and teaching. Diagnostic pupil profiles are built up over time and can be a combination of automated assessments and moderated teacher assessments. Alta's informative assessment products are based on a proven methodology that delivers improved pupil performance which has been validated and endorsed by educationalists and teachers.

An Alta solution is always tailored to a curriculum. Promoting self-assessment and formative assessment, the Alta systems are unique in providing diagnostic feedback of strengths and weaknesses for each learner. The combination of multi-instance questions, full replay and model answers provides stimulating and engaging experiences for learners that deliver personal performance improvements.

The Alta methodology provides educationally reliable online assessment with diagnostic feedback and analysis to pupils, teachers and parents. The approach is not restricted to mathematics, is independent of subject matter and does not impose, but adapts to, classroom practices and teaching policies.

For further information about Alta Systems and the Alta methodology please contact Dr Barry Hagan, Sales and Marketing Director. Tel: 028 9066 3122. M: 077 147 00066. e-mail barry.hagan@alta-systems.co.uk