

ILM and SFEDI partnership announced

Today sees a major step forward for all entrepreneurs and small businesses across the country as the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), the largest provider of management and leadership qualifications in Europe, announced it is to form a strategic partnership with the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative ([SFEDI](#)) the UK's National Occupational Standards setting and endorsement body for small business owners and those providing support to them.

Kim Parish, chief executive of ILM said:

"This is an exciting business partnership because both SFEDI and ILM are committed to raising the standard of learning, training, coaching and business support available to small and home business owners. With this common aim, it makes sense for us to enter into a partnership which will eventually lead to all SFEDI licensed centres and centres of excellence also gaining the opportunity to become ILM centres. As such individuals will not only gain SFEDI certification but ILM qualifications. We will also work to develop a Membership Academy specifically targeted at entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Tony Robinson OBE, co-founder and chairman of SFEDI also welcomed the partnership:

"This partnership brings the backing of this leading professional body to SFEDI's network of centres. SFEDI and ILM have worked together on enterprise development standards, learning and qualifications for many years but this agreement significantly increases the speed at which we can bring demand-led learning and support solutions to small and home business owners and all those who support them. We are working to recognise all our licensed centres as joint ILM/SFEDI centres by early March. As such joint ILM/SFEDI certificates will be issued to business support personnel being assessed through these centres which will be a further endorsement of the quality service we provide'.

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Further information

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Notes to editors:

SFEDI: (<http://www.sfedi.co.uk>) SFEDI is the UK Standards-setting and endorsement body for business enterprise and business support. It was formed in 1995 to drive up quality to enable small and home business owners gain the know how to start up, survive and thrive. SFEDI endorses people, products and programmes that meet the standards for the support and training to those starting or running their own businesses.

ILM: (<http://www.i-l-m.com>) The Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) is part of the international City & Guilds group. ILM is the largest provider of management education qualifications in Europe, building the skills of over 80,000 managers and leaders each year. All ILM qualifications are designed to deliver practical business benefit to the individual, their team and the organisation they work for. ILM's qualifications are delivered by 2,000 further education colleges, universities, training providers and companies in the UK and globally. ILM is the professional membership body of choice for forward thinking managers and leaders providing a wide range of member benefits, support and development opportunities throughout their career.