## Software industry shapes degree offer

A group of leading software companies in Cornwall have welcomed the launch of a new computing degree being offered at Cornwall College Camborne, part of The Cornwall College Group.  The BSc Honours in Computing Technologies is awarded by Plymouth University and has been designed with help from Software Cornwall who are hoping to fill an emerging skills gap.

Programme Manager for the new degree, Caroline Cripps, said: "It has been fantastic to work with local employers to create the top up degree which we know fits exactly what the market is looking for. We are excited to offer this opportunity to those looking to further their qualifications in the digital technologies sector."

Software Cornwall was created informally by a group of ambitious Cornish tech companies in 2012 and has recently been formally constituted as a not-for-profit company.  The group has focused on developing education and skills provision in computing and software in the county to ensure a supply of talented software engineers for the companies' future growth aspirations, and has worked closely with The Cornwall College Group on the design of the new degree programme.

Belinda Waldock, Software Cornwall Programme Director, said: "This is a great example of what Software Cornwall was created for.  We identified a 'broken pipeline' in software skills provision in the county and have engaged directly with education providers to fix it."

The BSc (Hons) Computing Technologies Degree is a third year top-up to the existing two year Foundation Degree in Computing, Networking and Software Development already offered by The Cornwall College Group, allowing students to complete a full honours degree in Cornwall rather than needing to travel to Plymouth or beyond.

The syllabus has been designed together with Software Cornwall to provide the most up-to-date skills required by employers; modules include Agile Methods, E-Business, Digital Forensics, Cloud Computing and Security, and with an option for either Advanced Networking or Advanced Object Orientated Programming.  Critically the programme also provides a pathway to employment through a major project component which will be delivered in conjunction with Software Cornwall members.

CEO of Packet Ship and HE Lead for Software Cornwall, Paul Clark, said: "Our group of local software companies has been delighted to be involved in the design of the new honours degree top-up programme and we look forward to engaging with the staff and students with a view to nurturing and recruiting home-grown Cornish talent."

Director of Business and Professional at The Cornwall College Group, Dr Tanya Ovenden-Hope said: "Working in partnership with digital technology employers across Cornwall has enabled us to design an ambitious and sector relevant honours degree in computing which is validated by Plymouth University. The BSc (Hons) in Computing Technologies, will start in September 2015 and provide huge opportunities for those seeking a career in computing."

For more information on the range of computing courses available across The Cornwall College Group visit www.cornwall.ac.uk or call 0845 22 32 567.

## ENDS

**For further media details, please contact Jamie Reed, PR Manager The Cornwall College Group, email jamie.reed@cornwall.ac.uk or call 01209 616101 or 07795 814308.**

**Belinda Waldock, Programme Director for Software Cornwall email belinda@softwarecornwall.org or call 07776 094925.**

**Paul Clark, CEO, Packet Ship email paul@packetship.com  or call 0800 043 05 54.**

**About Software Cornwall**

Software Cornwall was formed informally in 2012 by a group of companies from the software sector in Cornwall collaborating to support the growth of the software industry in the County. Since then it has become a collaborative group of software development enterprises, education providers and business support organisations based in Cornwall, UK working together to grow the software engineering sector in Cornwall.

This has led to the formation of a not-for-profit organisation in April 2015.Software Cornwall's Vision is Cornwall as the most productive global location for software development. Its mission statement is 'To promote and support software growth and excellence in Cornwall for today and in the future.' For more information visit www.softwarecornwall.org.