

IN BRIEF**Accountants learn online**

IGNITE — BT's new data-centric broadband internet protocol business — is to host the first e-learning solution for accountants on behalf of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). The online professional development service is available through ACCAdemy.com and aims to enable accountancy people to broaden their skills without the cost of travelling to classroom-based courses.

Powerful partnership

A FOUR-YEAR, £300 million contract has been awarded by BT to energy company npower for the supply of electricity to more than 7,000 BT facilities. Commercial supply chain manager Steve Drain said: "Choosing npower reflects the trust that BT places in it as a long-term partner that can help us realise efficiency innovations and business objectives. It will also enable us fully to develop e-business interfaces."

Conferencing on demand

BT conferencing has launched a global service which will allow groups of up to 30 people to have an on-demand phone conference at any time and from anywhere in the world via the internet, mobile or conventional phones. People are allocated a private virtual meeting room, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and secured by their own entry code.

E-commerce simplified

A PAN-EUROPEAN alliance has been formed by BT and Selectica to deliver sophisticated e-commerce solutions. Selectica's internet selling system software will be incorporated into some of the high-value e-business offerings from Syncordia Solutions. The system allows complex e-commerce purchases to be simplified and analysis of consumers' needs to be automated quickly and easily.

Quicker delivery

BT StoreCentre has set up an online delivery service for its store owners. They can use Business Post to deliver products quickly and reliably, and customers will be able to specify the time and place of delivery.

Text payphone goes on trial

IT'S child's play to send messages in cyber space, thanks to the new BT text payphone.

Thirty of the payphones, which allow users to send e-mails and text messages, have been installed for a trial in standard phone boxes, identified by signs on the glass and posters inside.

A display screen shows text and graphics, and services are selected by pressing buttons at each side.

A keyboard beneath the screen is used to write and send e-mails, and send text messages to mobile phones.

Sending an e-mail costs 20p for a message equivalent to three-quarters of an A4 page. Text messages to mobile phones cost 10p.

As the trial in Brighton and Hove comes to an end the text payphones will be rolled out across the UK.



Customers take on 'disaster' challenge