



NEW EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OPENS IN TECHNOPARK, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, INDIA.

26th February 2003

RM plc the leading supplier of Information and Communications Technology to Education in the UK has established a subsidiary company to develop educational software in Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. RM Education Solutions India Pvt Ltd will develop innovative education software for its parent company RM plc based near Oxford, England.

Mr. Colin Watson, Commercial Director, RM plc, announced this today at a press conference in the presence of Mr. P.K.Kunhalikutty, Hon. Minister for IT for the State of Kerala, India, Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, IT Secretary, and Mr. Rajiv Vasudevan, CEO-Technopark.

Commenting on the opening of the new company, **Mr. Colin Watson** said, 'We chose the state of Kerala because of its commitment to supporting the development of leading edge technology companies such as RM Education Solutions India. Also, as an educational technology company we were keen to locate in a state that shared our commitment to education. We were particularly impressed by the quality of the premises available at Technopark and have leased over 8,000 sq ft. The cooperation and support we have already received from Technopark has confirmed we have made the right choice.'

Mr. Watson added, 'RM Educational Solutions India Pvt Ltd, will initially employ 25 people and recruitment of staff has already begun. The company plans this figure to rise to 50 later this year and to 100+ within 2 years, most of whom will have software development skills in the areas of database systems, network technologies,

primarily on the Microsoft platform. RM is confident that it will find many of the high quality, hard working and committed staff it needs from the local people of Kerala.'

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Notes to Editors

About RM plc:

Founded in 1973 by Mike Fischer and Mike O'Regan, RM plc is the UK's leading provider of commercial education services. Initially founded as a high technology startup exploiting the availability of low cost microprocessors, RM rapidly became a pioneer in the application of technology to education. The Group's first educational microcomputer was launched in 1977, and schools, colleges and universities have formed the core of our business ever since. In recent years RM has expanded its range of products and services to include interactive whole-class teaching services, teacher training, ICT-based needs assessment and school management information systems.

From the very beginning RM has concentrated on making industry standard technologies accessible and appropriate in an educational environment. Our first computers used the then standard Z80 microprocessor and CP/M operating system. We launched our first MS DOS / Windows PC in 1985, making RM one of the first companies in the world to adopt the MS Windows standard. And since 1987 every new system introduced by RM has been compatible with industry standards.

In the 1990s it became clear that the educational community was looking for more from their suppliers than simple technological expertise. RM rose to the challenge. Looking beyond the technology, the Group formed long-term partnerships with both educationalists and other learning technology companies. These partnerships allow us to deliver genuine learning productivity. It is a strategy that has worked as our market leadership shows. RM's passion is education and its aim is to explore and exploit the potential of IT to improve educational standards. Today, RM is expanding its relationships with customers further by providing a diverse range of education services.

RM employs more than 1,200 staff, most of whom are based at our headquarters at Milton Park in Oxfordshire. Our sales and support staff covers the whole of the UK, operating from offices in Stockport, Glasgow and Abingdon. Company turnover in 2002 was about £200 million (about Rs.1500 Crs.), with profits (before tax, goodwill amortisation and exceptional items) of £5.0m. The RM Group also includes the specialist web design company 3T Productions Limited and Softease, an educational software publisher.

RM's systems products include RM Connect (the most widely used network in secondary schools) and RM Window Box (the most popular IT solution for primary schools). The company is also active in the software and content market with RM Primary Maths Learning System and Living Library (a premium Internet content product). Further details of the Group's products can be found on this web site.

About Technopark:

Technopark, Trivandrum, an autonomous society promoted by the Government of Kerala, is India's first technology park and among the two largest IT parks in India today. Spread over 156 acres, and about 1.5 m. sq.ft. of built-up space, Technopark hosts over 55 IT and ITES companies, including 5 CMM Level 5, 1 CMM Level 3 and several ISO 9000 certified companies, employing over 5000 IT Professionals. The select list of companies working at Technopark include Ernst & Young Middle East, Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc, subsidiary of McKinsey & Co.), Tata Elxsi, US Software, NeST, IBS, Hays BPO, Suntec, IVL, and Toonz.

Technopark is the IT hub of the State of Kerala, and based in Trivandrum which can rightfully claim to be the knowledge capital of the region. Technopark provides world class, robust and failsafe physical, power and datacom infrastructure, meeting global standards to IT companies. Technopark is a holistic enabling environment to make knowledge organisations intrinsically competitive and successful.

A spectrum of unique Business Value-Adds bear testimony to Technopark's vision of providing a holistic enabling environment to make knowledge industry intrinsically competitive and successful; **Technopark Software Engineering Competency Centre** (TSECC) in association with Rational Software Corporation, where free access to cutting edge software engineering tools is combined with expert handholding; **Technopark eCampus** (www.technoparkecampus.com), providing an e-learning environment for continuous upgradation of skills; **Technopark Business Innovation Centre** (T-BIC), incubating successful knowledge enterprises; **Talenttrac** – Identifying and showcasing Kerala's talent pool for IT and ITES industry through industry standard and endorsed testing procedures.
