

## EAGIT Ltd

	eportfolios
Centre/Organisation	EAGIT Ltd
Programme(s)	NVQ Performing Engineering Operations Level 2
Awarding Body(s)	EMTA Awards Limited (EAL)
Learner numbers	30-40 currently gathering e-portfolio evidence.
Contact details	Keith Franklin

### Background

EAGIT is a long established private sector training provider based in Norwich. They are primarily engaged in training for the engineering sector and run a wide range of programmes from working with schools 14-16, through apprenticeships to bespoke industry based training.

Traditionally, trainees have attended their facilities near Norwich airport for training and assessment. However, this requires trainees to, in some cases, travel significant distances and also restricts the area within which EAGIT can operate.

### How they started

EAGIT has been operating e-testing for some time for KeySkills qualifications and last year decided to invest in an eportfolio system in order to provide a more flexible offer to employers and their employees. For them the use of eportfolios offered a number of advantages particularly for the adult group of learners who would initially be using it. The learners would not have to maintain a large portfolio of paper based evidence and the assessment observations undertaken could be put directly on to the system and signed off immediately. Other advantages they considered included the ability to collect evidence in a variety of formats such as:

- Photographic or scanned evidence of documentation
- Video evidence of performance tasks.
- Video records of answering knowledge questions.

The system being web-based enabled the candidate to upload evidence remotely and send to the assessor, progress was clearly visible and assessors, verifiers and external verifiers all had secure remote access.

### Progress to date

EAGIT undertook a detailed procurement process for their e-portfolio system and their final choice was based on one key consideration which was that the system chosen enabled the assessor to mirror portfolios on the e-portfolio system server by synchronising them to a laptop. The assessor could then take the laptop to the workplace, work with the learner, add evidence through the laptop and, if an internet connect was not available, synchronise it back to the e-portfolio system server on returning to "base".

In late 2006, the system was set up and the first EAGIT staff trained. A small group of learners on Train to Gain programmes based at a number of employers began developing electronic portfolios using the system. Initially, the assessor would collect the evidence on visits, review it with the learner and upload onto the laptop for later synchronisation as detailed earlier. However, a number of the learners have now gone one step further and begun sending evidence to the assessor by e-mail and EAGIT are confident that, in due course, some learners will gain the confidence to access the system directly and upload their own evidence.

EAL have worked alongside EAGIT to monitor these developments and are actively discussing how they might engage with the system to undertake external verification. They are also encouraged by the ability of the alternative types of evidence being gathered to immediately demonstrate appropriate and verifiable learner competence.

### The Issues

The relatively modest level of activity to date has not raised many issues, and EAGIT is very pleased to have moved forward relatively quickly with a number of learners having populated significant proportions of their portfolios. . Extending the use of the system to other programmes will require some active “people engagement”. This will include other staff within EAGIT, employers, awarding body EVs as well as the learners themselves.

To date, the learners have been very positive, with few reported problems in using video or photographs to collect performance evidence.