



Wednesday 13 June 2007

## **GoSkills and SFEDI Help Small Businesses Walk Tall**

GoSkills and SFEDI sign cross sector agreement to support new enterprise

An agreement to champion small businesses and support new enterprise by advocating the highest business support standards has been signed by GoSkills, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) <sup>1/2</sup> for Passenger Transport and the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI).<sup>3</sup>

The agreement is a pledge by GoSkills and SFEDI to support the skills needs of small businesses, especially those which are home-based and without professional managers, across the whole Skills for Business Network, in addition to organisations within GoSkills' own Passenger Transport Sector footprint such as taxi and coach firms and driving instructors.

Tony Robinson, Executive Chairman of SFEDI, commented: *"We are delighted with our partnership with GoSkills as Peter is a strong advocate of the importance of cross sector skills and the work of major standards setting bodies such as SFEDI to the Skills for Business Network. We feel that GoSkills will champion with the twenty-five Sector Skills Councils the skills needs of small and home business owners and all those who support them. This will ensure that SFEDI people, products, programmes, standards and principles are used to develop enterprising people in all the sectors and at all ages - from school students to the over 60s.*

*"One quarter of the adult workforce are involved in running their own businesses so it is of critical importance that GoSkills enables Sector Skills Councils to get the SFEDI know-how to survive and thrive passed on to prospective and existing enterprise owners through their trade and sector bodies and institutions. Additionally, I believe that an acid test for our work, throughout the UK, is to get London cab owner/drivers to use and benefit from SFEDI people, products and programmes. Now, with GoSkills, we have the opportunity to pass this test!"*

Peter Huntington, Chief Executive of *GoSkills*, added: *“It’s very important that such partnership arrangements as the one we have negotiated with SFEDI are in place in the skills world post-Leitch<sup>4</sup>. We need to ensure that SFEDI products and standards not only continue to be available but that their use is more widespread.”*

*GoSkills’* eleven-strong team of Business Advisers completed the SFEDI programme in March 2007 which qualifies them to the SFEDI business support standards and the new *Train to Gain* skills brokerage standards. *GoSkills* is the first Sector Skills Council to engage with this type of training.

## Ends

**Picture shows L/R: Peter Huntington, Chief Executive of *GoSkills*, and Tony Robinson, OBE, Executive Chairman of SFEDI signing a Memorandum of Understanding, with members of SFEDI’s Lead Body in the background.**

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## Notes to Editors:

1. *GoSkills* received its licence to operate as the Sector Skills Council for Passenger Transport from the Sector Skills Development Agency in October 2004. Its mission is to be the leading authority on skills issues for the passenger transport sector. For its first year of licensed operation it received a high grading from the SSDA in the annual assessment.
2. *GoSkills* sector coverage encompasses the following industries and professions:
  - Aviation (airlines, airports and ground handlers)
  - Bus
  - Coach
  - Taxi and Private Hire
  - Community Transport
  - Rail
  - Trams
  - Driver Training
  - Transport Planning
3. SFEDI is the UK standards setting body and endorsement body for prospective and existing small and home business owners and all those that support them. More details on SFEDI, its work and endorsement programme and logos can be found on [www.sfedi.co.uk](http://www.sfedi.co.uk)

4. In 2004, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills commissioned Lord Sandy Leitch to lead an independent review to consider the skills base that the UK should aim to achieve in 2020 to maximise growth, productivity and social justice and to consider the policy implications of achieving the level of change required. Published in December 2006, the Leitch Review of Skills can be obtained from [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/leitch](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/leitch).