ECDL FOUNDATION LTD
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ECDL ADVANCED LAUNCHED

The ECDL Foundation Ltd launched its new European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) "Advanced" computer skills certification programme in March 2001. The Advanced level builds on the success of the ECDL programme that has now topped the 1 million student mark world-wide.
David Carpenter, Managing Director of the ECDL Foundation Ltd, said that the ECDL Advanced programme has been developed in response to a growing need expressed by candidates to demonstrate their competence in using a computer at a higher level.

"Once people have achieved their ECDL and experienced the resulting benefits of what they have learned, they are very keen to further enhance their skills and knowledge. It is in response to this demand that we sought to develop ECDL Advanced".

Unlike the core ECDL where a candidate receives a certificate following a pass in all of seven modules, ECDL Advanced is a more intensive programme that puts candidates through their paces on a module by module basis, awarding a certificate at the successful completion of each module.

Garry Cleere, ECDL Foundation Product Manager said that the Advanced programme has been rolled out initially with the two most requested modules, Advanced Word Processing and Advanced Spreadsheets, and will be followed by the release of other Advanced level modules throughout 2001.

Syllabus content for the ECDL Advanced Level programme has been developed with inputs from the ECDL Foundation expert working groups comprised of professionals with wide-ranging specialist IT skills and through consultation with courseware providers and users.

"The Syllabus for the Advanced Word Processing and Spreadsheets modules is over and above the skills sets and core knowledge contained within the respective core ECDL Syllabus modules. The Advanced level designation for these modules anticipates that candidates have already mastered the skill sets and acquired the specific knowledge outlined in the core ECDL Syllabus and are now ready to move on to a higher level" said Garry Cleere.

In Advanced Level Word Processing, the candidate is required to produce advanced word processing outputs illustrating sophisticated typographical, formatting and layout presentations, including tables, forms or graphics, use tools such as macros and carry out advanced mail-merge operations.In Advanced Level Spreadsheets, the candidate should be able to edit and enhance numeric, text and graphical data and to sort, query and link data. They should also be able to carry out advanced formatting and presentation operations, use available analysis and audit tools and run and record simple macros.

The addition of "Advanced" to the highly successful ECDL programme offers candidates a new level of international computer skills certification to aspire to. This new standard provides a progression within the ECDL framework and equips people with the abilities necessary to deal effectively with the ever-increasing demands of the Information Society both in private and professional life.

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