



the e-assessment association

Newsletter May 2018

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the eAA

Where to begin?

With the really successful second year of the international e-Assessment Awards? With our first ever virtual AGM? With news on the most contested Board elections we have ever held? With a report on our Blockchain presentation at the e-Assessment Question? With not one, but two short blogs and a white paper?

I think we should start with a thank you. To all of our members. Without you, there is no Association and thus none of the above. The e-assessment industry would continue to exist, but we are certainly stronger together, sharing best practice, learning from each other - regardless of what educational sector you work in or what part of the globe you are from.

You will all know the term GDPR* by now (*[click here to be redirected to the ICO website, full of useful information](#)), and we want to reassure our members that we have completed a security audit relating to the data that we hold about our members. The data that we hold about each member does vary according to the information that you entered as part of the membership sign-up process, but includes no more than the following:

- Your first and last name;
- Your e-mail address;
- Your chosen username;
- An encrypted copy of your password (which the eAA cannot access);
- The name of the organisation that you work for or are affiliated with;
- The country in which you are based;
- The title which best describes your organisation
- The role of your organisation
- Your area of focus/interest within e-assessment; and
- The education sector(s) within which you work.

We also want to clarify that you are ONLY on our mailing list (and thus receiving this newsletter) if you have chosen to be so. Whether you visited us at an event, registered via our website or voted in one of our elections or e-polls, on the understanding that you would henceforth become a member. You may unsubscribe at any point - via our website (simply send us a message via the 'Contact Us' section), by sending an email to us at support@e-assessment.com or by clicking the unsubscribe button at the bottom of every email or newsletter that we send out. We'd be sorry to see you go, of course. We only ever use your contact details to get in touch with you on issues directly relating to e-assessment and we only ever use the other data we collect when you sign up, to give us anonymous statistics about our membership.

Finally, a big thank you also goes out to all the [sponsors](#) of the Association for 2018. Nearly 20 different organisations, from small start-ups to large corporations, choose to support the work we do, and again, without this financial input, we would be unable to carry out a vast percentage of what we do.

Which is a neat segway into exactly that - what have we been up to? Read on and find out!

All the best,

Matt Wingfield, eAA Chairman

Contents

- [2018 e-Assessment Awards and Winners Panel Webinar](#)
- [Recognising innovation in eAssessment](#)
- [Q and A with Janet Garcia](#)
- [AlphaPlus Consultancy writes...](#)
- [Job opportunity: Assessment Manager](#)
- [Our first ever virtual AGM](#)
- [Using the blockchain to support digital credentialing](#)
- [Are You Failing Your Students Without Realizing It?](#)
- [Adding your voice to the discussion](#)



eAA Announcements

[Winners of the 2018 eAAwards announced](#)

Winners in 7 categories were announced at the sell-out Gala Dinner held in central London on 18th May. We were delighted to present Angela Verschoor with the Lifetime Contribution Award. Visit our [Awards website](#) for details on all the winning entries.

[Welcome to the newly elected Board Members](#)

We are pleased to welcome three new Individual Board Members – Robbie Burns, Martha Gibson and Emma Hall – and announce the re-election of Matt Wingfield. Two Corporate Board Member positions also became available this year. We are delighted to welcome Graham Orpwood to the Board and announce that Tim Burnett has stood forward for a further three year term.

[Constitution Updated](#)

Thank you to all the members who voted in the recent e-poll for our Constitution. It is freely available on our website and whilst this was quite a comprehensive review, it should be an evolving document, so please do feel free to comment further or ask any questions at any point.

You can email the eAA at any time at support@e-assessment.com

2018 e-Assessment Awards and Winners Panel Webinar

Join us on 6 June 2018 for a webinar showcasing three winning entries.



Winners were announced at the Gala evening on Wednesday 18 April at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Tower of London, in London, UK.

Learn more about the awards and three of the winning projects at a free webinar on 6th June 2018 at 07:00 to 08:00 UTC (that's 8:00 to 09:00 BST). The webinar is part of a series of free webinars run by Transforming Assessment and you need to register to attend in advance. You can find all the details here:

[FREE WEBINAR - 6 JUNE 2018 with Transforming Assessment](#)

Patrick Craven, Vice Chair of the e-Assessment Association, will chair the panel and give an outline introduction to the Association and the international e-Assessment Awards programme. Patrick will be joined by:

- **Gareth Hegarty, International Baccalaureate** "Delivering high stakes e-assessment at scale across four subject areas and a unique examination testing interdisciplinary skills "
- **Captain John Lloyd, RD, MBA, FNI, The Nautical Institute** "Robust and repeatable e-assessment across 92 testing centres, in 30 countries, controlled from headquarters in London"
- **Professor Graham Orpwood, Vretta Inc.** "Personalized, interactive e-assessments in numeracy with immediate diagnostic feedback, developed in collaboration with colleges in Ontario, Canada."

The International e-Assessment Awards are still very much in their infancy, as we conclude our second year. We welcome any feedback on any aspect of the programme. The Awards are organised by a sub-committee of the eAA Board and executed by our part-time marketing and membership co-ordinator.

Thank you to all the sponsors from 2018:

Headline Sponsor 2018 - PSI International

Award Sponsors - ACER, AlphaPlus Consultancy, City & Guilds Group, RM Results and Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA)

Drinks reception kindly supported by Innovate Awarding.



Recognising innovation in eAssessment

by RM Results, Sponsors of the e-Assessment Award for Innovation

To innovate (verb) means to “make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.”¹

Innovation is imperative for the survival of any organisation. In recent years, many have looked to advances in technology as an enabler of innovation. The assessment sector is no different. E-assessment has grown rapidly over the past decade, with the e-Assessment Association forming in 2008 to assist in “furthering technology enhanced assessment adoption”.

At RM Results we love to learn and innovate, whether that’s through the development of RM Assessor3, or exploring the potential of artificial intelligence in the future of assessment technology. That’s why we were pleased to sponsor the eAssessment Award for Innovation for the second year running.

RM Results would like to congratulate all of the finalists of the 2018 eAssessment Awards. In particular, the finalists shortlisted for the 2018 Innovation Award:

- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Innovate Awarding
- Sheffield Hallam University and PebblePad
- Prepona Sistemas de Testagem e Avaliação S.A.

Tim Downie, Business Development Director at RM Results and board member of the e-Assessment Association, presented the Innovation award to the winner, Innovate Awarding at the eAssessment Awards Gala Dinner in London on 18th April.

1 Oxford Dictionaries

Q and A with Janet Garcia

Janet Garcia appointed as President of PSI International.

PSI Services have been a provider of testing solutions for the last 70 years, delivering a full-service solution to corporations, federal and state government agencies, professional and awarding bodies and leading academic institutions. Until a few years ago, PSI was best known across the USA, however, since a new investment partner took over shareholding in 2015, their growth has been rapid. In November 2017 PSI announced the appointment of Janet Garcia as the President of PSI International and progress in the UK and across EMEA has been impressive.



In April 2018 PSI announced it had taken over the Learndirect e-Assessment business, including a full UK test centre network, candidate support centre and delivery of high profile government programmes including for the Home Office (Life in the UK test) and Dept for Education (Professional skills for teachers test). They also announced expansion into the Middle East through the acquisition of Dubai based business, Innovative HR Solutions.

Now delivering now some of the largest assessment programmes in the UK, PSI has over 200 employees across its offices in UK, Europe and the Middle East and we caught up with Janet from PSI new International HQ in central London to hear her plans.

Q We notice PSI have made 12 acquisitions in the last 2 years, and more recently many of those have been outside of the US, can you share the rationale and vision behind this activity?

Under new ownership a clear plan and acquisition strategy was put into place. Firstly to strengthen the technology stack of PSI to increase our ability to deliver more innovative solutions and the full range of modalities for high stakes assessments around the world. Secondly to expand the offering not only from e-

Assessment but also Talent Assessment to provide services to Corporate and HR. Thirdly was to take this broad offering and build domestic markets through acquiring key players in target geographies including UK, Europe and the Middle East. Each acquisition has been a pioneer in their respective space with tried and tested solutions, and an established customer base. The acquisition of the learndirect assets is a prime example, this has transformed our test centre network delivery capability allowing us to bring stability and progressive technology to their customers as well as use the assets and network for delivery of programs to our other global customers.

Q Can you share what else we can expect from PSI in the coming year?

Nothing ever stands still at PSI, so do expect further growth. We saw an opportunity to bring some competition to the market, who seem to have welcomed an alternative provider entering the UK, especially one so flexible and strong on innovation. So expect to hear a lot more about some of the exciting projects we have in the pipeline. I expect there will also be further acquisitions inside and outside of the UK. Amongst other things, we are looking to strengthen our presence in Asia Pac.

Q Do you think the market is keeping up with technology advancements?

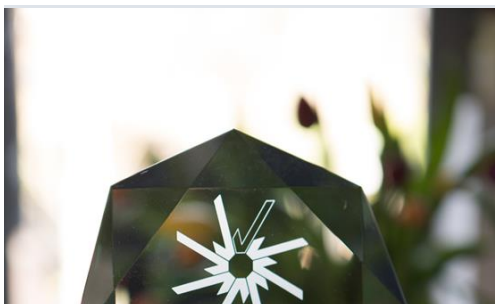
PSI has an innovation team releasing cutting edge solutions for future test takers particularly in the use of biometrics and remote invigilation. Biometrics have already transformed the way we operate in our day to day lives (e.g. banking, passport control), and we anticipate this extending out to the assessment market so we are ready. However, many exam owners and, in particular those from certain regions, are not ready for this yet and it may not be appropriate for them, so will need to retain more traditional methods of delivery, probably for years to come. Therefore, the key to success will be flexibility and offering multi-modal options to customers.

Q In the area of e-assessment, where do you believe we will see the greatest changes by the end of the decade

I expect the biggest revolution to come when technology-based proctoring or invigilation is recognised as providing a consistently more secure environment than the human-invigilated test centre, this will entirely change the landscape. Already last year we saw a research study supporting the efficacy of this modality (see ref 1 below) and we are beginning to see the regulators now recognise remote proctoring (see note 2) so this change is coming fast. This has been a huge area of investment for PSI so we are confident we can show leadership through this change.

References

1. A Comparative Study of Online Remote Proctored versus Onsite Proctored High-Stakes Exams <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1142330>
2. See https://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/prnewswire/press_releases/California/2017/12/07/PH64321



AlphaPlus Consultancy writes...

AlphaPlus Consultancy Ltd was delighted to support the International eAssessment Awards for the second



year running, and to sponsor the Best Transformational Project award in particular. AlphaPlus has a strong relationship with the eAssessment Association, through two of our directors: Gavin Busuttill-Reynaud is Treasurer on the eAA Board and John Winkley was a founding Board member.

As an education service business, AlphaPlus specialises in the design, development and deployment of qualifications and their underpinning assessment, and in the evaluation of their performance and impact. We see the crucial role that technology plays in assessment in much of our day-to-day work. This award seeks to acknowledge projects where technology has positively and genuinely transformed assessment practices – either through the adoption of new e-assessment solutions or by the enhancement and further development of existing e-assessment practice. When undertaken to address a clearly identified need, innovation in assessment can bring about genuine transformation. The Best Transformational Project award recognises work that really changes how assessment works, particularly for the benefit of learners.

Assessment has great potential impact on learning and progression, but our industry needs to innovate to ensure these potential benefits are really achieved in practice – working with teachers and students. In many cases, the way in which the traditional exam is written, taken and marked hasn't evolved since its widespread adoption in the 19th century. Although assessment doesn't necessarily need the most cutting-edge technology to be useful or appropriate, the nominees of the Best Transformational Award have demonstrated the way in which assessment can benefit from transformation.

Having worked with awarding organisations, professional bodies and government departments across a wide range of projects, we are delighted to sponsor an award that recognises the importance of assessment across a number of sectors. This is reflected in the diversity of the shortlisted nominees.

We were delighted to be sponsoring this award for the e-Assessment Association and were proud to present both a Highly Commended Award to International Baccalaureate and a winning trophy to Vretta Inc.

Job opportunity: Assessment Manager

Salary - £35000-£45000 depending on qualifications and experience

Based in Castlefield, Manchester

Closing date for applications: Monday 4 June 2018 at 9.00 am

We are currently seeking an experienced individual to act as an Assessment Manager to join our assessment development team.

AlphaPlus is one of the UK's leading education consultancies. We specialise in the design, development and deployment of qualifications and their underpinning assessment, and in the evaluation of their performance and impact. We have a core team of 23 staff primarily based in our Manchester head office, and in addition draw upon a team of approximately 350 associates. For more information about our company, please visit our website, www.alphaplus.co.uk.

The Assessment Manager will be a specialist in assessment research and development with a line report to the Director of Assessment. The post holder will provide high quality assessment outputs as part of AlphaPlus's assessment research and development services. S/he will be able to function independently, leading whole projects or substantial elements of projects and take decisions concerning the design, development and delivery of assessments.

Eligible applicants will possess a master's degree and possess strong project management skills. They will be commercially aware, able to create opportunities and participate in activities to generate new business. They will have a demonstrable track record of experience in the design, development and delivery of assessments.

The role is full time, Monday to Friday, based in our head office in central Manchester. It may occasionally involve some national travel, working in company and customer offices with the possibility of international travel. Benefits include 25 days' holiday entitlement plus statutory holidays, a bonus scheme and pension scheme.

For an informal discussion about the vacancy please contact Sarah Maughan, Director of Assessment, email sarah.maughan@alphaplus.co.uk, tel. 0161 249 9242.

The job description, person specification and application form are located on our website, <http://www.alphaplus.co.uk/working-with-alphaplus>. To apply, please send the completed application form together with a CV and covering statement to recruitment@alphaplus.co.uk.

Our first ever virtual AGM

After much discussion, we opted to hold our AGM as a webinar to which all our members were invited.

You can view the recorded webinar here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8299822241214263042>

Photo edited from image by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash



Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Using the blockchain to support digital credentialing

a case study of live deployment from Malta

Whoever thought accounting technology—something as simple as a ledger—could change the world?

With blockchains, we now have “super ledgers” that anyone can use to anchor and verify facts. This empowers both individuals and organisations like governments, universities, schools and employers. Individuals can own their private data and use it to evidence achievement. Organisations can now verify achievement and battle fraud—all using the same technology. And it’s already happening all over the world.

At the eAssessment Question conference on the 18th April, the eAA sponsored a presentation focused in a real-world use case of this technology in use within education: In 2017, Malta became the first country in the world to put educational records on the blockchain at scale. In doing so, Malta is building the workforce and economy of the 21st century.

We are conscious that this presentation session would also have been of interest to members unable to attend the conference and so we have made a recording of the session available at the following link, which we hope you find of interest:

Recording of the full Blockchain presentation (with short 4m30 introduction from Matt Wingfield):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LRKFcf60w>

If you have ideas or suggestions for other similar sessions that you'd like to see the eAA support, then please drop me a note to chair@e-assessment.com.

Matt Wingfield

Are You Failing Your Students Without Realizing It?

Free Whitepaper by Maplesoft



- Discover how incorporating an effective automated grading tool in your grading mix can improve the learning experience for your STEM students
- Explore what it would take for an automated assessment tool to be truly effective when used with STEM courses
- Learn how the modern assessment tool, Maple T.A. meets the needs of automated testing and assessment for STEM education

Are you grading your math tests and assignments exclusively by hand? If so, your students may be missing out!

This wasn't always the case. Until recently, automated grading systems have been very limited in the questions they could ask, which made them of dubious value in STEM courses (science, technology, mathematics, and engineering). A multiple choice question just couldn't tell you if the student understood how to solve the problem, and even that's assuming the system could handle the mathematical notation and the plots needed to ask that multiple choice question properly in the first place. These systems simply could not provide you with a reliable view into your students' comprehension, and as a result, it was a bad idea to rely on them. And so STEM instructors avoided these systems, or if forced to use them, grumbled and did their best to keep the grading system's limitations from hurting their students.

But today's grading technology has advanced to the point where you are arguably doing your students a disservice if you don't include a good automated testing and assessment tool in your grading mix. In this article, we'll examine some of those arguments, consider what characteristics would go into an effective assessment tool for STEM, and then take a brief look at how one such tool, Maple T.A., meets those requirements.

[Click here to request your free copy.](#)

Disponible en français: [Ai-je mené mes étudiants à l'échec sans m'en rendre compte?](#)

Auf Deutsch verfügbar! [Geben Sie Ihren Studierenden wirklich alles, was sie brauchen?](#)

Adding your voice to the discussion

[@eAssess](#)

Join us on twitter -

#eAssessment

#eAAwards

[LinkedIn](#)

Join us on LinkedIn -

Our latest LinkedIn post also shows on the home page of our website.

Add your voice to the debate, post events, ask questions....

[Write for us?](#)

We welcome non-commercial blog posts from ALL members.

Simply email in your idea or draft to Karen at marketing@e-assessment.com

[View Online](#) | [Manage Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

