

Ethical approach pays off for Casmaco

Media contacts:

Melissa Thirtle, Casmaco Ltd., +44 (0) 191 280 5629, melissa.thirtle@mi-case.com

15th October 2012

When North East IT firm Casmaco was developing its latest set of Mi-Case software applications it was determined to prove successful businesses didn't have to be all about the bottom line.

From their base at Cobalt Business Park in Newcastle, the firm exports its case management software to organisations in the US, Europe and the UK. Casmaco, which employs 20 people, specialises in supplying, implementing and developing software for the criminal justice and behavioural health sectors.

When the company wanted to appoint an independent firm to test its latest software modules, Casmaco's commitment to quality and strong CSR values led them to Autism Works.

Based in Newcastle, Autism Works takes positive action to provide sustainable employment to people with an Autism Spectrum Condition and Asperger's Syndrome and trains them to be qualified Software Test Analysts.

The decision's already paid off with Autism Works completing their first testing assignment on time and under budget, after working closely with the Casmaco Software Team to create a rigorous testing programme.

The work was carried out so well, that Casmaco and Autism Works are now entering into a long-term partnership.

The positive traits of Autism Spectrum condition can make for exceptional software test analysts. Attention to detail, persistence, precision, methodical, curiosity, high intelligence and often a "different" way of looking at things are common positive traits for some people on the spectrum.

Dean Allen, CEO of Casmaco said: “The decision to appoint Autism Works was based both on what they could deliver as a business and because of our commitment to corporate social responsibility.

“We take both very seriously and we are delighted to be working with an innovative company like Autism Works, who address a real business need and deliver a tangible social impact.

“Since they’ve come on board they’ve not only provided a great service to our project but ultimately improved the quality of our product.”

Peter Macdonald, MD of Autism Works, said: “Working with the Casmaco team has been a real pleasure, they have shown nothing but complete faith in our abilities and didn’t hesitate to commission us.

“The real credit to our success lies with the extraordinary ability of our employees, who never fail to impress with their dedication and attention to detail, essential in the development of software.”

Autism Works was recently selected by global professional services firm Deloitte for its Social Pioneer programme, which is designed to provide social enterprises with the commercial financial, management and sales skills to help them scale more quickly.

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Notes to Editors:

About Casmaco Ltd.

Casmaco Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Business & Decision Group, one of the world's largest independent business intelligence IT service providers with offices across the USA and Europe. Casmaco is headquartered in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK. Mi-Case is used all over the world and its value spans the public and commercial sectors in applications as diverse as:

- Correctional services from arrest through to probation
- Offender Case Management and the prevention of recidivism
- Electronic health records (EHR)
- Incident management in the upstream oil sector
- Risk analysis and root cause analysis in production
- Management of substance abusing citizens

For more information about Casmaco Ltd. please visit www.mi-case.com

About Autism Works Ltd.

Autism Works Limited is a not for profit trading subsidiary of the registered charity *Education and Services for People with Autism* (ESPA) Ltd.

ESPA provides a continuum of high quality specialist residential, further educational, day and domiciliary services designed to meet the needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. The Charity has over 20 years' experience of supporting individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, to achieve positive outcomes in all aspects of their life.

There is estimated to be around 500,000 adults with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) in the UK and only 15 per cent of these are in paid employment. Many unemployed adults with ASC are willing and able to work. However, due to the negative traits of their condition, obtaining and maintaining employment can be very difficult. Autism Works takes positive action towards people with ASC by providing the opportunity of sustainable employment.

Global services organisation Deloitte recently selected Autism Works as one of only 30 social enterprises to support as part of their Social Innovation Pioneer Programme.

For more information about Autism Works Ltd. please visit www.autismworks.co.uk

The information contained in this press release is correct at the time of going to press.