Press Release

Bizdirect encourages job creation in Microsoft technology

"Activate Portugal" is a project launched yesterday by Microsoft and its partner companies to promote certified training and qualified employment in IT, with the active support of Bizdirect

Lisbon, 29 May 2014 – Bizdirect, the technology company of the SSI/Sonaecom universe specialising in the commercialisation of IT solutions, consulting and management of corporate licensing contracts and in the integration of Microsoft solutions, is one of the partners in the Microsoft project – Activate Portugal: Programme of Training and Valuation for Employment – an initiative with the objective of creating qualified employment, training, official certification and valuation of skills in Microsoft technologies.

To strengthen the importance of the Information Technologies sector (IT) as an engine for economic growth in the country, and to position Portugal as a pole of innovation and competence in Europe and throughout the world, Microsoft along with partner companies presented the project "Activate Portugal". The aim of the project is to train and certify over 10,000 persons in Microsoft technology by 2017.

At the presentation session for the project, the CEO of Bizdirect, João Mira Santiago, was one of the speakers invited to take part in the discussion panel: "The dynamics of the IT employment market in Portugal", where he stressed the importance of the new Bizdirect Competence Centre, focused on Microsoft technology, on job creation and the retention of Portuguese human capital. Currently, Bizdirect, through its Academy, has trained and certified over a dozen young people and continues to actively recruit new candidates for other openings in Microsoft technology.

"The 'Activate Portugal' project contribute to helping the country mitigate the adversities in the current socio-economic context", **stated João Mira Santiago, CEO of Bizdirect.**

With the Competence Centre, launched this year with the Instituto Politécnico de Viseu and the City Government of Viseu, in full operation, it is expected to create 150 jobs, contributing to the training of recent graduates and graduates at the Instituto Politécnico de Viseu, or residing in the municipality.

The event marking the signing of the protocol for the "Activate Portugal" programme was also attended by the Minister of the Economy, António Pires de Lima, and the Minister of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security, Pedro Mota Soares.

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About Bizdirect

Bizdirect positions itself as a benchmark player in selling IT solutions, consulting and managing corporate licensing contracts and in the integration of Microsoft solutions.

Its Mission translates into the commitment to contribute to the business success of its Customers. It guarantees it, along with its Partners, by aligning its solutions with the business challenges of the Customers and through its knowledge of the different markets.

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