



Insurance industry risks missing out on top IT talent by overlooking interim managers, warns recruiter Highams Group

London: 1st November, 2007 – Over the last year a quarter of companies within the financial services sector have found they have an increased need for interim IT staff reveals a new survey by IT recruiter for the insurance and financial services sector, Highams Group. Highams warns that despite this trend the majority of companies still risk missing out on top IT talent by overlooking the specialist skills interim managers can bring to a job.

Whilst findings from the independent survey of IT directors and managers of UK companies employing more than 1,000 staff show that 71% of current IT recruitment needs are permanent, Highams foresees the need for interim staff dramatically increasing as companies are forced to re-think how they hire in order to attract talent in the current skills shortage.

Dave Pye, CEO of Highams Group, comments: “Interim managers bring a huge amount of experience and objectivity from previous assignments to a new role. Increasingly, insurance companies are tapping into this knowledge to help with change management, strategic development and extra management bandwidth.”

“At a time when the sector is experiencing a severe IT skills shortage, use of interim managers is fast becoming the answer to helping plug skills gaps or bringing on board specialist knowledge for project management. In response to this growing need, Highams has launched a new Interim Practice dedicated to the provision of highly experienced interim managers to the Insurance sector.”

Denise Morris, principal consultant at Highams Interim, adds: “Highams has been working with leading insurance companies for the past twenty years delivering recruitment solutions to meet their changing IT recruitment needs. Our new Interim Practice provides immediate access to a ‘talent bank’ of IT interim managers and directors who are able to hit the ground running.”

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About Highams Group

A member of the Institute of Interim Managers (IIM), Highams Interim Practice, part of the Highams Group, specialises in the provision of highly experienced interim managers to the Insurance sector. It provides intelligent, pioneering and highly effective solutions across all business areas including change management, transition management, programme management and strategic development.

Founded in 1983 and listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in 1996, Highams Group provides IT staff to the leading players in the financial, banking and insurance industries. A new office in the heart of the City of London at 30 St Mary's Axe (the Gherkin) means Highams is ideally placed to service the UK's biggest financial services district.

<http://www.highams.com>

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