

Press Release

19 February 2010

Unicom announces recruitment boost

Telecoms firm Unicom is launching a recruitment drive in its regional offices which will be a further boost to news the recession is officially over.

The company, which supplies business telecoms and broadband services, is recruiting 200 people nationwide, with 30 more employees needed in Manchester, Birmingham, Crawley, Ipswich, Milton Keynes, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield and Stoke-on Trent.

Chris Earle, operations director at Unicom, said:

“The recession has led to many businesses looking to save costs on their utility bills which means we have recruited continually during the economic downturn.

“However, buoyed by the news the economy grew in the quarter to December 09, we are excited to be launching a recruitment campaign at our regional offices so soon after the recession has officially ended.

“Growth in employment is a strong indicator that the economy is on the up and we hope our initial drive to recruit 30 people in all regions is just the tip of the iceberg.

“All of our regional offices benefit from great local skill base and strong infrastructure.”

It currently employs 500 staff at its regional offices in Manchester, Birmingham, Crawley, Ipswich, Leeds, Milton Keynes, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield and Stoke-on-Trent.

People interested in joining Unicom can apply by visiting:

<http://www.switchingon.com/recruitment>

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Notes to Editor

About Unicom

www.switchingon.com

Unicom, a trading name of Universal Utilities PLC, is a telecommunications service provider specialising in the small business market. It currently provides telecom, broadband and website services to 80,000 small businesses throughout the UK. Unicom has an annual turnover of over £45m, and employs 500 people at its 10 regional offices situated around the UK.

Unicom has attracted its business customers by offering discounts of up to 60% off BT's prices, at the same time as keeping customers on the BT network. Unicom currently supplies in excess of 450 million minutes of call time to its customers each year. Unicom differentiates itself by offering a high standard of personal customer service, with no premium rate 0845 or 0870 numbers, no recorded messages or menus, and no overseas call centres. Unicom boasts one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.

Unicom has a directory enquiry service, 118 777. Based on calls from a BT or Unicom telephone line, 118 777 is 35% cheaper than 118 118, and 53% cheaper than 118 500. Calls from other networks may vary.

Unicom was ranked 26th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2006, 89th in the Sunday Times Fast Track 100 index in December 2006 and 96th in the Sunday Times Profit Track 100 listings in April 2007. In September 2007 it achieved a ranking of 95th, and in September 2008 a ranking of 88th, in the Sunday Times Microsoft Tech Track 100 index.

In October 2009 Unicom became ISO 9001:2008 certified and was also awarded the Customer Service Excellence, the Customer First and the Investors in People certification by independent assessors.

For the year ending April 2009, Unicom reported pre-tax profits of £11.2m on a turnover of £44.5m (with profits up 14.3% and turnover up 7% from April 2008). Unicom expects profits to be in excess of £12m on a turnover of more than £48m for the current year.

Unicom is a patron company of The Outward Bound Trust.

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