

About Ingots (Learn More)

[Handbook home page](#) [1]

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<http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/about-ingots-uk> [2]

The Learning Machine provides

- IT User certification accredited by national governments using innovative methods.
- TLM accredited certification of teacher assessment for P-scales
- TLM accredited certification of teacher assessment in the National Curriculum
- Technology services to organisations that need secure and verifiable certification.

[Read more](#) [3]

1. What customers say

"We have 30 feeder primary schools and 7 took part in the INGOT programme last year as part of our Specialist Schools Community Plan. There is a marked difference in the capabilities of those that took part and those that did not. We now need a strategy to enable all our incoming learners to benefit, levelling up attainment."

-- Elaine Delahunt, Assistant Headteacher
Up Holland Mathematics, Computing and Music College

"The children in primary schools that have achieved their Entry Level INGOT certificates are now demanding that we offer the Level 1 in Year 7. There is a clear effect on motivation and practical support for cross phase transition".

-- Mark Greenwood, Assistant Headteacher
Our Lady's Catholic High Specialist Mathematics and Computing School

2. Who are we? some more details.

We are The Learning Machine Ltd (TLM). TLM is an Awarding Body regulated by [Ofqual](#) [4], and Qualification Wales, the regulators for qualifications in England and Wales. TLM is endorsed by [eskills](#) [5], the Sector Skills Council for Business and IT that ensures qualifications meet the needs of industry and employers.

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TLM is responsible for developing and managing a new and innovative family of qualifications called The INGOTs. The latest members of the INGOT family provide the new UK National Vocational Qualification for IT Users, the ITQ, developed by e-skills. This is referenced to the European

Qualifications Framework (EQF) and INGOTs are supported by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme through a Leonardo Da Vinci Transfer of Innovation grant. We will produce further qualifications with other subject contexts as resources allow and over time, we will provide free on-line courses to support the qualifications for all

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3. Philosophy

The INGOT philosophy is to provide clear progression routes for learners, from the most basic levels of competence, including supporting those with special needs. This includes support for progress to being more independent learners with the capacity to exploit the **massive and growing body of free software and information available freely from the internet.**

This progression is recognised and rewarded through certificates at each level of achievement. The assessment details are based on the new UK Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) that is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). It has the flexibility to link to nationally accredited frameworks, for example, the National Curriculum and GCSE In the UK and more generally other national frameworks especially those referenced to the EQF. The INGOT criteria are competence based, designed to enable self and peer assessment to support personalised learning and learning how to learn. Trained independent assessors accredited by The Learning Machine must verify the assessments before accredited awards can be made and the assessors have flexibility to tailor learning contexts to local and individual needs. We encourage the use of mobile technologies and web based applications, liberally licensed software and content.

Improving value and enabling more people to participate in formal qualifications are key aspects of the strategy. INGOT certification lowers costs compared to traditional qualifications and the learning associated with the INGOTs enables learners to lower their IT operating costs. This is because we can provide increasing capability in exploiting Open Systems, making maximum use of information and software applications that are freely and legally available from the internet. Having said this we don't force anyone to use any particular technologies, we simply highlight issues where savings can be made and generally use free and open source resources when illustrating examples. This enables transition to better ways of working from current positions. The management systems and IT resources used by The Learning Machine are all built on Open Source software. For the assessment, matching the assessment criteria with the applications used in the local working context is all that is needed.

Reducing dependency and increasing technological self-sufficiency opens up very low cost learning for all with the longer term potential to reduce costs for businesses making them more competitive. INGOTs combine the best aspects of academic learning with the practical applications associated with vocational training. Staff development is built into the model through feedback to assessors through the moderation process that is fully supported by web based tools with the flexibility for schools to use their own systems if they want to. We are not selling software so we don't feel any pressure to sell you our support systems, that is up to the client. We are a qualifications provider that where possible provides free supporting resources for learning funded by our qualifications model. We want to make learners and their teachers ready for change and free them from dependency on specific commercial interests so they can make better quality decisions about the technologies they use in the future. This means providing opportunities for higher level learning as well as basic operating skills. We want to empower learners to make choices that can improve the quality of their lives and the competitiveness of their employers. Our long term strategy is to enable economically disenfranchised people to get internet access and eventually provide a full and free on-line curriculum for schools (and adults who missed out on school) sustained financially by the quality assurance service of certification and community participation.

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[Link to](#) [6] You Tube Video explaining the value of open resources.

4. Presentation about TLM and the INGOTs



[7]

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[2] <http://webhostinggeeks.com/science/about-ingots-uk>

[3] <https://theingots.org/community/about#3>

[4] <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

[5] <http://www.e-skills.com/>

[6] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wdZKpRoW7Q>

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