

Ashford International Hotel Shares in £1.7m Tech Upgrade

Free unlimited Wi-Fi for all guests

The Ashford International Hotel, part of the award-winning hotel group QHotels, has upgraded its Internet connectivity in order to offer free Wi-Fi access to all guests and a massive 90 megabits per second (Mbps) of dedicated bandwidth for conferences.

Following a £1.7m investment into its IT facilities QHotels is the only hotel group in the UK to provide this extra dedicated bandwidth meaning that the Ashford International Hotel is able to offer its conference clients tailor-made packages of between 10Mbps and 90Mbps of un-contended bandwidth direct into their conference room. No more sharing bandwidth with other users or getting frustrated at the speed of downloads! Instead this unique package gives organisers the reassurance that their event can be run with complete confidence and that no other user in the hotel can access or interfere with the speed of the connection.

In addition to the extra 90Mbps available for conference organisers, the Ashford International Hotel has increased its guest Internet bandwidth and is offering free access to all guests whether they are staying overnight, are attending a meeting at the hotel or simply popping in for a coffee. One of the first hotels in the area to do so, the Ashford International Hotel believes that the introduction of free Wi-Fi and the dedicated bandwidth service will prove popular with guests to the hotel and local residents. “Previously guests could enjoy 2 hours of free Internet access if they were staying overnight or they paid by the hour if they were just visiting the hotel briefly. This new

investment means that our delegates can now enjoy uninterrupted, high quality Internet access which is perfect for the likes of high definition video conferencing, online training or product launches which require substantial downloads.” commented Deirdre Billing, General Manager of the Ashford International Hotel. “In addition to the rapid growth in personal portable devices from iPads and Tablets to Kindles we are receiving an increasing number of requests for Wi-Fi access from guests enjoying weekends away and leisure breaks. As we are now able to offer 100% free Wi-Fi in the bedrooms and in all the public areas around the hotel it means that all our guests, whether they are here for a conference or a weekend away, no longer need to worry about connectivity whilst they are staying with us.”

Boasting 19 conference rooms with a capacity to hold up to 400 delegates, excellent dining facilities, superb spa and leisure facilities and all located within easy access of the M25, Euro Tunnel and not to mention the high speed rail link to London, the 179-bedroom Ashford International Hotel is renowned for going that extra mile to meet the needs of their guests and the upgraded Internet access is just one more benefit the hotel is proud to offer.

For more information about the Ashford International Hotel please contact 01233 219988 or go to www.QHotels.co.uk.

ENDS

The QHotels 21: **The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort** - Near Glasgow... **Aldwark Manor Golf & Spa Hotel** - York... **The Queens** - Leeds... **Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort** - North Lincolnshire... **Tankersley Manor** – Tankersley, Nr Sheffield... **The Midland** - Manchester... **The Park Royal** – Stretton, Warrington... **Crewe Hall** – Crewe, Cheshire... **The Nottingham Belfry** - Nottingham... **Telford Hotel & Golf Resort** – Telford, Shropshire... **Stratford Manor** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **The Stratford** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **Chesford Grange** – Kenilworth, Warwickshire... **Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel** – Hellidon, Northamptonshire... **The**

Cheltenham Chase Hotel - Gloucestershire... **The Cambridge Belfry** – Cambourne, Cambridge...
The Oxford Belfry –Thame, Oxford... **The Hampshire Court Hotel** - Basingstoke, Hampshire...
Norton Park - Winchester, Hampshire... **Bridgewood Manor** – Chatham, Kent... **Ashford International Hotel** – Ashford, Kent

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A little bit about us:

- 1 QHotels prides itself in its collection of 21 carefully nurtured, unique properties throughout the UK. Some hide away in the most beautiful countryside, some preside over bustling city centres, but each with its own little idiosyncrasies, ensures guest enjoy a truly unique experience - whether staying for pleasure or business.
- 2 Founded in 2003 by Managing Director - Michael Purtill, Sales Director - David Taylor, Finance Director – Ian Goulding and investment company Alchemy Partners;
- 2 The collection has grown from 2 to 21 properties over the last six years.
- 3 The collection, which boasts iconic properties including The Midland in Manchester, The Queens in Leeds and Crewe Hall in Cheshire, has been voted AA Hotel Group of the Year 2008/09 and is ranked 17th in The Times Buyout FastTrack register of the 100 fastest growing private equity backed businesses... one of the few companies to feature in the top 100 in two consecutive years. In addition to this... January 2009 alone saw QHotels shortlisted for the Business Hotel Brand of the Year Award at the Business Travel Awards and Winchester property Norton Park scoop two HRS Hotel Excellence Awards (Excellence in Meetings and Excellence in Business Management). Since then QHotels trophy cabinet is buckling under the weight of new awards, including 'Most Improved Brand' for the second year in a row in the 2009 BDRC UK Meetings Market Survey and the 'Excellence in Training Award' in Caterer & Hotelkeeper's Best Places to Work in Hospitality 2009
- 4 Take a look at our website www.QHotels.co.uk