Company Profile

Cyon Knowledge Computing Pty. Ltd. (Cyon) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Scientia UK Ltd (Scientia) based in Cambridge, UK. Scientia was started in 1989 and is the market leader in the world for the provision of Timetabling and Resource Planning and Optimisation solutions for Higher Education. Today has more than 500 Education Institutions located in 26 countries using its Syllabus Plus suite of solutions.

Cyon has been serving Higher Education since 1998 and is responsible for the growth and adoption of Syllabus Plus suite of solutions in Australia, New Zealand as well as Asia. Cyon has its regional headquarter based in Sydney, with support offices located in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia to support over 170 Institutional sites, Universities and Polytechnics, across the Asia Pacific Region, where the majority are multi-campus Institutions. Up to 2010, around 90% of universities in Australia and New Zealand, 100% of universities and polytechnics in Singapore and 50% of universities and tertiary education institutions in Hong Kong are using Syllabus Plus suite of solutions! We have a successful and proven track record in managing complex University Timetabling / Scheduling implementations in the Asia Pacific Region.

Company core business is Higher Education Timetabling and Scheduling solutions. Overall, 95% of our core businesses come purely from the provision of Syllabus Plus suite of solutions in Higher Education Timetabling services, including Supply, Installation, Maintenance, Support and Consulting, with 5% of our businesses in the Defence Scheduling sector.

Currently, Scientia/Cyon Group has 110 employees worldwide, consisting of 35 full-time development team on Syllabus Plus suite of timetabling solutions, 15 Support and 12 Consultancy. These are making our organisation, by far, the largest single operator of timetabling and scheduling solutions worldwide.

The Directors of Scientia:
Baron Steven Bentinck – Chairman
Anthony Nissen – Deputy Chairman
Peter Loomes – Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Geoffrey Forster – Founder and Chief Technology Officer

Cyon’s corporate structure:
Andrew Lau – Managing Director
Anthony Nissen – Director
Peter Loomes – Director
In addition to the supply and installation of the solutions, Cyon directly provides the full scope of Syllabus Plus Implementation services including:-

- Project Management
- Technical Consultancy
- Customisation Services
- Training Services
- Maintenance Services
- Business Process Review
- Timetabling Policy Review
- Business Improvement Services
- Change Management

Scientia/Cyon Group has built strong alliances with partners including Sungard, Oracle/PeopleSoft, Technology One, Jenzabar, Jade and many other High Education solution providers to deliver a complete turnkey solution to the Higher Education institutions.

Company core solution - Syllabus Plus timetabling and resource management system is a proven timetabling and resource management system for Higher Education. The system is easy to use and administer, secure, web deployed, and supports integration with majority of student administration systems available (including in-house developed systems).

Syllabus Plus is a flexible solution that can be operated either as a centrally managed timetabling solution or as a de-centralised timetabling solution. The focus of Syllabus Plus is providing Institutional-wide resource management, through a simple client/server structure that can be deployed across the Institute’s network.

Syllabus Plus is a Scheduling and Resource Management system and how it would meet the project objectives for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, are summarised as follows:-

- A robust, reliable and simple system that connects different departments and campuses across the University network, ensuring all shared resources is fully optimised, while improving communication across the groups sharing these resources.

- A system that can manage a wide range of teaching patterns within the Institutional teaching year, allowing the full use of resources by all Faculties.
• A system that is extremely flexible, capable of supporting a wide range of scheduling constraints, either operating as a fully automated scheduler, but allowing for manual scheduling of selected activities.

• Fast, concurrent, multi-user access to Syllabus Plus for both large and small groups of users.

• A system where data is only entered once and thereafter maintained to meet changes of the key objects. It offers a simple “rollover” facility or by modifying only key fields in the activities, such as size and student sets, allows for the easy creation of a fresh “zero-based” timetable.

• A system that is easily adapted to the Institutes process, providing fast and efficient timetables, reducing time to production of the final published timetable. A key benefit of Syllabus Plus is the immediate reduction of staff time in conflict management.

• The ability to model, “what-if’s”, across a wide range of different course structures, in some cases involving a high level of complexity, with the benefits of being able to meet student choice.

• A system designed to support ‘student choice’ against the total course offerings of the Institute, providing flexibility of offering with maximised utilisation of all resources.

• A strategic management decision support tool that will allow the Institution to meet the challenge of organisational change with confidence.

• Syllabus Plus is able to support a number of management functions in an institution, including Physical Resources, Finance, Planning and Academic Program Management. The key benefit is a common Institutional wide scheduling, planning and management tool.

• Syllabus Plus has an integrated room booking capability as a full scheduling client or an optional Web Deployed room booking facility. Both room booking facilities provide for the finite searching of suitable rooms based on size, speciality of facilities and time required.

• Syllabus Plus provides the widest range of timetables, covering such as staff, student streams, locations, and equipment and at the same time providing decentralised management controls and reporting.

• All timetable information can be viewed in real time on the web, ensuring the current timetable is promptly available to anybody with an industry standard internet web browser.
• The software provides both transparency of and easy access to information required by academic and administrative staff for analysis and planning. For example course offerings and resources to meet these can be confirmed prior to publication.

• Syllabus Plus has proven low cost of ownership, being simple to operate and easy to maintain. This becomes just another facility on the desktop, therefore part of the University’s process, easily adopted by new staff.

• An ‘Open system’ approach allows the integration with both Student Administration and other internal University’s systems. Cyon has formed strategic business partnerships with major companies including SungardHE, Oracle Peoplesoft, TechnologyOne, Callista, and SAP, and has carried out many integration projects with a variety of different suppliers.