

## Sopra Steria sponsors fifth Scotland Top Talent Leadership Programme

**Edinburgh, 4 May 2017:** Sopra Steria is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the Scotland Top Talent Leadership Programme, now in its fifth year.

This programme is run by the Society of Information Technology Managers (SOCITM) Leadership Academy in partnership with Sopra Steria, and in association with Scottish Government and Brightsolid, the data centre and cloud hosting specialists. In five years over which the programme has been run, over 100 students have graduated from the programme, returning to roles that are key to service transformation such as finance, planning, programme management, customer account management, social services, ICT, digital and HR.

This year's cohort was drawn from applications from all over the UK, including those from as far away as Dorset. The success of the programme has been such that additional courses in London and elsewhere are being planned to meet rising demand.

The Society of Information Technology Managers (SOCITM) in Scotland has identified that people and effective leadership are two of the most important factors in effecting successful change. With the transformation of local public services accelerating rapidly, the SOCITM Leadership Academy and the Top Talent Programme are providing new skills and experience for tomorrow's leaders who will be crucial to delivering this change.

**Nicola Graham, the Head of ICT at Aberdeenshire Council, SOCTIM Vice President, and Scotland Top Talent champion,** said: *"The launch of the 2017 Scotland Top Talent programme couldn't be better timed. It coincides with the launch of the Scotland Digital Strategy, and shines a spotlight on the exceptional professionals we have working in local public services in Scotland."*

**Alison McLaughlin, Director Regional Government, Sopra Steria** commented: *"The Scotland Digital Strategy sets an exciting ambition for Scotland which will take strong leadership to realise. Programmes such as this are therefore hugely beneficial and so we in Sopra Steria are delighted to sponsor the programme again this year. Our role as sponsor is not solely to help build on the leadership skills of these professionals. Sopra Steria is driven to inspire those in digital and ICT to make the best use of technology. This partnership gives us a chance to help foster and support the next generation of fantastic leaders in digital transformation."*

### About Sopra Steria

Sopra Steria, a European leader in digital transformation, provides one of the most comprehensive portfolios of end-to-end service offerings on the market: consulting, systems integration, software development, infrastructure management and business process services. Sopra Steria is trusted by leading private and public-sector organisations to deliver successful transformation programmes that address their most complex and critical business challenges. Combining high quality and performance services, added value and innovation, Sopra Steria enables its clients to make the best use of digital technology. With 40,000 employees in more than 20 countries, Sopra Steria had revenue of €3.7 billion in 2016.

For more information, visit us at [www.soprasteria.com.uk](http://www.soprasteria.com.uk)

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