

UNDER EMBARGO until 13 October 2021, 12:00hrs GMT

Synova invests in National Education Group

Growth investor [Synova](#) is delighted to announce a significant minority investment into [National Education Group](#) (“NEG” or the “Company”). NEG is a leading provider of online CPD training for schools and global education institutions, hosted through its proprietary learning management software.

NEG was founded by [Neil Gamewell](#), [James Southworth](#) and [Joe Stoney](#) with the mission to empower schools to drive up standards and provide more accessible and engaging CPD content for all school stakeholders. The Company has grown rapidly, with over 12,000 schools subscribing and accessing the platform, which has expanded its video-based content library to cover a wide range of statutory compliance and professional development courses.

Demand for remote CPD has grown significantly in recent years as part of the wider digitalisation trend within education. NEG’s digital-first approach has enabled the Company to respond quickly with up-to-date, engaging and informative content supported by the functionality of its proprietary LMS and mobile apps.

Synova will support NEG and its founders to deliver an ambitious growth plan seeing further investment made into both the Company’s innovative software platform and its extensive digital content library.

Commenting on the investment, Neil Gamewell, CEO of NEG, said: *“We’re excited to be partnering with Synova whose support will enable us to continue to innovate, creating market leading content and technologies for schools. We’re a dynamic business on a high growth trajectory and we wanted a partner who shares in our vision with a similar entrepreneurial ethos. Synova’s excellent track record of scaling high growth education and subscription technology companies internationally will help support NEG to achieve its full potential.”*

Philip Shapiro, a Managing Partner of Synova commented: *“We are delighted to be partnering with Neil, James and Joe to help them deliver their growth plans for NEG. Working closely with ambitious founders is central to Synova’s investment philosophy and, through its innovative technology and content production capability, NEG is uniquely positioned to capitalise on the growing market demand for high-quality online training.”*

Tim Ashlin, a Partner of Synova commented: *“The global pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital training and CPD alongside traditional formats across the education sector. NEG offers huge benefits to schools, teachers and staff who need access to a broad range of engaging materials through a user-friendly and continuously updated platform.”*

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NOTES:

1. NEG's content is delivered through three brands including: [The National College](#), [National Online Safety](#) and Essential CPD, which are all powered by its proprietary software platform The National Hub©.
2. **Synova** is recognised as one of Europe's most innovative growth investors, generating class-leading returns from investing in companies typically valued at between £30m and £150m.
3. The firm is currently investing its fourth generation £365m fund, raised in 2019, which continues to focus on its core sectors: Health & Education, Technology, Business Services and Financial Services.
4. Synova has generated industry-leading returns in the UK, which has been reflected in being awarded '*UK Private Equity House of the Year*' four times in the past seven years. Synova has recently been listed as one of the '*Most Consistent Top Performing Buyout Fund Managers*' globally by [Preqin](#). Synova is currently the only UK firm, and one of only two in Europe, with a number one *Preqin* ranking, with all of its applicable funds ranked in the top quartile, placing Synova as one of the Top 9 best performers globally.
5. Synova has had a highly successful twelve months, which showed the value of the portfolio increasing by 44%, with 3 new investments, 23 bolt-on acquisitions, and 2 exits completed at an average return of 7.0x invested capital.
6. Philip Shapiro and Tim Ashlin led the transaction for Synova supported by Charles Dale, Mike Mullally, and Mao Isobe. Philip Shapiro and Tim Ashlin have joined the Board of NEG.
7. Synova was advised by DC Advisory (corporate finance) and CMS (legal). Advisors to NEG were Grant Thornton (corporate finance) and Gateley (legal).

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