

PRESS RELEASE

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Valloop partners with GFT to build platform that helps accelerate and scale employee ownership

Bespoke Valloop Exchange platform aims to help accelerate the transition of Small to Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) businesses from privately owned to employee owned through innovative use of AI.

London 31st July 2024 – As of June last year, there were [1,418 employee-owned businesses](#) within the UK, a **37% increase** from the previous year - a clear sign that this transition is a growing trend in the UK.

[Valloop](#), a Manchester-based company, that supports SMEs in becoming employee-owned, **has partnered with GFT to design, build and support** a digital platform that uses modern technologies such as AI, to automate and accelerate the processes to inclusive ownership for businesses.

The Valloop Exchange is a **single marketplace** for businesses going through the transition, providing an easy-to-use model for employees and business owners to **access tools and information** about the process.

The employee-ownership model has **proven to be a huge success in the UK**, highlighted in the [Journal of Participation and Employee Ownership last year](#) in August, by empowering employees to have more control of the company they work for.

A tool for an increasingly digital clientele

Speaking on the partnership, **Carlton Hopper, UK Managing Director, GFT** said: *“As the adoption of employee-owned businesses continues to gather momentum, the Valloop Exchange will be transformational for the market. GFT’s use of advanced technologies such as AI and Machine Learning will ensure Valloop is able to accelerate the process of firms transferring ownership to an empowered workforce.”*

Stephen Greenwood, CEO Valloop highlights the value that GFT has brought to the project: *“Making something totally unique like the Valloop Exchange in the SME market is complex. We knew we needed a trusted and experienced partner to help execute and deliver an industry leading platform; GFT’s experience in the financial services sector made them the ideal match for us.”*

Delivering value

GFT is building a digital platform that delivers a number of benefits for SME clients and the new employee owners. A key priority for Valloop is to **ensure it is able to maintain peak performance** and security at all times. Given the context of rising cybercrime, **GFT is delivering a built-in design** that handles data with industry-leading security controls, ensuring security is a top priority.

Valloop also benefits from GFT’s [best-practice ‘GreenCoding’ approach](#), ensuring efficient IT development that supports a drive to **minimise the carbon footprint** for both the development and ongoing maintenance of the platform.

The [Valloop Exchange](#) is expected to launch in early 2025.

This press release is also available for download via the [GFT newsroom](#)

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About GFT – Shaping the future of digital business

GFT is a digital transformation pioneer. By leveraging next-generation technologies, we enable clients to boost their productivity with intelligent software solutions. We focus on Digital Finance, Enterprise AI & Data Solutions, and Platform Modernisation.

GFT's strengths include deep technological excellence, a strong ecosystem of partners, and industry expertise. We are [agile@scale](#) and boost digital transformation for clients from the finance and insurance sectors, as well as the manufacturing industry. GFT talents create, implement, and manage software applications to enable innovative businesses while complying with regulations.

With locations in 20 markets around the globe, GFT ensures proximity to its clients. We draw on over 35 years of experience and a global team of over 12,000 determined talents. GFT provides them with career opportunities in the most innovative areas of software engineering. The GFT Technologies SE share is listed in the SDAX index of the German Stock Exchange (ticker: GFT-XE).

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