



NATIONAL NEWS: Hull university 'a centre of excellence'

By William Hall

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Sun Microsystems, the US computer group, has chosen the University of Hull as a centre of excellence for the development of "digital campuses". Hull joins a group of some 50 universities around the world selected for their various special expertise, which is of strategic importance to Sun.

Hull's speciality is its 2½-year-old "digital university project", which allows 17,000 students to access a flexible web content management system, and various university resources, via a central portal. Hull will assist Sun's customers worldwide in developing, planning, and deploying education e-services and portal systems.

Sun's tie-up with Hull is a welcome boost for the reputation of a rundown east coast city that regularly comes close to bottom of most business attractiveness league tables. The partnership comes less than a year after Microsoft, Sun's arch rival, chose Hull's computer science department as its first UK centre of excellence for internet computing. William Hall