

Control-F transitions to Employee Ownership, marking a new chapter for the business

Digital forensics specialist Control-F has transitioned to employee ownership, placing its future in the hands of its employees while preserving the culture and values that have underpinned its success.

April 9th 2026 marked a significant milestone for Control-F, as the business became 100% employee owned through an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT). Founder Kevin Mansell will continue to lead the business as Managing Director, supported by the existing team.

The transition has been designed to secure the long-term future of the company, ensuring that employees have a meaningful voice in how the business develops, while also sharing in its continued success.

For Kevin Mansell, the move reflected a considered decision about the future of the business and the values it was built on.

As he explains:

“Discovering, and then learning about, employee ownership has been a bit of a revelation. It’s a succession model I knew nothing about, but the more I read, the more certain I became that it was the right path for Control-F. What stood out most to me was not just the structure itself, but what it protects.”

He continues:

“It’s very easy for culture and values to become an afterthought when a business is being sold, but they are central when a business

transitions to employee ownership; there is an explicit mandate to protect and preserve them. Given that any business is only as good as the people within it, if you make those people feel secure and listened to, then I think you're at least halfway there.”

Control-F's move reflects a growing number of UK businesses choosing employee ownership as a succession model, recognising the role employees play in building long-term success.

For clients, suppliers, and partners, the transition will not affect day-to-day operations. The business will continue to deliver the same high standards, expertise, and service it is known for.

Kevin added:

“Although the ownership of Control-F has changed, that doesn't mean any changes for our customers and suppliers. I continue to act as Managing Director, supported by the same highly capable team. There are no changes to courses or contracts or anything else which would affect our customers or suppliers.”

The transition was supported by specialist advisers [Baxendale Employee Ownership](#), alongside guidance from the [Employee Ownership Association](#).

Kevin commented:

“I can't thank Simon Everingham, Alex Mudie and the wider team at Baxendale Employee Ownership enough for their expertise and the care that they have shown us throughout. Simon has guided us through the process from start to finish, with support from the Employee

Ownership Association, and it's a credit to his patience and considerable experience that Control-F is able to embark on this new chapter."

Looking ahead, Control-F will continue to support its clients and partners with the same professionalism and commitment, now as an employee-owned business.

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Notes to editors:

About Control-F

Control-F provides specialist training in digital forensics, supporting UK police forces, law enforcement organisations, and private sector providers. Established in 2007, the company delivers both classroom and online training from its base on the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire border.

Find out more about Control-F: www.controlf.net

About Employee Ownership

Employee ownership is a business model where a company is owned by its employees, often through an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT). This structure supports long-term stability, employee engagement, and sustainable business performance.

Find out more about the Employee Ownership Association: www.employeeownership.co.uk

Control-F was supported in its transition by Baxendale Employee Ownership.

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