

Invest in Bristol News

February 2010

Siemens invests in Marine Current Turbines

Marine Current Turbines Press Release - 25th February

£10 million for Bristol's SPark – one of the UK's biggest science parks

SWRDA Press Release - 23rd February

Bristol employment specialists expands

Evening Post - 17th February

Bristol location announced for leading law firm

Irwin Mitchell Press Release - 16th February

SSE unveils South West regional office

SSE Press Release – 12th February

New Bristol centre to provide a state-of-the-art teaching environment

College of Law Press Release - 10th February

Bristol firm chosen to host international web software conference

Evening Post - 9th February

New football stadium gets final approval from Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council Press Release - 11th February

Joy at Airbus as it lands a plane contract 'worth \$1bn'

Evening Post - 5th February

Bristol music shop has its tills ringing

Evening Post - 2nd February

A Matter of Loaf and Death is nominated for an Oscar!

Aardman Press Release – 2nd February

Bristol wins big at international toy fair

Cod Steaks Press Release- February 2010

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Siemens invests in Marine Current Turbines

Marine Current Turbines Press Release (extract) - 25th February

Marine Current Turbines is pleased to announce that global engineering firm, Siemens, has invested in the firm alongside the Carbon Trust, High Tide and other private investors.

Following an investment round led by the Carbon Trust in 2009, this latest funding brings the total investment in Marine Current Turbines over the past two months to £8.5million. Investors in the first round included Bank Invest, Carbon Trust, EDF Energy and High Tide.

Lord Hunt, Minister of State for the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change welcomed the new £4.8million funding round saying: "Our seas are a fantastic asset that can generate clean, green and home-grown power that will boost our transition to a low carbon economy. I'm pleased that more investors are coming forward to back Marine Current Turbines as they seek to harness the UK's excellent tidal resources."

£10 million for Bristol's SPark – one of the UK's biggest science parks

SWRDA Press Release (extract) - 23rd February

An extra £10 million for SPark, the much anticipated £300 million science park for Bristol and Bath, has been announced today, in preparation for work to start on site this spring.

Combined with the initial funding, this is the South West RDA's largest single investment, and means that subject to final contractual agreements, the first phase can get underway on the Emersons Green site to create one of the UK's biggest science parks.

Once complete, SPark will bring over 6000 skilled Research & Development jobs, in over 77,000 sq m (820,000 sq ft) of new research

facilities on the 22 hectare site. It is anticipated the construction of SPark will involve over 1,500 man-years of work.

Bristol employment specialists expands

Evening Post (extract) - 17th February

Bristol employment specialist The HR Dept has expanded into new premises as a result of winning new business.

The company, which specialises in delivering employment advice to SMEs, has opened a further five offices since September, taking its number of UK offices to 35.

Now, with a growing team involved in recruiting, appointing and working with the HR professionals who run the offices, The HR Dept has taken over additional premises next to its Winterbourne head office to house its licensee operation.

The company has also revealed further ambitious plans for growth in 2010 with a target of 50 offices by the end of the year.

Nationwide, The HR Dept says its client base has grown by 10 per cent in 12 months and in the South West the Bristol office is consistently seeing at least eight clients a month coming on board.

Bristol location announced for leading law firm

Irwin Mitchell Press Release (extract) - 16th February

Leading national law firm Irwin Mitchell, is to open a new Bristol office with a pledge to offer an unrivalled level of legal service in the fields of personal injury and clinical negligence in Bristol and across the South West.

The partnership has taken 4,884 sq ft of office space at One Castlepark in the heart of Bristol's city centre adjacent to Temple Quarter and

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Cabot Circus. It aims to provide better access for clients to their specialist legal teams and marks the launch of an ambitious growth plan for the practice in the region.

The firm's newly refurbished offices – which have commanding views over Castle Park and the city centre – will provide office space for a total of 27 legal and support staff and further expansion is anticipated.

SSE unveils South West regional office

SSE Press Release—12th February

SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) is today officially opening its Bristol office at St Philips, as part of a £2.5 million investment and a pledge to provide 80 more jobs for the West Country.

The company's newly refurbished office and warehouse complex in Victoria Terrace brings staff from four SSE offices in the Bristol area under one roof for the first time, including mechanical and electrical contractors, street lighting teams, meter readers, domestic engineers (electrical and gas Home Services), renewable energy staff, high voltage power engineers and administration staff.

Following a full office facelift including construction of a brand new warehouse, more than 400 staff now use this as their base.

New Bristol centre to provide a state-of-the-art teaching environment

College of Law Press Release (extract) - 10th February

Today, The College of Law has revealed its plans to lead the way in e-learning in the South-West.

E-learning, which includes i-Tutorials, podcasts, online test and feedback exercises, e-forums and online group assessments will be used to deliver the Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practice Course at The College of Law's new Bristol

centre, due to open in September this year. These teaching technologies will complement traditional study methods on offer at the College – face to face workshops, lectures, and one to one tutorials, offering students the flexibility to choose how to learn.

The College of Law today reveal that the new centre, due to open in Bristol's Temple Quarter, will provide a contemporary, state-of-the-art working environment, complementing the College's cutting-edge teaching technologies.

Nigel Savage, Chief Executive of The College of Law says: 'We want to lead the way for advanced teaching technologies in the South-West. When it opens in September, our Bristol centre will offer students a state-of the art working environment and the most advanced e-learning techniques, combined with traditional face to face support from some of the country's finest legal experts and teaching staff'.

The Bristol centre will be The College of Law's first centre in the South-West, representing a £1.2m investment and creating 40 new jobs. It will serve the whole of the South West region and consolidate the College's position as the UK's leading provider of postgraduate professional legal education. It will also offer courses for qualified lawyers.

Bristol firm chosen to host international web software conference

Evening Post—9th February

A Bristol web design company has been selected to host an international software conference that is expected to attract 500 delegates from more than 30 countries.

It is the first time the Plone Conference will have come to the city. Previously it has been held in New Orleans, Vienna, Seattle, Naples and Washington.

"As Bristol is a leading city in the world of digital media, it is great to be able to host the

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conference here," said Matt Hamilton, who runs the business, Netsight Internet Solutions, of Berkeley Square, Clifton. "It is a coup for the city."

Members of his 13 staff will be organising various aspects of the conference in October.

Mr Hamilton set up his company 10 years ago after studying computer science at Bristol University.

Plone is a widely used enterprise-level open source web content management system, used to build technically advanced websites and large corporate intranets.

It is used by organisations as diverse as Nasa, Oxfam, eBay, the University of Oxford and Warwickshire Police.

New football stadium gets final approval from Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council Press Release—11th February

Plans for a multi-million pound development of Bristol City Football Club’s new stadium were given approval this evening by the city’s council Development Control Committee.

Because the development includes Green Belt land the application will now be referred to Government Office to allow the Secretary of State to consider if the application should be “called-in” for his decision.

Joy at Airbus as it lands a plane contract ‘worth \$1bn’

Evening Post (extract) - 5th February

Plane –maker Airbus has landed a contract for new aircraft worth an estimated \$1.1 billion which will directly benefit the aerospace industry in the South West.

The six A330s will be part built at the firm’s factory in Filton and have been ordered at a time when most airlines are canceling or delaying orders for new planes.

Yesterday the company revealed that Hong Kong Airlines had signed a memorandum of understanding for six A330-200 aircraft.

The latest deal means the airline, which is planning to expand its operations in the Far East, is now planning to take on a total of 23 new A330s.

Bristol music shop has its tills ringing

Evening Post—2nd February

A music shop is on the move as part of an expansion that will see it operating from bigger premises. Hobgoblin Music at College Green will move a few hundred yards up the road to a bigger shop on Park Street from next month.

Manager Cris Pierssene said: "We have just had our best year ever as a business and we believe it is because people are turning to music in these tough times for fun and to cheer themselves up.

"It is the traditional, fairly inexpensive instruments that have been selling well, such as ukuleles, guitars and penny whistles. But we are also seeing significant increases in sales of more expensive instruments such as fiddles and accordions.

"The new shop will be bigger and better enabling us to expand our entire range. There will be a new music books section and we will have room for an instrument repairs service."

The new Hobgoblin Music shop will be the largest in the eight-shop chain, which also has stores in Birmingham, Crawley, Leeds, London, Manchester, Wadebridge and Milton Keynes.



A Matter of Loaf and Death is nominated for an Oscar!

Aardman Press Release—2nd February

A Matter of Loaf and Death, Wallace & Gromit's fourth short film, has made the final selection of nominees for Best Animated Short Film at the 82nd Academy Awards, held on 7th March 2010.

This is the fifth Oscar nomination for the pair, of which they have won three to date, with A Grand Day Out, their first outing in 1989, only just missing out to Creature Comforts, Nick Park's second short film entry that year!

Both The Wrong Trousers (1993) and A Close Shave (1995) secured the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film, and Wallace & Gromit's first feature film, The Curse of the WereRabbit, took home the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2006. Therefore, Nick Park has won a staggering total of FOUR Oscars already!

A Matter of Loaf and Death made its TV debut on Christmas Day 2008 on BBC1 to a record-breaking audience of more than 16.1 million. For more information about the film or Wallace & Gromit themselves, visit www.wallaceandgromit.com, and keep your fingers crossed with us for more celebrations on the 7th March!

Bristol wins big at international toy fair

Cod Steaks Press Release (extract) - February 2010

Bristol company Cod Steaks is celebrating success after a toy line it created won a top award in the Best New Toy of the Year - Role Playing category at London's Toy Fair 2010.

Armouron is an interchangeable armour-style kit, designed to encourage children to engage in active outdoor role play. The new toy ranked alongside established competition including Harry Potter and Star Wars merchandise to scoop a prize, voted for by a panel of expert toy retailers.

Cod Steaks, which specialises in designing and manufacturing products for film and TV, has been working on its first foray into the world of toy design for just over six years.

The idea was conceived by founder and managing director, Sue Lipscombe, who wanted to use her business' creativity and expertise to produce a toy that would inspire children to play outdoors and take an active interest in engineering and customisation.

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