

Invest in Bristol News

July 2010

Low Carbon South West gets the green light

Low Carbon South West Press Release -July

Bristol ranked most active office market in the UK

National Office Report 2010

Retaining key engineering skills in the South West

South West Talent Retention Scheme Press Release - July

Seven UWE students win prestigious placements at CERN

University of the West of England Press Release - July

Temple Quarter campaign launched at government property conference

Bristol City Council - 22nd July

Firm wins property deal

Evening Post - 21st July

Bristol Airport up for top travel award

Bristol Airport Press Release - 20th July

Record chasing car goes on show

Evening Post – 19th July

International travel on the up at Bristol Airport

Bristol Airport Press Release - 13th July

Bristol's shops bring in more money than ever before

Evening Post - 13th July

Ball held for city's media

Evening Post - 12th July

Country's leading automotive academy attains IIP for 10th year in a row

S&B Automotive Academy Press Release - 7th July

MITIE given preferred bidder status for Rolls-Royce European facilities management contract

MITIE Press Release - 6 July

Business bucks recession with major expansion

Bristol University - Press Release - 1st July

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Local Carbon South West gets the green light July (extract)

A new body aimed at promoting the South West as a hotspot for environmental technologies and services has been formed.

Low Carbon South West (LCSW), which has been created from the merger between the Bristol Environmental Technologies & Services Initiative (BETS) and the environmental activities of the University of Bath's Innovation Centre (BIC), will become the largest trade body of its type in the UK and will promote the thriving green industry in the region.

Membership-based it will provide a number of benefits to environmental sector organisations already based in the region and those looking to locate in the South West, including access to information for business development and collaboration opportunities; networking events; and the opportunity to influence the government's green policies.

The body, funded by both public and private sector support and activities, will be based in Queen Square in Bristol. It will be holding a celebration event to mark its official launch in September. It is also currently planning an environmental trade show at the UWE conference centre in 2011, which will be the largest ever event of its kind in the region.

Bristol ranked most active office market in the UK

National Office Report 2010 (extract)

According to research published by Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH), Bristol has been ranked the most active office location in the UK when looking at long-term trends.

In the report, LSH evaluated the long-term activity rates of 37 locations across the UK, as a guide for how vibrant each location is in an average year. The activity rate is calculated by the average 10-year take-up divided by the total

stock of floor space. Bristol is ranked as the most active market with a score of 7.5% in comparison to the national average of 4.6%.

The findings come from LSH's National Office Report 2010, the industry's most comprehensive compilation of office market data, analysing 37 UK locations and capturing two thirds of the UK's office market stock.

Peter Musgrove, head of office agency at LSH's Bristol office, commented: "Despite the last two years of below trend activity in the occupational market, it is encouraging to see Bristol top the charts when looking at longer term market activity and is testament to the buoyancy of the market. A strong performance for the first quarter of 2010 has further boosted confidence in the office market, following a disappointing 2009"

Retaining key engineering skills in the South West

South West Talent Retention Scheme Press Release—July

An innovative project aimed at ensuring that high level engineering and technical skills remain within the South West is proving its worth both for employers and individuals.

The South West Talent Retention Scheme (TRS), funded by the South West RDA and supported by WEAFF and EEF, matches the needs of employers in key sectors with appropriately skilled individuals who are out of work or at risk of redundancy.

This 'dating agency' approach is playing a key role in helping companies find the people they need, while providing support for individuals looking for work.

The TRS is open to companies in advanced engineering sectors such as aerospace and defence, automotive, marine, machining, medical, manufacturing industries or original equipment manufacture.

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The scheme offers two key strands of support for employers.

For companies with vacancies, once registered they can access the searchable TRS online recruitment database, which provides detailed information about the skills, expertise and experience of registered individuals.

For employers considering or embarking upon a redundancy programme, they receive the help to which they are entitled throughout the process, including ensuring that appropriately skilled employees register for TRS services.

Register at www.talentsouthwest.org.uk

Seven UWE students win prestigious placements at CERN

University of the West of England Press Release (extract) - July

Seven students from the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) have won prestigious placements this year at CERN, one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research, and home to the Large Hadron Collider facility.

So far this year a total of 14 UK students have been accepted for placements at CERN and more students may be selected later in the year.

The seven UWE students are all studying various specialisms within computing including software engineering, forensic computing, IT Management for Business and Computer Systems Integration. They will work on projects ranging from implementing a Content Management System in HR to contributing to the Business Support Systems at CERN, and developing software to extract data from Oracle databases.

Temple Quarter campaign launched at government property conference

Bristol City Council—22nd July

Bristol's place as a leading relocation destination was further reinforced at the Government

Property 2010 conference on 19th July.

More than 50 representatives from public sector organisations and the property industry attended an Invest in Bristol work session at which the Environment Agency's Head of Corporate Assets, Liz Buckle, explained why her organisation had chosen Bristol for their new headquarters.

The session was hosted by the City Council's Invest in Bristol team and entitled 'Relocating to a smarter, greener location'. To coincide with the event, a new campaign was launched to promote Temple Quarter as an investment destination to the public and private sector.

The new www.wearetemplequarter.co.uk website includes video footage of Burges Salmon's new Temple Quarter HQ building at One Glass Wharf and an interview with managing partner Peter Morris. It also includes interviews with Tony Kerr, a director at Ove Arup & Partners who are located on the edge of Temple Quarter and Dick Penny, MD of Watershed and Chair of both the Bristol Partnership and the Bristol Old Vic.

Bristol City Council Leader Barbara Janke said: "It is clear that Bristol has a lot to offer those organisations - both public and private - wanting to re-locate here. We have top quality office buildings, built to the highest environmental standards such as Temple Quarter, and we have a very highly skilled workforce with the highest graduate retention in England. I hope that many more organisations like the Environment Agency seize these opportunities and re-locate to Bristol!"

Speakers at this Invest in Bristol work session included Mike Henry, a partner at King Sturge and Dick Penny, Chair of Bristol Partnership.

Mike Henry said: "Temple Quarter offers an unrivalled opportunity which already combines an existing multi-modal transport hub with a well established public sector occupier base and the opportunity to further expand Bristol's stock of environmentally sustainable buildings."

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2

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Dick Penny said: "The development of Temple Quarter as a sustainable business location will further reinforce Bristol's reputation as one of Europe's greenest cities. Temple Quarter occupiers enjoy excellent communication links, sustainable office accommodation and a world-class talent pool from which to recruit, attracted by Bristol's exciting cultural offer and superb quality of life."

Firm wins property deal
Evening Post (extract) - 21st July

Bristol-based Integral UK has won a contract with property consultants DTZ to provide maintenance at commercial properties in the South West and Wales. The three-year deal will see Integral UK provide full mechanical and electrical maintenance cover for five commercial property locations in Cardiff, Bristol and Clevedon.

Caroline Strudley, Integral UK's business development manager for the South West and South Wales, said: "We are delighted to have won this contract, which sees us embark on a new relationship with DTZ, who are one of the biggest and most respected names in the commercial property sector."

Bristol Airport up for top travel award
Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) - 20th July

Bristol Airport has been nominated for one of the travel industry's most prestigious awards.

The TTG Travel Awards are run by the industry's leading trade newspaper, Travel Trade Gazette, and the shortlist is decided by travel agents from across the country.

The winner of the 'Airport of the Year' category, in which Bristol Airport has been nominated, will now be decided by an expert panel before being announced at an awards ceremony on 23rd September. Judges include representatives from leading travel companies and trade bodies such as Thomas Cook, Sandals and the Institute of

Travel and Tourism, as well as leading figures from the worlds of commerce and retail.

Shaun Browne, Aviation Director at Bristol Airport, said:

"We are proud to have been nominated for a TTG Travel Award, particularly as travel agents play a key role in shaping the shortlist. Agents know that we work hard to ensure there is a comprehensive programme of flights and holidays available from Bristol. In return, we appreciate the efforts travel agents make to sell customers the benefits of flying from the region's leading airport."

Record chasing car goes on show
Evening Post (extract) - 19th July

The Bristol-built car which is set to break the land-speed record and the 1,000mph barrier was publicly unveiled at the Farnborough Airshow yesterday.

The Bloodhound is being built and designed by a team in Bristol and the first life-size model of the jet-propelled vehicle was put on public display yesterday by the team behind the project.

The space-age car is firmly on course to break the 1,000 mile an hour mark in just over two years' time and a special track is being built in South Africa to help achieve the feat.

The vehicle is being designed and built at the Bloodhound Technical Centre in Bristol, and the project is being backed by the University of the West of England.

International travel on the up at Bristol Airport
Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) - 13th July

Passenger numbers were up 8.52 per cent at Bristol Airport in June, with scheduled international flights showing the biggest increase (13.2 per cent) compared to the corresponding period last year.

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3

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Over 583,000 passengers passed through the terminal last month, taking the total for the year to date to more than 2.5 million.

Civil Aviation Authority statistics due to be published this week are expected to show Bristol is one of the fastest growing airports in the UK.

Five out of the first six months of 2010 have seen more passengers use the Airport than in the previous year, with April – when UK air travel was disrupted by ash from the Icelandic volcano - the only exception.

So far this year, Bristol Airport has opened a state-of-the-art ‘walk through’ tax and duty free store and a new 450m walkway linking the terminal to eight aircraft stands, reducing the need to bus passengers to and from flights.

Last month, North Somerset Council recommended approval of the Airport’s development plans which will see facilities further enhanced to enable a throughput of 10 million passengers per annum by 2020.

Bristol's shops bring in more money than ever before
Evening Post (extract) - 13th July

Bristol is officially the shopping capital of the South West, according to the latest figures.

Annual statistics released by CACI, an independent data specialist, has put Bristol in 13th place in its national list.

The city's closest rival in the region is Exeter, which is 31st on the list, with other destinations, including Bath and Cheltenham, struggling to compete.

And when the shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway is taken into account, the city dominates the retail scene in the South West.

According to the figures, the retail complex at Cribbs is 38th in the list coming higher than both

Bath (42nd) and Cheltenham (45th) in the nationwide rankings.

The figures also show the big difference Cabot Circus has made. Before the centre opened in September 2008, Bristol was ranked 23rd out of 50 in the UK's retail league with shoppers spending just over £800 million in the city centre over a 12-month period, compared with £1.05 billion in the past year.

Ball held for city's media
Evening Post (extract) —12th July

Creative companies in Bristol and beyond have the chance to step out this summer at a media ball for the industry.

The glittering event is at the Royal Marriott Hotel, College Green, on August 26th and will raise funds for the Prince's Trust, one of the leading charities working with young people in the South West.

The Bristol media scene is going from strength to strength with a vast diversity of talent within the city, from award-winning ad agencies and animators to publishers, digital agencies and production companies.

The event aims to unite all this influential talent under one roof.

The ball is being organised by a team of employees from Bristol News & Media who publish the Evening Post, Western Daily Press, Metro and Venue.

Tickets for the event, which starts at 7.30pm, are £45 with discounts for tables of 10.

For more information, contact Robyn Greaves on 0117 934 3394 or r.greaves@bepp.co.uk.

Country's leading automotive academy attains IIP for 10th year in a row
S&B Automotive Academy press release
7th July

One of the country's leading automotive

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academies has again been awarded the Investor in People (IIP) standard.

The 10th successive year it has achieved the standard means S&B Automotive Academy (S&BAA) in Bedminster, Bristol can continue to display the prestigious logo that's synonymous with business success and performance.

Regarded as the leading people management business improvement standard, IIP helps organisations transform their business performance.

Used by thousands of organisations, nearly seven million employees in over 35,000 organisations have achieved IIP status. The academy's achievement is even more notable with only 3,000 organisations having achieved the standard for ten years or more.

Jon Winter, chief executive at S&B Automotive Academy said: "We're again thrilled to have achieved the standard required by the Investor in People. We constantly develop our staff and improve the way the academy operates. In addition we continually strive to improve the way the students learn and improve the environment in which they work and this is reflected in the attainment of the IIP standard."

Dave Pegler the IIP assessor said: "It was a pleasure to spend time at S&B Automotive Academy and to learn about the progress being made. Clearly there is much to be proud of, not just in terms of academic achievement but the range of support being made available to the students at S&BAA.

"It is pleasing to see that it is not in S & B's nature to sit back on their laurels but to constantly strive to improve further. Since the last review the business has opened impressive new facilities and this is set to continue with the construction currently in hand."

"Everyone who works at the academy is highly focused on developing this as the best automotive

learning centre in the country and has worked tremendously hard to make sure the standards required were achieved."

Widely regarded across the motor sector as being one of the leading facilities of its kind in the UK, S&B Automotive Academy currently trains 600 students a year with courses range from pre-apprenticeships, through apprenticeships for those working in the motor industry, management training and other short courses.

MITIE given preferred bidder status for Rolls-Royce European facilities management contract

MITIE Press Release—6th July

MITIE Group PLC ('MITIE') is pleased to announce that it has been given preferred bidder status by Rolls-Royce for the facilities and energy management of its European properties.

Subject to contract, this will be MITIE's largest pan-European agreement and demonstrates MITIE's capability to meet the needs of Rolls-Royce across its European property portfolio. It will include facilities management, energy management and the delivery of services including engineering and fabric maintenance, security, cleaning, catering, waste management, document management, reception, pest control and emergency services.

MITIE will work closely with Rolls–Royce in support of its global property strategy, and will provide its property management team with asset and estate performance data from MITIE's integrated management information and data management platform (MiWorld).

Business bucks recession with major expansion

Bristol University Press Release (extract) - 1st July

University-based business acceleration specialists SETsquared have brought a new Bristol-based software service into a major phase of expansion, helping them to secure £1million of funding, bucking the recession's investment-shy trend.

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Since teaming up with SETsquared in May 2009, BrightPearl, which provides an online office package to small and medium enterprises, has successfully entered the mass B2B market with an effective business model, marketing strategy and funding for substantial growth from Eden Ventures and Notion Capital.

“When we met BrightPearl they were already trading but needed specific advice from people who understood their product and marketplace.

SETsquared is all about new technologies and businesses who have potential for fast track, high growth,” said Nick Sturge, Centre Director at the Bristol SETsquared Business Acceleration Centre. “Our strength in the sector comes from the deep understanding of fast growing high-tech businesses and our superb business network”.

The SETsquared Partnership, involving Bristol, Bath, Southampton and Surrey universities, connects industry and academic research, through technology transfer, licensing, and creating spin-outs.

The Partnership drives "spin-ins", new business opportunities within the community, such as BrightPearl. Since launching in 2004, SETsquared has incubated more than 200 companies of which over 80% were spin-ins looking for help to grow.