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**Cameron wants Bristol to be green energy centre**

**Evening Post - 29th May**

Prime Minister David Cameron says he wants to make Bristol a centre for green energy.

In his first major speech since taking power the Conservative leader set out how he wants to transform the economy by pushing support into the regions to ensure every part of the country benefits from investment. For Bristol, his vision means establishing "marine energy parks", something the Tories pledged in their manifesto but without specifying where.

The parks will be specialist centres that develop wave and tidal power technology and will create high-skilled "green" jobs.

**New walkway will enhance passenger Experience**

**Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) 28th May**

Bristol Airport's new walkway was officially opened on 28th May, concluding 12 months' work on the £8 million project.

Following several weeks of tests to familiarise airlines and ground handlers with the new facility, Councillor Nigel Ashton, the Leader of North Somerset Council, declared the walkway 'open for business' – just in time for what is forecast to be the Airport's busiest weekend of the year so far.

The new 450m walkway connects the terminal building to eight new pre-boarding zones, enabling passengers to walk to and from aircraft instead of being driven by bus. Not only does this improve customer service and enable airlines to better implement priority boarding, it will also reduce emissions from airport vehicles.

As well as improving the departure experience, arriving passengers will be given a positive first impression of the airport and the region, walking undercover from their aircraft to the terminal

building. Eye-catching artwork has been commissioned to highlight the attractions of the South West to visitors, and this will adorn a 50 metre stretch of wall-space en route to passport control.

Robert Sinclair, Chief Executive Officer at Bristol Airport, said:

"The new walkway delivers an improved service to our airline customers and their passengers. It is the most visible example to date of our new brand promise – 'Amazing Journeys Start Here'.

"The walkway will make the airport journey more convenient, easy and enjoyable, removing the hassle of bus transfers for the majority of passengers. It is a statement of our ambition to be a world class airport in North Somerset."

The walkway was constructed by Bristol-based building contractor, Kier Western. The structure incorporates 700 tonnes of steel and contains 73,000 floor tiles.

The terminal is expected to handle its 50 millionth passenger towards the end of the year.

**Plane-maker Airbus lands £1.6bn new order Evening Post (extract) - 28<sup>th</sup> May**

There was some good news for Airbus yesterday when it was announced that the plane-maker has landed a £1.6 billion contract for five new aircraft.

The company – which has a factory in Filton employing 5,000 people – has endured a disastrous year which saw its profits plummet by 92 per cent to just seven million euros.

The aviation industry has come to a virtual standstill as a result of the recession and July's airshow in Farnborough where traditionally major orders are announced is expected to be one of the quietest on record.

Yesterday's announcement that South African Airways has ordered five A320 aircraft each valued at £337 million is a much-needed boost

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for the firm. The wings and landing gear are designed and made in Filton before being shipped out to Toulouse for assembly.

Bosses at Airbus have blamed the drop in profits over the past 12 months on long-running problems with the A380 super-jumbo, which is part built in Bristol, and the strength of the dollar. They have also been badly hit by the costs and delays on the A400 military transporter plane.

**University help sees businesses thrive in city**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 28<sup>th</sup> May**

A healthy culture of enterprise still exists in Bristol and the surrounding area, according to commentators from the University of the West of England (UWE).

Since launching its "solution4recession" programme 12 months ago, the university has helped more than 350 companies through its business improvement and staff development services.

Project officer Mark Haley believes many companies have not only survived, but have actually diversified or even expanded with UWE's help.

"The recession makes businesses more cautious," he said. "However, we've been delighted so many of those we've engaged with still have the confidence to grow and the desire to invest in their workforce."

The project was set up last year after UWE won almost £500,000 of Higher Education Funding Council funding.

Mr Haley said: "Our free series of skills workshops has been well attended and there is a lot of interest in course subsidies, especially in relation to our e-learning option.

"Despite the recession, a number of new enterprises have been set up at UWE Ventures, which proves the entrepreneurial spirit is alive

and well."

**Take off - Bristol Airport's £150m expansion plans approved - with 70 conditions**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Bristol's Airport's £150 million expansion plans have been given the green light.

The airport says the expansion will create 3,500 new jobs, inject £200m into the local economy and see an estimated increase in visitor spending in the region of £1.1 billion.

Expansion plans were initially announced in 2006 as part of the airport's master plan.

Work could start as early as this year but is not expected to be completed until 2019 at the earliest.

Afterwards the airport's chief executive, Robert Sinclair, said: "We are really pleased at the outcome for employment, local business, tourism and for passengers.

"It's been long-awaited and we are really pleased that the local council took this locally important decision."

As part of the planning agreement the authority will benefit from millions of pounds of contributions to improve local transport links.

**Super-fast broadband 'goes live' in Bristol**  
**BT Press Release (extract) - 25<sup>th</sup> May**

11,000 homes and businesses in Downend are the first in the South West to benefit from BT's roll-out of super-fast fibre-based broadband

Thousands of homes and businesses in Bristol have become the first in the South West to benefit from BT's £2.5 billion investment in super-fast broadband.

BT announced today that super-fast fibre-based broadband is now available to the first homes in Downend, Bristol. The upgrading of the local



network will be largely completed over the next few weeks giving super-fast internet access to more than 11,000 Downend households and firms.

In the next few months, the Bristol North and Bristol West exchanges, serving a further 15,000 homes and businesses, will also be upgraded.

**International aerospace company sets up UK headquarters in Bristol**  
 SWRDA Press Release—24<sup>th</sup> May

A French aerospace company with offices across the world has chosen Bristol as the home for its new UK headquarters.

Aeroconseil, which has 1,100 employees worldwide and offices in France, Germany, Spain and Canada, is looking to build a team of up

to 50 people in the next two years following its move to Brabazon Business Park, near Filton.

The South West RDA (Regional Development Agency) has been working with the British Embassy in Paris to attract the Aeroconseil to Bristol, promoting the city's strengths in the aerospace sector.

James McNaughton, international investment team manager at the South West RDA, said: "We welcome Aeroconseil to the region and look forward to helping the company grow and achieve its ambitions.

"This move adds to the increasing level of inward investment from other parts of Europe, particularly in the aerospace and clean technology industries, over the last six months. It is an encouraging sign for the regional economy that we are attracting large, international players."

Aeroconseil is a consultancy business advising on the aircraft's life cycle, from their design through to operation and conversion. Didier Reboul, UK director at Aeroconseil, said:

"Setting up a UK headquarters is a strategically significant move for the company and we feel Bristol is absolutely the right place to be. We are now perfectly positioned to support the network of aerospace companies in the region, including Airbus.

"We are confident that we can recruit talented engineers and will be working closely with the South West RDA and other partner organisations to help establish our foundations in the city and wider region."

**Occupancy report gives Future Inns first birthday present**  
 Bristol 24-7 (extract) - 21<sup>st</sup> May

A new hotel at Bristol's Cabot Circus is celebrating its first anniversary with first-quarter occupancy results higher than the market average.

The figures from accountancy firm PKF show the 149-room Future Inns has had a 66% occupancy since January compared to average competitor rates of 62%.

This represents a 17.2% share of the three-star Bristol hotel market and offers hope for the city's hotel market.

Future Inns opened its first three floors of the eight-storey building in May and the other floors by September, during a year when the recession hit many leisure businesses.

The hotel, built with a £20 million capital investment, has created more than 300 jobs through construction and internal operations.

Del Brett, managing director of Future Inns, said: "These figures are really good news and show that we are doing something right.

"We exist in a price-driven market. Since opening last May we've been very competitive – proving to customers that you can have real quality at three-star rates.

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“Bristol is a vibrant and exciting city and we are thrilled to be a part of it. We are now looking forward to seeing the next 12 months consolidate on our initial successes.”

**Innovative brokers plan for regional hub**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Insurance brokers Oxygen is opening a new office in Bristol as part of a move into the South West.

The new office in the Castlemead Building will become the company's South West hub for its Corporate Risks division and specialises in insurance broking, risk management, claims and alternative risk financing services for mid-to-large UK companies and organisations. Oxygen provides all its services on a fee basis to its clients rather than taking commission.

The division's national centre is based in Leeds with regional hubs in London, Manchester and Glasgow. The company is planning, over time, to expand the range of services offered through the Bristol office.

Chief executive Graham Elliott said: "We are delighted to be expanding our office footprint in the UK. The Bristol office will allow us to target a wider range of businesses in the South West of England and to better service our existing clients.

We looked at a number of locations and chose Bristol because of the transport links and the vibrant city life. We are excited about bringing new opportunities to this city."

**Prince of Wales visits SeaGen at Strangford Lough**  
**Marine Current Turbines—14<sup>th</sup> May**

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has visited Marine Current Turbines' SeaGen, the world leading marine current and tidal stream technology that is deployed in Northern Ireland's Strangford Lough and generating power into the local grid on a daily basis.

HRH was greeted (May 13th) by Mr David Lindsay the Lord-Lieutenant for County Down and went on to meet Mrs Arlene Foster MLA Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Martin Wright Managing Director of Marine Current Turbines (MCT), and Professor Peter Gregson DL President and Vice-Chancellor Queen's University Belfast.

The Queen's Marine Research facility at Portaferry, on the shore of Strangford Lough, provides an operating and monitoring base for MCT and offers research assistance to the company in its operation of SeaGen.

His Royal Highness attended a short presentation on the SeaGen project from MCT's Martin Wright and colleagues, and then sailed out to the turbine, accompanied by Martin, to see the project in its operational environment.

**West Country Deli Business Beats Pret And Subway To Be UK's Best Sandwich Business**  
**Chandos Press Release (extract) - 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Chandos Deli, the Bristol-based sandwich and delicatessen business, has fought off stiff competition from industry giants to be named as the best sandwich retailer in Britain.

The Sammies' are the sandwich industry's national awards staged as part of British Sandwich Week, 9-15 May 2010. Now in their fifteenth year, The Sammies feature 14 different categories.

Chandos Deli was crowned as the winner last night, 13 May 2010 in the Specialist Sandwich Bar Chain of the Year Award category but the business was easily the minnow in the race for the title.

Multi-national sandwich businesses Subway and Pret a Manger were also on the short-list for the same award. American giant Subway has over 1,250 franchised stores across the UK and Ireland; that's more stores than Burger King, KFC and Pizza Hut.

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“It’s great to have won a bun fight with massive businesses like Subway,” says Iain Keith-Smith, founder of Chandos Deli.

“We opened our first store on Bristol’s Chandos Road back in 1992 with the ambition to make and serve fantastic food and our approach remains unchanged.

“We’ve succeeded because of our passion for sourcing wonderful ingredients from around the world and our ability to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with the customers that walk in through our doors. We never grow tired of talking about and sharing the delicious things we discover.”

**Bristol's landmark building, Bristol Eye, will have one of the most exclusive penthouse suites in Bristol**

Evening Post (extract) - 15<sup>th</sup> May

It will be one of the most exclusive penthouse suites in Bristol and could cost as much as a million pounds when it finally comes on to the market.

Standing on the top floor of the landmark building that will become known as the Bristol Eye, the views really do take the breath away and the person lucky enough to get the keys to the apartment will literally have the city at their feet.

Next month the first occupants will move into the site and the developers say there is real interest in the remaining properties and vacant land.

This week the whole area will reopen to the public and the Valentines pedestrian bridge will once again carry traffic after being closed for two years.

As Simon Price from Alder King explains: "This is a London-quality development in Bristol. If we were to sit down and plan a scheme of this size in the current marketplace there is no way it would be of the same quality, scope and specification."

Standing outside the Eye, it is easy to understand what he means, with the immaculate paved area in front of the building sweeping away towards Castle Park.

Mr Price said: "I think what is happening is a fantastic statement. There is nowhere outside of London where you will see this level of development. No one is saying that we are out of the woods yet but there are definite signs of a new optimism.

"A lot of financial companies, recruitment agencies and training agencies are looking at coming to Bristol because of the quality on offer.

"Bristol is in a much better position than a lot of other cities because there is a lack of available property."

**Duo join World Cup bid**

Aardman - 14<sup>th</sup> May

Animated characters Wallace and Gromit have recreated the moment which has caused England fans so much pain as part of the campaign to bring the FIFA World Cup™ home in 2018.

The duo, created by Bristol-based Aardman Animation, are the stars of a TV advert backing the 2018 campaign for England to host the FIFA World Cup™, which has been put together by npower.

The advert recreates Diego Maradona's infamous "hand of God" goal, which knocked England out of the 1986 tournament.

Lucy Wendover, from Aardman, said: "We have enjoyed working on the adverts so far. But it's been especially exciting for us to take them into the world of football and, as usual, see Gromit saving the day."

**New Event Brings Business Inspiration To Bristol**

Nationwide Media Group Press release—(extract) - 12<sup>th</sup> May

Bristol based Nationwide Media Group is

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launching Business West of England, an inspiring new business-to-business exhibition and conference for business owners, directors and entrepreneurs in the company's home city.

The event, which takes place at the new University of the West of England (UWE) Exhibition and Conference centre at the Frenchay Campus, Bristol on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010, follows the same successful formula Nationwide Media Group has brought to its annual exhibitions and conferences in the North West, Midlands and Yorkshire.

Business West of England will enable over 140 local companies to exhibit their businesses. The event includes seminars presented by local business experts and the Angels Den for businesses looking for finance and investment.

Business West of England will host the region's largest networking session with complimentary drinks courtesy of the event organiser. Exhibitors and businesses will be able to relax and network in an informal environment over cocktails or a glass of wine in the Network Café.

Speaking about the launch of Business West of England, Scott Hider, Managing Director of Nationwide Media Group said; "As a Bristol based company, we are thrilled to be launching our new exhibition and conference in the city.

Up until now there hasn't been a big enough venue with the facilities we need to host a major business-to-business event in the region.

Our events in other UK regions have grown in successive years and are now considered to be must-attend events in regional business calendars.

In the current economic climate business owners clearly understand the importance of marketing themselves in a face to face environment and winning more business.

The South West is a rich business district so we know that Business West of England will be

extremely popular."

**Firm secures sub contract**  
**Evening Post—10th May**

A Bristol-based company has won a £10 million contract to supply the communications system for the Royal Navy's latest submarine.

The next generation of nuclear submarines is being built by a consortium of firms but SEA are the prime contractor working on the communication system for the Astute submarine.

The system has to be capable of sending large amounts of electronic data but secure from snoopers.

SEA is also hoping to win more work on the back of the contract.

The firm is working on the project with Thales Underwater Systems Ltd, Selex Communications and Aish Technologies Ltd.

The company has experience in the field and built the communications system for the Navy's Trafalgar Class submarines.

Under the Astute contract SEA will design, procure, build, integrate, and test the communications system.

**UWE's theBizIdea competition boosts innovation**

**UWE Press Release (extract) - 5th May**

Prizes worth over £22,500 have been awarded to the winners of the best business, social enterprise and creative ideas in the University of the West of England's theBizIdea competition.

The best ideas in each category won £5000 and a rent-free space, worth around £2500, in UWE Winners of the business category, Pies Cream, came up with a unique product concept which enables event and festival goers to enjoy hearty foods on the move. They aim to establish themselves as a leading brand for the events

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food market.

First prize in the social enterprise category was awarded to Joe Constant, founder of Kick Start Enterprise, who works with young people, parents and teachers on the Hero Programme to give young people greater self-knowledge, confidence and self esteem.

Winner of the creative idea category was Holly Hearn, of Start Cards, a greetings card business which promotes up and coming Bristol and West Country artists and is already on sale in a major high-end retailer.

All entrants of theBizIdea have received 6 months virtual incubation provided by UWE business advisors at Ventures (in Bristol's Harbourside at Bush House) to encourage entrepreneurship and develop their ideas. The competition's sponsors and supporters include: Business Link; Bristol City Council; Lloyds TSB; Roxburgh Milkins; CIM; Glasses Direct; Institute of Business Consulting; Robson Taylor, Kinneir Dufort; Jordans; Social Enterprise Works; Nomensa and UWE Students Union.

**Building firm lands £10m defence deal**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 4<sup>th</sup> May**

A Bristol-based building company has won a £10 million contract with one of the West Country's biggest defence firms.

Midas Construction has signed a deal which means it will work with Cobham on redeveloping and modernising a research centre in Wimborne, Dorset.

Paul Strachan, a divisional director at Midas Construction, said: "Working with Cobham to achieve a total site redevelopment programme, from a standing start to be ready for use in late autumn this year is, and continues to be, an exciting challenge."

Midas Construction is the largest company within

the Midas Group.

**Fresh office for business service provider**  
**Freshbaked Press Release—May 2010**

Leading business service provider, freshbaked Group, continues with its strategic growth plan as it opens the doors of its new Bristol office.

The six year old company has expanded its offering into the south west of England with an office presence in Aztec West Business Park.

The new office will provide freshbaked Group with a base to deliver its business services including training, recruitment, public relations, design and telecommunications.

Existing clients of freshbaked in the south West of England include Glaxosmithkline, Sanoh, Warburton's, Swindon-based Dynamatic, Fox Removal and Storage and physical education specialists, SportStars.

Richard Matthews, chief executive of freshbaked said: "As we continue to establish ourselves as a leading business service provider in Wales, we have identified a strategic demand for our 'freshbaked' approach to business services in the south west of England, and we are pleased to be working with some great local companies already.

"The new offices in Bristol will allow us to continue servicing our existing clients to the highest level whilst enabling us to build the freshbaked brand across the bridge."

