

Invest in Bristol News

December 2008

Bristol attracts high share of Government sector relocations in England

Invest in Bristol News
– December

Wallace and Gromit make it a good Christmas for Bristol's Aardman

Evening Post
– 26th December

Rolls-Royce awarded £258 million UK helicopter support contract

Rolls-Royce Press Release
– 22nd December

Midas celebrate at the top of Ten Victoria Street in Bristol

Midas Construction Press Release
– 22nd December

Bristol University confirmed as a world leader in research

University of Bristol Press Release
– 18th December

Over a third of UWE research is internationally excellent

UWE Press Release – 18th December

Orange to open R&D centre in West

Western Daily Press – 17th December

UWE invests in industry standard animation kit

UWE Press Release – 15th December

Repair and replacements works on Bristol's historic docks

Bristol City Council Press Release
– 9th December

Top awards for Cabot Circus development

Bristol City Council Press Release
– 4th December

College to head up aerospace and defence pathfinder

City of Bristol College News - December



Bristol attracts high share of Government sector relocations in England

Invest in Bristol News – December

New data on government sector relocations published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) reveals that Bristol has now received over 1,000 relocated posts since 2004.

This is the same proportion of posts as Manchester (i.e. 9% of government sector relocated posts in England) and is second only to one other English city. The OGC data reveals that the number of government sector posts that have relocated to Bristol has increased by 124% towards the end of 2008.

A large proportion of the 1,014 posts that have relocated to Bristol are in the MoD as the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation centralises its acquisition activities at its headquarters in Abbey Wood, Filton. A further 2,000 DE&S posts are due to move to Bristol over the next few years.

Nine other government departments have relocated posts to Bristol, in particular, Children, Schools and Families (110 posts), Communities and Local Government (57 posts) and HM Revenue and Customs (23.5 posts).

Bristol City Council’s Marketing Investment and Enterprise (MIE) Team promotes the city to government departments and agencies through its Invest in Bristol marketing campaign and Reception Service for Major Investors.

The MIE Team, West of England Partnership, GWE Business West and Bristol Property Agents Association also recently collaborated on a Government Sector Relocations Workshop delivered by commercial property consultants King Sturge.

Wallace and Gromit make it a good Christmas for Bristol's Aardman

Evening Post (extract) – 26th December

Wallace and Gromit's latest adventure, A Matter of Loaf and Death – which was made in Bristol – topped the Christmas Day TV ratings.

The programme attracted 14.4 million viewers, 2m more than the EastEnders double bill and more than half the people watching TV at the time.

It was the biggest audience of the year for a single show, despite A Matter and Loaf and Death being screened at 8.30pm, a time after some of the younger members of its potential audience would have gone to bed. The programme saw inventor Wallace and his dog Gromit open a bakery.

Bristol-based Aardman Animations also had another Wallace and Gromit adventure in the top ten – its film The Curse of the Were-Rabbit attracted 8.6m viewers.

Rolls-Royce awarded £258 million UK helicopter support contract

Rolls-Royce Press Release (extract) – 22nd December

Rolls-Royce has been awarded a £258 million contract by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to provide engine support to the UK's Sea King helicopter fleet.

The 10-year full availability-based agreement is the first of its type for helicopter engines between Rolls-Royce and the MOD and offers a guaranteed 24/7 delivery of engines for the fleet. It covers all marks of Gnome engines that power the 96 Sea Kings in service with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, including the UK's search and rescue fleet.

Under the terms of the contract Rolls-Royce will undertake all aspects of engine support, including the provision of replacement engines to meet customer demands, and technical support both at operating locations and from the Rolls-Royce Operations Centre in Bristol. The contract will be managed from the company's Bristol site and the Yeovilton air base, with the main repair and overhaul work undertaken at Rolls-Royce facilities in Ansty and Germany.



Midas celebrate at the top of Ten Victoria Street in Bristol

Midas Construction Press Release (extract) – 22nd December

Midas Construction, part of the Midas Group, has this week reached the top of Ten Victoria Street in Bristol. The £4m project involves extending and refurbishing the five storey office block with rear external parking facilities at Ten Victoria Street. The extension will increase the office space available to 46,124 ft.

To celebrate, Midas and Deeley Freed today held a topping out ceremony with a little help from Roy Winters of Bristol Rugby.

Throughout the project, Midas has undertaken to help local, disadvantaged young people by joining up with Deeley Freed and The Park in Knowle West to offer young people both apprenticeships and work experience.

Research Assessment Exercise 2008 results for Bristol’s 2 universities:

Bristol University confirmed as a world leader in research

University of Bristol Press Release (extract) – 18th December

Bristol is among the UK’s top research universities, according to a rigorous exercise to assess the quality of research at every university. The exercise will decide how more than £1.5 billion in research funding will be allocated each year from 2009-10.

Over 61 per cent of the research work assessed in 48 research fields at Bristol has been awarded either the top 4* rating, defined as ‘world leading’, or the 3* rating, classed as ‘internationally excellent’. The quality of Bristol’s research in geography has emerged as first equal with Cambridge in the UK.

Epidemiology and public health, health services research, chemistry, mathematics, drama, mechanical engineering, economics, accounting

and finance, aeronautical engineering and sports-related studies are among other research areas in which the University has achieved particular distinction.

Bristol’s faculties of Science and Engineering have performed exceptionally well, but there are areas of outstanding research performance across all six faculties.

Over a third of UWE research is internationally excellent

UWE Press Release (extract) – 18th December

Over a third (37%) of research carried out at the University of the West of England (UWE, Bristol) is considered world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of its originality, significance and rigour. This is the outcome of the 2008 RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) which assesses the quality of research in Higher Education in the UK. UWE’s submission to the RAE comprised more than 330 staff across 21 subject areas.

According to the RAE, the University of the West of England is considered to have high levels of world-leading and internationally excellent research in Biomedical Sciences, Art and Design and Communication, Cultural and Media Studies.

Orange to open R&D centre in West

Western Daily Press (extract) – 17th December

Orange is opening a new research and development centre in Bristol that will keep the West at the forefront of progress in the telecoms industry.

The mobile phone giant has unveiled twin "technocentres" in Bristol and London that will employ about 80 experts when they open on January 5.

Orange's new facilities will house engineers, researchers and marketing specialists who will look into a new wave of broadband and mobile services, identify market changes and come up with new products for domestic and overseas markets.



UWE invests in industry standard animation kit

UWE Press Release (extract) -15th December

Animation students studying at the School of Animation at the University of the West of England will benefit from industry standard software, specialist training tools and specialist hardware recently purchased from Escape Studios.

Software like Pixar's Renderman® will give the students the tools they need to emulate or aspire to the quality of animation seen in films like Pixar's 'Toy Story'.

This significant investment is another example of how the University is determined to ensure that the School of Animation gets industry recognition for its commitment to becoming the top animation training centre in the UK. UWE is also the first University to adopt Escape Studios on-line learning system, the Maya Core course, which is a constantly updated learning tool.

Repair and replacements works on Bristol's historic docks

Bristol City Council Press Release (extract) – 9th December

A multi-million pound scheme to secure the effective working of Bristol's historic docks and safeguard the city from potential flood risks is set to start this week.

The City Docks Capital Project will address urgent repairs and replacement work on the 140-year old Victorian lock system. The work is being carried out by BAM Nuttall Ltd in partnership with Bristol City Council.

The work will consist of three phases, with Phase 1 tackling the most urgent works and costing an estimated £4million. Altogether, there will be a planned programme of works over a four-year period and costing in the region of £11million.

Top awards for Cabot Circus development

Bristol City Council Press Release (extract) – 4th December

Cabot Circus, Bristol's £500 million retail and leisure destination, has won three top industry awards – and Bristol City Council's work in partnership with developers Bristol Alliance has been key to its success.

The council worked with the Alliance to secure the land needed for the development and then managed the planning process; co-ordinated road planning and traffic management; provided advice and guidance on structural and building safety and advised on urban design, landscaping, public art and access for disabled residents. The city council also helped the developers liaise with community organisations and neighbouring residents - and supported publicity and promotion for the scheme.

Now Cabot Circus has beaten an international shortlist to win the coveted Best Shopping Centre of the Year 2008 award at the MAPIC retail event in France - and has taken the Supreme Gold prize in the British Council of Shopping Centre Awards 2008. The scheme has also scooped the European Standard Parking Award for the high level of design, safety and customer service provided by its 2,500-space car park.

The MAPIC awards are one of the top international prizes for retail developments while the British Council of Shopping Centres' awards are the leading accolades within the country's shopping and retail business sector.

Cllr Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: "Many congratulations are due to our partners in the Bristol Alliance on these well-deserved awards. The recognition that Cabot Circus is winning from industry and regeneration bodies is a great boost for our city and adds to our growing international reputation. Bristol has the ambition to match any city in the UK and Europe for the quality of our regeneration programmes, urban design and architecture..."



College to head up aerospace and defence pathfinder

City of Bristol College News - December

The College has been selected to deliver a new pathfinder pilot project for the aerospace and defence industry.

The FE Knowledge and Technology Transfer (FE KTT) Pathfinder projects, backed with £2.5 million from the Government, will build direct links between businesses, colleges and the wider FE sector. The aim is to build FE capacity to help firms across the UK access the extra support they need to improve their business processes, develop new products and services and move into new markets.

The College will lead a specialist network, called the South West Composites Gateway, that comprises Aerospace Training SW, University of the West of England, Yeovil College, West of England Aerospace Forum and GWE Business West. The network will make further education available to help the south west aerospace and defence industry develop.

Speaking about the success, Keith Elliott, Principal, said: "This new project will make a real difference to the south west and is particularly good news during this time of economic uncertainty."

www.investinbristol.com

Banner images: © Rolls-Royce Plc 2006 | 2007 Aardman Animations | Molyneux | Visual Technology, Bristol City Council

