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Rolls-Royce secures £198 million contract to support UK Pegasus fleet

Rolls-Royce Press Release (extract) - 28th January

Rolls-Royce has been awarded a £198 million contract by the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) to support the Pegasus engines which provide the Harrier fleet with its unique Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) capability.

The 10-year contract provides a guaranteed level of availability of Pegasus engines to power the aircraft operating in the UK's Joint Force Harrier, which is operated by both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

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 state-of-the-art facilities in Bristol.

The contract will be managed from the company's Bristol site, with some activities taking place at RAF Wittering and the main repair and overhaul work will be undertaken at the Rolls-Royce facility in Ansty.

Business guide helps boost the economy

Bristol City Council Press Release (extract) - 29th January

A vital business guide has been published as part of the city council's ongoing drive in partnership with the business sector to help the city's economy cope with the impact of the global recession.

The 2009 Bristol Business Guide was unveiled at a special business breakfast on January 28th 2009 attended by business leaders including representatives of ADT Systems; Airbus; Bristol International Airport; Constellation; Lloyds TSB; Glo-Arts Ltd; BAM Construction and many of Bristol's leading property agents.

The guide provides an important resource for Bristol's business community - showcasing over 7,000 firms and helping companies large and small to find the local supplier or customer they need. It also outlines many of Bristol's successful

regeneration and development schemes, highlighting the potential of the city for would-be investors, as well as providing a 'one-stop' resource to help businesses access all the advice and information they need.

Seven million visit Cabot Circus in three months

Evening Post (extract) – 27th January

Shopping centre Cabot Circus received seven million visits in its first three months of opening, said centre director Richard Belt. The figures, from its opening on September 25 to December 21 last year, put the centre on course to exceed its target of 25 to 26 million visitors in its first year. Mr Belt said the Cabot Circus car park had 320,000 cars, which had stayed for an average of three hours. He said: "Those numbers have already put Bristol back into the top 10 shopping destinations in the country and the signs are we are going to more than double the numbers coming to Bristol."

University of Bristol submits plans for Biological Sciences and Mathematics Departments

University of Bristol Press Release (extract) - 26th January

Planning and listed building applications have been submitted to Bristol City Council for proposals to create new research and teaching accommodation for the University of Bristol's departments of Biological Sciences and Mathematics.

The proposed development is to be built on part of the old Children's Hospital site on the corner of St Michael's Hill and Tyndall Avenue. It will create over £80 million-worth of education and research facilities and laboratories for the Biological Sciences and Mathematics Departments and will also improve the public realm, including a new route into Royal Fort garden from St Michael's Hill.



Bristol International Airport puts development plans on show

Bristol International Airport Press Release (extract) – 21st January

Bristol International Airport is putting its development plans on show as part of a six week pre-application consultation process aimed at gathering views on the scheme.

Following consultation, the airport will submit a planning application to North Somerset Council for a range of improvements to the airport's facilities and services. This will include proposals to extend the terminal building, provide additional car parking and create new aircraft stands, enabling the airport to handle 10 million passengers per annum (just over 6 million used the airport in 2008).

The completed scheme represents significant investment by Bristol International Airport, and studies estimate it will generate around 4,000 additional jobs in the South West and bring up to £343 million into the region.

Joint effort to help city's economy bounce back

Evening Post (extract) – 20th January

Bristol's property agents are working with the city council and economic development group GWE Business West in a ground-breaking initiative aimed at kick-starting growth.

Council planners have agreed to reconsider historic planning consents and, in the light of the downturn, to discuss the possibility of granting new, amended consents. It is hoped that this pledge – undertaken following talks with the Bristol Property Agents Association (BPAA) and GWE Business West – will help unblock the logjam which has hit many property developments since the onset of the credit crunch.

Nick Seary, president of the BPAA and a partner in the Bristol office of King Sturge, said: "Many existing planning consents were granted when the economy was growing and property values were increasing. Of course the situation has now changed so these consents, as well as emerging schemes, may no longer be economically viable.

"Therefore we are hugely encouraged by the local authority's positive response to the current challenge, working alongside ourselves and GWE Business West. We believe that in development terms, this commitment to look again at existing consents could give Bristol a real competitive advantage over other UK cities."

Bristol "will beat recession"

Evening Post (extract) - 29th January

Bristol will emerge from a recession stronger than most other UK cities, claims a leading property expert. Ned Cussen, development partner at King Sturge in Bristol, said there was no denying that the current property market was "dire in many ways."

But he told the firm's annual media briefing that the West region, and in particular Bristol, was "punching above its weight" and would be in a better position than most other parts of the UK when market confidence does return, due to factors including a lower supply of office, industrial and apartments, a smaller land supply, a plentiful supply of shopping centres and a more diverse jobs base.

Waitrose to create 4,000 new jobs with expansion

Evening Post (extract) – 16th January

Supermarket chain Waitrose says it will create 4,000 new jobs as it embarks on an expansion drive. The chain has entered an agreement with The Co-operative Group to buy 13 stores and Waitrose said it would open a further nine new branches. The figures include shops in Weston and Clifton, both of which will open this year and will employ around 160 staff between them. The Co-op has been forced by regulators to sell some stores in exchange for winning approval for its acquisition of rival Somerfield.



Bristol's greenest office building

Evening Post (extract) – 16th January

The Gemini Buildings, a 60,000sqft development at Aztec West Business Park in Bristol, has been awarded a Grade B energy performance certificate. The design is believed to make it the most energy efficient office development in the city.

BAM Properties development director Martin Hill said: "We anticipate the occupiers of the Gemini Buildings will save about £250,000 over 10 years because of the range of measures we've designed in from the start. These surely have to be the premises at the top of the list for any business seeking new premises in Bristol."

Ryanair announce two new aircraft & 12 new routes

Bristol International Airport Press Release (extract) – 14th January

Ryanair, Europe's largest low fares airline, announced today (14th Jan) that it will add two new Boeing 737-800 aircraft and open 12 new routes (33 in total) at its Bristol base. This brings Ryanair's investment in Bristol to four aircraft worth \$280million.

Ryanair's new routes to/from Alicante, Barcelona, Cagliari, Eindhoven, Limoges, Malta, Montpellier, Perpignan, Rimini, Seville, Toulon and Trieste will increase Ryanair's traffic at Bristol to almost 1.6 million per annum which will sustain 1,600 local jobs and deliver over €180 million in tourism revenues for Bristol.

Greggs to Expand as sales rise

Evening Post (extract) – 14th January

Bakery chain Greggs is bucking the trend for retailers by announcing rising sales and expansion plans for 2009.

In one year alone, the Greggs shop opposite the new Cabot Circus shopping centre in Bristol saw its sales rocket by a massive 107 per cent. That may have been largely due to the number of construction workers involved in the Cabot Circus development.

But the firm is confident that sales will continue to look healthy.

Greggs has 21 stores across Bristol and has thrived on selling a range of traditional favourites including the likes of sausage rolls and egg sandwiches.

Last week the group, which has more than 1,400 stores throughout the UK, announced like-for-like sales had risen 5.3 per cent in the four weeks to January 3.

Bristol firms welcome Government loans plan

Evening Post (extract) – 14th January

The South West Regional Development Agency has welcomed measures to help small and medium-sized businesses in Bristol.

Business Secretary Lord Mandelson introduced measures on Wednesday including a £10-billion 'working capital scheme' for banks, designed to secure up to £20bn of short-term loans for businesses with a turnover of up to £500m.

John Savage, board member of the agency, which works to improve the prosperity of the West, said: "While many businesses are feeling the pinch, there are a good number that would like to expand over the next 12 months.

"It is crucial that these companies are given the means to fulfil their ambitions in preparation for economic recovery".

Apitope and Merck Serono Announce Licensing Agreement on Novel Peptide Therapeutics for the Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis

Apitope Technology (Bristol) Ltd Press Release (extract) - January 13th

Apitope Technology (Bristol) Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Apitope International NV, announced today the signature of a research, development and commercialization agreement with Merck Serono, a division of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Under this agreement, Apitope has granted exclusive worldwide rights to Merck Serono to develop and



commercialize Apitope's product ATX-MS-1467. This peptide therapeutic has completed an initial clinical study in patients with MS. It is designed to induce immunological tolerance of the body's T-cells to key autoantigens involved in the pathogenesis of MS...

Under the terms of the agreement, Apitope is eligible to receive up to € 154 million in upfront, development and commercialization milestone payments, in addition to royalties on the net sales of products resulting from the collaboration...

"We are very pleased that ATX-MS-1467 has attracted a major pharmaceutical partner such as Merck Serono with extensive experience and leadership in the development of therapies for multiple sclerosis," said Keith Martin, CEO of Apitope. "We view this collaboration as confirmation of Apitope's ability to develop early-stage first-in-class therapies for autoimmune diseases. In addition to continuing to build our in-house diagnostic platform in MS, we look forward to progressing ATX-MS-1467 with Merck Serono."

Kitchen giant Magnet's new Bristol outlet

Evening Post (extract) – 11th January

Kitchens and joinery merchant Magnet is opening a new trade outlet in Bristol after completing an £890,000 deal to buy a 12,000sq ft premises in St Philips.

The national chain recently acquired Unit 2 at St Phillips Trade Park in a £890,000 deal which will bring several new jobs, and cement Magnet's link with the city.

Burges Salmon builds for future growth in Bristol

Burges Salmon Press Release (extract) – 8th January

Top 50 law firm Burges Salmon LLP is on target to move into its new premises in May 2010. Temple Quay Central is the selected site (conveniently located next door to Bristol's Temple Meads railway station) and One Glass Wharf will be the name of Burges Salmon's new headquarters.

The relocation is one of the largest commercial property transactions to take place in Bristol in recent years and will see Burges Salmon take 172,000 sq ft at its new headquarters at a cost of £27.50 per sq ft.

"We are a Bristol firm and were absolutely committed to staying in the city. The proximity of Temple Quay to the station makes it the ideal strategic location for us, as our practice continues to develop on a national and international scale", said Managing Partner Guy Stobart.

The new Burges Salmon building will be one of the most comfortable and modern premises in the city and will re-affirm its status as a premier Bristol-based law firm.

Cabot Circus's green credentials rated excellent

Cabot Circus Press Release (extract) – 6th January

A sustainable approach to the development of Cabot Circus was adopted from the outset, transforming a former brownfield site into a thriving city centre with a barrier-free public environment and improved transport options.

Environmental considerations then followed throughout the design and construction of Cabot Circus – helping to secure Bristol's future as a truly sustainable city.

And now Cabot Circus has become the first UK retail project of its kind in the UK to achieve the highest BREEAM rating of "excellent", following a detailed environmental assessment...

Bob De Barr, Bristol Alliance project director said: "We have earned one of the industry's highest sustainability ratings, BREEAM Excellent, through our commitment to delivering all possible sustainable measures throughout every stage of the project's construction. It is a demonstration of our commitment to be as sustainable as possible".



GKN Aerospace commences operations at Filton

GKN Press Release (extract) – 5th January

Following European Regulatory approval GKN Aerospace announces it will take ownership and operational control of the former Airbus UK, Filton wing component and assemblies manufacturing facility at midday today.

As ‘GKN Aerospace - Filton’ opens for business, GKN Aerospace Chief Executive, Marcus Bryson comments:

“This is a landmark day for our worldwide business, for the regional aerospace cluster around Bristol and the UK aerospace sector, and for the 1500 people joining us today. This is just the first day in our long term plan to grow the Filton operation and the capabilities of our team here to create a global centre of excellence for wing structures serving our international customer base”.

Bristol is one of the world’s top ten cities to visit

Destination Bristol Press Release (extract) – 23rd December

Bristol has been selected as one of the world’s ‘Top 10 Cities for 2009’ by DK Eyewitness, the world’s best-selling guidebook publisher.

As the only UK city to be named within the list, Bristol will now feature in the DK Top 10 guidebook series. The other nine selected cities are: Buenos Aires, Gdansk, Washington DC, Vienna, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Fes, Seattle (USA) and Vilnius.

Bristol was commended for its strong shopping offer, following the opening of Cabot Circus and for its growing status as a ‘green’ destination, after it was named the ‘most sustainable city in Britain’ and selected as the only UK nominee for the title of ‘European Green Capital’.

