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About Us

Bristol City Council's Economic Development Team works to build a thriving economy by:

- **Marketing the City to potential inward investors**
- **Promoting and supporting investment**
- **Nurturing business and key growth sectors**
- **Providing a complete enquiry handling and commercial property search service**

Contact the Council's Economic Development Team for further information on corporate relocation assistance:

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Government Minister acknowledges Invest in Bristol at WEAFA annual conference
Invest in Bristol—February

Gerald Howarth MP Minister for International Security Strategy made special mention of Invest in Bristol in his keynote speech at the West of England Aerospace Forum's annual conference recently.

Having visited the Invest in Bristol conference stand prior to his speech, MP Gerald Howarth was delighted to discover how the team's insightful knowledge of the West enabled them to highlight the area's aerospace capabilities.

Another keynote speaker at the WEAFA conference to visit the Invest in Bristol stand was Phil Jones, President of Vestas Spare Parts & Repair. This new division of Vestas, who deal exclusively in wind power, was attracted to Bristol in 2009-10 by the Invest in Bristol team despite strong competition from other locations.



Phil Jones explained to delegates that Vestas SPR had chosen to locate in Bristol because of the city's world-class talent and university research.

Ian MacDougall, Manager of Bristol City Council's Invest in Bristol team, said:

“With representation from national and international organisations at the conference, it was a pleasure for Invest in Bristol to express the welcoming face of the city and to help demonstrate the strengths and diversity Bristol



has to offer companies looking to develop and expand.”

Presentations on the theme of diversification were also delivered by keynote speakers such as Frank Bamford, Senior Vice President of GKN Aerospace, Andrew Thompson, Chairman of WEAf (Rolls-Royce) and Barry Warburton, Chief Executive of WEAf. For more information visit: <http://www.weaf.co.uk/news?id=190>

Bristol's Colston Hall is in the running for a national tourism award
Evening Post (extract)- February 23

The Colston Hall has been shortlisted for a national tourism award.

The city centre concert venue has been put forward to the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence.

The Colston Hall is one of nine tourist attractions in the South West to win through to the national honours.

It had already picked up a Gold Award in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards in November.

All 126 regional winners in the country have now been whittled down to 54 finalists that will feature in the final in Birmingham in April.

The Colston Hall was shortlisted in the Access for All category.

South West Tourism chairman, Alistair Handyside, said: "Each and every one of these tourism organisations has worked incredibly hard to reach this stage.

"Like many of our tourism businesses they recognise that success, in these challenging times, will be led by a determination to exceed customer expectations."

The winners will be revealed at The Great Hall in

Birmingham on April 15.

Celebrity chef's latest restaurant set to open
Evening Post (extract) - February 17

The menu outside the door displays tempting Italian dishes, the stylish interior looks complete, and almost 100 staff are undergoing training. It can only mean celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's new Bristol restaurant is nearly ready to open.

The Park Street eaterie Jamie's Italian is due to open on Monday February 28.

The final touches are now being added to part of the former Blackwell's bookshop to create a three-floor restaurant with an antipasti counter, fresh pasta machine and "bread station" and a ground-floor delicatessen area.

It is also understood 93 staff from the local area are undergoing training to ensure they are ready for opening night.

the signage went up on the restaurant last week, builders have been hard at work completing the interior. Already passers-by can look at the plush seating area, dining tables, a menu case outside the front door and a television screen set into the exterior wall.

UWE Ventures incubator wins national seal of approval
UWE Press Release—February 15

Support for the creation of new enterprises at the University of the West of England (UWE) has been given a double endorsement by UKBI, the leading professional body on the development and support of business incubation environments. UWE is the first University in the South West to receive this honour.

The UWE Ventures® business incubator offers affordable space in central Bristol, along with professional support and mentoring, to budding entrepreneurs with bright business or social enterprise ideas. Along with UWE's innovative

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early-stage pre-incubator support for students, staff and graduates, Ventures® received the resounding accolade after a two-day visit in November.

Head of Innovation at UWE Dr David Brennand said, "UWE Ventures is the first business incubator in the South West to be accredited by UKBI. This means UWE is a member of an elite body within the UK, a great achievement for our team.

"In a first for UWE, UKBI also gave its seal of approval to our early stage pre-incubator support such as the Coffeemat ideas challenge, on-campus enterprise advice at the Ideas Factory, and the BizIdea new enterprise competition. UKBI thought these were really innovative methods of encouraging students and staff into enterprise activities."

Among the strengths of the UWE Ventures incubator, based at Bush House on Bristol's Harbourside, were the skills and experience of the incubation team, the networks that the incubator can utilise, the availability of grow-on space, the client needs assessment and monitoring of client's progress.

Enterprise Managers Jill Burnett and Kim Jones said, "We are particularly pleased with the endorsement for the UWE Ventures strategy and delivery especially in these challenging economic conditions where nurturing new companies is so vital.

"In the accreditation process many of our incubator clients whose ideas we have helped develop – from the Bristol Festival group and Clix event management to Coolboard and Karma Active community sports – were interviewed and we are very grateful for their input.

Rolls-Royce secures Emirates deal
Evening Post (extract) - February 14

Aerospace in the South West received a boost today after Rolls-Royce revealed unveiled a

long-term services deal with Emirates worth 2.2 billion US dollars (£1.4 billion).

The agreement under its TotalCare scheme will see Rolls' technicians maintain the Trent engines of 70 Airbus planes the airline is due to take delivery of in the next few years.

It will be seen as a great boost for the Bristol-based side of the company, which specialises in building engines for jet fighters and military transporter planes, and was recently revealed as one of the best-performing parts of the business in the firm's recent accounts. Rolls employs 3,500 staff at its Patchway factory.

The Emirates deal follows a 1.2 billion US dollar (£700 million) deal in November to service the Rolls engines on 48 Emirates planes already being flown or on order by the airline.

Bristol Airport and Flybe back business flight
Bristol Airport Press Release—February 9

Passengers using Flybe's service from Bristol to Belfast City can now benefit from an even speedier journey thanks to a joint promotion between the airline and the South West's largest airport.

All passengers on the twice-daily service will receive access to Bristol Airport's Fast Track Security channel, further increasing the speed with which business travellers can access the Northern Irish capital.

Fast Track is a premium service for customers wishing to keep waiting times to a minimum and make the most of facilities in the departure lounge, whether to work, relax or shop.

The Fast Track Security offer runs until the end of April 2011. Flybe passengers travelling to Belfast City should simply request their pass at check-in or present their boarding cards to security staff at the entrance to the Fast Track Security channel.

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Competition to win business space worth £25,000

SEGRO Press Release (extract) - February 7

A major competition has been launched by SEGRO giving a new or fledgling business in Bristol the chance to win a business unit free for a year at its Ashton Vale Trading Estate in Bristol.

Called The Entrepreneur, the competition is being run in the Bristol Evening Post and is open to businesses within the newspaper's circulation area.

To win the prize, worth £25,000, businesses have to send in an overview of their operation and outline why they think they should win the unit which includes the lease for 12 months incorporating rent, rates and service charge. Entrants will then be shortlisted, with those successful being invited to present their case in a 'Dragon's Den' style presentation to a panel of judges.

The judging panel includes Mike Norton, editor of the Bristol Evening Post, Rod Mackinnon, headmaster at Bristol Grammar School, Chris Davies of SEGRO and Rob Law who is a local entrepreneur and brains behind the hugely successful 'Trunki' brand and who appeared on the BBC's Dragon's Den TV show and gained an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

The competition is open to businesses which are already trading or just starting up which would benefit from new premises. Schools, colleges or universities in the area with an entrepreneurial idea are also eligible if they have an idea which would use the unit creatively for a year.

The winner will be announced at the newspaper's black tie Business Awards in June.

A series of open days have also been arranged so those considering entering can take a look at the unit before they submit their entry and

are taking place on 15, 16 and 17 February. Anyone interested in entering can visit www.thisisbristol.co.uk/theentrepreneur or www.segro.com/bristolworks

iNets South West launched at UWE
UWE Press Release (extract) - February 7

Over the next three years five iNets or 'innovation networks' will have a significant impact on the South West region by making links that foster creativity and knowledge exchange supported by funding that will act as a springboard for innovative new products and services.

The five iNets for the South West region will be launched at a special event entitled 'Accelerating Innovation' at the University of the West of England's Exhibition and Conference Centre (ECC) on Thursday 10 February 2011. Special guest Communities Minister, Baroness Hanham from the Department for Communities and Local Government will address 150 delegates from private and public sectors from all over the region.

The iNets will have a dramatic impact on businesses and projects in a wide spectrum of arenas including advanced engineering and aerospace ,biomedicine, creative industries, the environment and microelectronics. Each will help businesses transform ideas into new products and services that will drive growth in these five sectors that have high growth potential in the South West region.

UWE is leading the iNets in Biomedicine, Microelectronics and the Environment. The iNet in Advanced Engineering & Aerospace is led by the West of England Aerospace Forum, and the Creative Industries sector is led by South West Screen. UWE is also involved in the Advanced Engineering and Aerospace iNet.

Bristol Book Market wins national award
Bristol City Council Press Release—February 3

Bristol's new Book Market has won the Best Small Market category in the National Association of British Market Authorities' Market of the Year 2011

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awards. The award adds to the growing number of accolades Bristol receives for its market provision and management.

The Bristol Book Market was launched in October, 2010 as a monthly market operating from Wine Street. The Book Market runs in tandem with Bristol's successful Slow Food Market, on the first Sunday of the month.

Although it's still early days for the new market, its early success demonstrates the popular appeal of a regular, monthly book market in the city.

Severin Anderson of Bristol Book Market, said:

"This is fantastic news for the Book Market. We've only just started and it's very encouraging to receive national recognition for what we are doing.

"Thanks to St Nicholas Market we were able to get the book market off to a flying start. Now we are determined to build on its success and make it a credit to Bristol."

Steve Morris, Bristol's markets manager, added:

"I'm delighted with the Book Market's award - and credit must go to Severin - for all his hard work.

"The next Book Market is on February 6, so I hope people will come along, see what's on offer and buy some books."

The Slow Food Market and Bristol Book Market are held in Bristol's historic centre along Corn Street and Wine Street on the first Sunday of the month. The next Sunday markets event takes place on Sunday, February 6 from 10am to 4pm.

St Nicholas Market will also be open on Sunday, February 6 with the Art Market in the Glass Arcade.

'Work will stay in Bristol for years to come' says boss of world-beating research centre
Evening Post (extract) - February 2

A world-beating research centre which will place Bristol right at the vanguard of the aviation industry is starting to take shape.

The £25-million National Composite Centre, which is being built at Emersons Green, is due to open by the summer. And the project – which is being backed by all the major players in the aviation industry in the region – is expected to be a driving force in the design of the next generation of aeroplanes.

Composite materials, which are made from a mixture of various carbon materials, are stronger and lighter than the metals currently used to build planes.

Around 200 designers, engineers and scientists are expected to be employed at the centre when it becomes fully operational next year.

Planes and cars of the future will be built almost entirely from composites, meaning they can travel further with less fuel.

The National Composite Centre is the first part of Bristol's long-awaited Science Park and is being funded with money from Europe, the Government and the defunct South West Regional Development Agency.

All the leading players in Bristol's aviation sector, including Rolls-Royce, Airbus and GKN, have thrown their weight behind the centre.

Peter Chivers, who is in charge of the scheme, said: "We will be setting the industry standard for many years to come. It is a real privilege to be a part of that."

He added: "Leading industry players have backed this project which means the work will stay in Bristol for many years to come and make the city a centre of excellence"



This country has designed things that are then manufactured elsewhere. What we are trying to do is set industry standards. We will be looking at ways of manufacturing parts made from composite materials. The technology is out there at the moment but our job is to look at how to make the processes as cost-effective and efficient as possible."

The £300 million Science Park is one of the biggest development projects in the South West and is expected to create 6,000 jobs.

The area close to the South Gloucestershire ring road will include 820,000 square foot of new research facilities on the 54-acre site, due to be finished in 2020.

Regional firms ranked in national listing
Evening Post (extract) - February 1

Four companies from the South West have made it into this weekend's fifth Sunday Times Deloitte Buyout Track 100.

The listing ranks Britain's 100 private equity-backed firms with the fastest growing profits over the last two years of available accounts.

The four companies - two headquartered in Bristol and two in Bournemouth - each made their first appearance on the league table and together employ 3,200 people, having added 550 jobs over the last two years and generated combined profits of £40m.

Bristol headquartered restaurant chain Las Iguanas, founded in 1991 and expanded to 22 sites across Britain, was bought by Bowmark Capital for £27m in 2007 and profits have since risen 38 per cent a year to £4m in 2010.

Las Iguanas ranked just below Bristol-based A-Gas International (ranked 50th) which is backed by Growth Capital Partners and recorded profits growth over two years of 38.5 per cent to £10.3m in 2010.

UWE wins £193k to provide low carbon courses in SW
UWE Press Release (extract) - February 1

The University of the West of England has won £193,000 from Universities South West to develop a range of innovative workshops and courses to increase skills in low carbon industries in the region. The courses directly address skills gaps in the South West and will be piloted during February and March.

All of the courses have been designed around employer needs to maximise business benefits and minimise time away from work. The University will offer a range of work-based learning modules that provide delegates with the option of gaining academic credits towards an Integrated Professional Development award.

Bristol Airport bucks trend as passengers numbers grow
Bristol Airport Press Release—February 1

Passenger numbers at Bristol Airport rose in 2010, with volumes up 1.8 per cent compared to 2009. Bristol was one of only two of the UK's top 10 airports to grow in 2010.

The number of people travelling through the South West's busiest terminal increased despite the significant disruption to European air travel caused by snow, volcanic ash and air traffic control strikes.

A total of 5.7 million passengers used Bristol Airport over the course of the year, a figure which would have been approximately 150,000 higher had it not been for these exceptional events.

Scheduled international routes were the strongest performers, showing a 3.7 per cent increase over the previous twelve months. Civil Aviation Authority figures show passengers numbers were down across all UK airports by an average of 3.5 per cent.

The rise in passengers at Bristol Airport was achieved with fewer flights, with the total number of aircraft movements down by 1.5 per cent, a

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decrease of more than 1,000.

This connectivity is set to further improve in March when KLM commences a fourth daily service to Amsterdam, and Aer Lingus begins flying three times a day to Dublin. Both services offer convenient onward connections across the Atlantic.

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