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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:

**Tel: +44(0)117 92 22928
Email:investinbristol@bristol.gov.uk**

Digital agency moves to landmark Bristol office building
Yucca Press Release—March

The Bristol office of global real estate services firm, DTZ has secured a letting at one of the city's landmark buildings to award-winning digital marketing agency, Yucca.

Acting on behalf of Spaceship Earth Limited an associated company of the JT Group, DTZ's office agency team agreed a seven year lease to Yucca who have taken 3,841 sq ft of open plan space on the fifth floor of the building.

The accommodation comprises 3,237 sq ft of office space with an additional 604 sq ft in the mezzanine. Bush House is a distinctive, listed building with frontage onto Prince Street in the city centre and is owned by the Arnolfini Gallery which is in the lower floors of the building.

Phil Moore, Surveyor at DTZ in Bristol, commented: "With attractive waterfront views

across the harbour and easy access to Temple Meads railway station, Queen Square and the Harbourside development, we received considerable interest in Bush House".

"We have recently had another 8,941 sq ft of office space at the building come onto the market which would be ideal for an occupier looking for flexible space in a central location."

Previously based at Orchard Street, Yucca counts Silverstone and Clarks among its client base.

Ben Martin, MD at Yucca, added: "Bristol has been establishing itself in the past few years as a creative hub for digital media and we are delighted to have secured office space in a prestigious building in the heart of the city."

Flights to US back on again at airport
Evening Post (extract) - March 29

Bristol's air link with America has been reinstated with a new service from the city's airport via Dublin.

Passengers can once again fly across the Atlantic from Lulsgate with a service that links to flights to New York, Boston, Chicago and Florida without the hassle of having to head down the M4 to Heathrow.

The new arrangement is with Irish national carrier Aer Lingus.

Although passengers will have to change at Dublin Airport, under the new agreement the journey times to the States are expected to be much quicker than the services offered from Heathrow.

Passengers have to wait around an hour for a connection to the US in Dublin but they can clear American customs in Ireland, saving valuable time and avoiding long queues when they arrive in America.

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The service is operating three times a day in each direction and the timetable has been designed to be as convenient as possible for the business market.

Bristol Airport has been granted planning permission for a major multi-million-pound expansion which gets under way later this year.

The development will see passenger numbers increase from six million to ten million a year. The ability to offer passengers the chance to fly to destinations as far afield as Brazil and southern Africa is a key part of the airport's plans.

Airbus to build new multi-million pound aerospace business park in Filton
Airbus Press Release—March 25

Airbus in the UK will build a new multi-million pound office facility in Filton, it was announced today. The company revealed plans to re-develop a site at Filton into a modern, highly efficient engineering and technology park.

The Airbus Aerospace Park project, worth in the region of some £70M, will consolidate more than 2,500 of its 4,000 engineering, design, customer support and other employees into one modern business area.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable said during a visit to Airbus today :

"I welcome this announcement which is great news for Airbus, the West Country and the UK economy. Aerospace is a UK success that we should be very proud of. We are number one in Europe and number two in the world with a 17% global market share.

"Airbus and its supply chain provide goods and services worth nearly £1.5billion annually to the UK economy and provide over 135,000 direct and indirect jobs. This new multi million pound campus in Filton will help secure thousands of

advanced engineering jobs in the South West which is a key region for the UK aerospace industry."

Mark Barclay, Head of Centre of Excellence Wing & Pylon, at Airbus said:

"This is great news. It's a firm commitment to the South West and UK that Filton will remain the centre of excellence for aerospace. This will enhance the working environment for our employees, whilst significantly enhancing the Filton landscape."

The site, adjacent to the A38 in Filton, has been owned by Airbus since 2004. The 12 acre site is expected to feature office space and an auditorium, with a refurbished Pegasus House. Employees who are currently now located in many different buildings across the large Filton aerospace site will be located together on this campus, which will improve the work environment and processes for many.

With the budget for the project now approved, the proposal and designs will be finalised and submitted to South Gloucestershire District Council. The company will hold consultation sessions with local stakeholders in the coming months, and hopes to begin construction in early 2012, dependent on the consultation process and Council approval.

Airbus is the leading aircraft manufacturer with the most modern and comprehensive product line on the market, Airbus is a global company with design and manufacturing facilities in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain as well as subsidiaries in the U.S., China, Japan and in the Middle East. Headquartered in Toulouse, France, Airbus is an EADS company.

Western Way memorandum of Understanding
Bristol City Council Press Release—March 23

The three council leaders from Bristol, Cardiff and Swindon signed the Western Way Memorandum of Understanding today, pledging

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more collaboration, especially around economic development

The signing took place at one of Bristol's leading digital research studios - Pervasive Media, emphasising the three councils' shared interests in digital and silicon industries along the M4 corridor.

Bristol City Council Leader Barbara Janke said:

"Our strong lobbying for electrification of the Great Western Main Line has highlighted that there is a great deal of potential for further collaboration with Cardiff and Swindon. The M4 corridor in the West and Wales is a dynamic economic area, and we are all keen to see it grow further, creating jobs and attracting public and private investment. The more the three urban areas can do to improve our transport links, support key sectors such as our silicon industries, and promote tourism the better."

Bristol confirmed as enterprise zone
South West Business Insider (extract) - March 23

Chancellor George Osborne has confirmed that Bristol and the West of England will be among 21 new enterprise zones the government plans to create in a bid to grow areas of industry with untapped potential.

Greater Bristol is the only enterprise zone so far confirmed for the region, though more detail is expected to come out tomorrow. The work of the enterprise zone will be led by the West of England LEP.

A further ten zones will so be announced in the summer, Osborne said, taking the tally of enterprise zones to 31.

Osborne also confirmed that the long-talked-about redoubling of the Great Western railway line between Swindon and Kemble is to go ahead.

Easyjet flying high in Bristol with new summer route announcement
Easyjet Press Release (extract) - March 21

EasyJet, the UK's largest airline, has announced a new route between Bristol and Rome.

The low-fares airline has confirmed it will be operating the new summer route from Bristol to Leonardo da Vinci International (Fiumicino) Airport from 6 June 2011 through to February 2012.

Ali Gayward, UK commercial manager of easyJet, says: "The launch of our new route into Leonardo da Vinci International (Fiumicino) Airport is exciting news which demonstrates our commitment to Bristol Airport which has grown to become easyJet's biggest UK base outside of London."

Shaun Browne, Aviation Director at Bristol Airport, said: "This announcement further improves connectivity for the South West's business community, as well as providing convenient access to one of Europe's great capital cities. Flights from Rome's main airport also help to put Bristol and the wider region on the map for Italian tourists."

Bristol to be part of high-value manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC)
Bristol University Press Release—March 17

The National Composites Centre (NCC) at the University of Bristol has been named as a partner in the first of a UK-wide network of elite technology and innovation centres by the Deputy Prime Minister today.

Bristol's NCC is one of seven highly capable and internationally recognised research centres around the country which will make up the new Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) for high-value manufacturing.

This new centre will be one of a network of about six in which the Government will invest a total of



more than £200 million over the next four years with the aim of enabling British businesses to commercialise the results of world-class research in the UK and access major new high-tech markets.

Responding to today's announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Executive Director of the National Composites Centre (NCC), Peter Chivers, said:

"I am delighted for the NCC to be working with the five other centres – the Centre for Process Innovation in Wilton & Sedgefield, the Advanced Forming Research Centre at the University of Strathclyde, the Manufacturing Technology Centre in Coventry, the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Rotherham and the Warwick Manufacturing Group at the University of Warwick - in the formation of the high-value manufacturing TIC.

"This is fantastic news for Bristol. Today's announcement recognises the world-class expertise in advanced manufacturing in the South West and the fantastic potential of this industry to secure jobs and prosperity for decades to come. On a more practical level, it will enable Bristol to solidify its position at the forefront of composites, an industry that is growing at eight per cent per year.

This is a huge opportunity for the National Composites Centre. The Deputy Prime Minister and Business Secretary have laid down the challenge – it is now up to us to meet that challenge."

Guy Orpen, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at the University of Bristol, commented:

"There is no doubt that composites will form a vital part of the UK's manufacturing renaissance. This key part of the UK economy will be driven by closer collaboration between industry and the very best of academia and we are proud that the University of Bristol and the NCC's initiating partners are playing such a significant role in this important part of the UK's economy going forward.

This is very good news for Bristol, the region and the UK."

Bristol office space is 'good value for money'
South West Business Insider—March 17

Bristol has been ranked as the fourth cheapest city for office space in the UK outside London, according to DTZ's annual 'Global Occupancy Costs: Offices' survey.

According to DTZ's report, it costs companies £4,410 for a workstation in Bristol. This is followed by Leeds, which costs £4,310 per workstation; Newcastle, where it's £3,300 per workstation; and Cardiff, which comes in at £3,250 per workstation. The most expensive is Edinburgh at £5,000 per workstation.

Philip Morton, head of office agency in Bristol, said: "Once again Bristol features as a good value for money location in terms of overall business cost. Occupiers continue to look at the cashflow over the length of their lease which will become critical when the International Accounting Standard 37, affecting lease accounting, comes into operation in April 2012."

The DTZ survey assesses the main components of occupancy costs in 121 business districts in 47 countries and territories around the world. It ranks each location based on annual costs per workstation. It includes rents and outgoings, such as maintenance costs and property tax.

Airport team takes Bristol to the Big Apple
Bristol Airport Press Release—March 10

A delegation from Bristol showcased the city at a major American travel exhibition last month. Representatives of Bristol Airport joined Destination Bristol at the New York Times Travel Show from 25-27 February, raising awareness of the transatlantic links available with Aer Lingus via Dublin.

The New York Times Travel Show attracts

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exhibitors from all over the world and is attended by travel professionals, media and consumers from across the US. Bristol's stand featured iconic images of the city and the South West, as well as offering the chance to book a range of packages with Aer Lingus Vacations.

At the show, the Bristol delegation met with American tour operators and travel agents to educate them about Bristol and the new Aer Lingus route. The team also met numerous travel writers from some of the largest travel publications in America, in order to generate positive press on the region.

From 27 March, Aer Lingus Regional will fly three-times daily between Bristol and Dublin, making transatlantic connections to and from New York (JFK), Boston, Chicago and Orlando accessible. Connecting passengers from Bristol will also benefit from the new US Customs and Immigration clearance facilities in Dublin's new Terminal 2, allowing them to arrive in the US as domestic passengers.



New York Times Travel Show

Between 2005 and 2010 around 500,000 passengers travelled directly between Bristol and New York. Travel by foreign residents using Bristol Airport has increased 161 per cent since 2003, with each overseas visitor using the Airport worth an average of £410 to the regional economy.

OC Robotics

OC Robotics Press Release—March 10

Most robots work on the outsides of things (think car production lines) but there is a whole world of potential if you can make a robot reach into awkward places. OC Robotics, based in Filton, Bristol, has developed a new type of robot that can reach the unreachable. These long slender robot arms can follow their nose into confined spaces.

The company has recently supplied robots to inspect Canadian nuclear reactors and has also worked for the UK MOD, US DOD, Shell, Airbus and many others.

OC Robotics also has good ties with the Bristol Robot Lab (based at UWE) - BRL is looking at more futuristic robotic systems that might one day be used with people, so Bristol is well placed to become a world hub for robotics.

OC Robotics has won some significant recognition including Royal Academy of Engineering Silver Medals for the co-founders and a Queens Award for Innovation.

OC Robotics has also recently launched some FREE interactive software that shows how snake-arms work. Rob Buckingham co-founder say, "It would be great to see teachers and students downloading the software. It's easy to use and very cool and suitable for all ages.

Robotics is a really exciting and rapidly developing field. It must be win-win if we can encourage young people to get into engineering."

Bristol City Centre Retail Sector Development Project

Destination Bristol Press Release—March

New zest planned for some of Bristol's most traditional shopping areas.

February 2011 saw the launch of a new retail focussed project in Bristol city centre. Led by Destination Bristol, the new Retail Sector



Development Project aims to invigorate some of the city's most traditional shopping areas: Old Market, Stokes Croft, Christmas Steps and Park Row, Park Street and the Old City.

Working with the communities, traders and property agents in the areas, the project will support initiatives to attract new businesses into empty shops, help traders to get organised into voiced groups, and foster positive and vibrant environments.

Project manager Eva Stuetzenberger says:

“This is a really exciting new initiative which works in the hearts of several important and different communities. There won't be a single solution that fits all the areas, but many individual small measures that benefit local people. Issues will not be identified at an office desk, but out there in the streets, working together with the traders and their potential customers.”

The post is funded by the Cabot Circus s106 Employment & Enterprise Scheme for 2 years. It is supported by Bristol City Council, GWE Business West and Avon and Somerset Police.

“I am totally surprised by the enthusiasm that I have found for the project”, says Eva. “Hopefully this can be a catalyst for real improvement and help inspire enterprise in these areas, bringing benefits to all.”

To find out more about the project please contact Eva directly:

eva.stuetzenberger@destinationbristol.co.uk
Tel. 0117 929 0484.

Aerium acquires prime Bristol office building in £83 million transaction

Aerium Press Release (extract) - 9 March

Aerium, the European real estate fund manager, announces the acquisition of One Glass Wharf, Temple Quay Central, Bristol, from administrators PWC for £83 million.

Completed in 2010, One Glass Wharf provides 216,172 sqft (20,083 sqm) of new flexible Grade A office space across five floors together with 115 secure basement car parking spaces. Situated in Temple Quay, Bristol's central business district, overlooking its historic waterside and opposite Temple Meads train station, it offers prime headquarters office space.

The asset is 81% let to law firm Burges Salmon on four new FRI leases for 20 years. The remaining vacant space is subject to a sellers guarantee in excess of five years. Aërium has instructed agents DTZ and Alder King to seek occupiers for the remaining space.

The property was originally developed by Castlemore Securities, who went into receivership in early 2010.

Gallan and Stoford get go-ahead for 'perfect product'

Gallan Group Press Release (extract) - March 7

Around 1,000 new jobs are set to be created in Bristol with the building of a £35million distribution centre by two Birmingham property specialists.

Bristol City Council has given Gallan Group and Stoford the go-ahead to construct the 435,750sq ft facility at Avonmouth for the Co-operative Group. The building is scheduled to be completed in early 2012.

The scheme, which follows the Co-operative Group's acquisition of Somerfield in 2009 that led to the closure of Somerfield's Bristol head office, will bring £25 million into the local economy in terms of construction works and jobs.

AXA Real Estate, Europe's second largest investment fund, has agreed to finance what is regarded as a 'perfect product' following bidding from a number of leading investment and property companies.

Pre-let to the leading retailer on a 20-year lease at a rent in excess of £2.1 million a year, the



distribution centre will serve more than 400 stores in Bristol, the South West and South Wales. It is part of the Co-operative Group's reorganisation of its UK logistics following its acquisition of Somerfield in 2009.

Dan Gallagher, leading the project for Stoford, said:

"We are delighted that unanimous approval has been given to a project that will bring a tremendous boost to the Bristol economy in such difficult times. The long-term commitment of such a high quality tenant will see £25million invested in the local economy in the next two years."

He added:

"We knew we had a perfect product in terms of lease, location and tenant, which is why we had such an impressive level of bidding from top investors."

Food for thought as Soil Association plans move

Evening Post (extract) - March 4

Work on the final piece of the jigsaw to regenerate Bristol's Harbourside could start within the space of the next two years.

The Bristol-based Soil Association has announced it is putting together a planning application, which will eventually see it moving into the historic gasworks on the northern side of the harbour.

The multi-million plans will see the conversion of the derelict site into a modern office along with a new café, flats and art gallery.

The charity, which champions organic food, has been hoping to move into a new headquarters for more than three years and already owns the site. The plans were backed by the South West Regional Development Agency and the organisation donated several hundred thousand pounds to pay towards the planning process.

The organisation, which employs around 200 staff, said it was looking to create one of the greenest and best-designed buildings in the city centre.

It will need to raise £8 million towards the cost of the process and will be speaking to various organisations.

The Soil Association's deputy director Roger Mortlock said:

"The Soil Association has been based in Bristol since 1985, but never in a building where we have been able to properly engage with the public.

"We hope our new headquarters will embody the values of our organisation – and give us a platform to talk to the public more easily, right in the heart of the city."

He added:

"We are celebrating our 65th anniversary next year, and the Soil Association's agenda is now more relevant than ever. Food and farming will need to change in the future – and the Soil Association wants to involve more and more people in that debate.

"We hope that by relocating to this amazing site on Bristol's historic harbourside we will be able to bring our work alive."

Government confirms electrification plan for Great Western Mainline

South West Business Insider (extract) - March 2

Bristol and Swindon have received a big economic fillip with the news that the government has pledged to press ahead with the electrification of the Great Western Mainline.

Transport secretary Philip Hammond confirmed the decision last night.

The government's change of heart – it had appeared to go cool on the project late last year – followed strong lobbying from the leaders of



Bristol, Cardiff and Swindon councils, for electrification and the economic benefits it will bring to the Great Western Corridor.

Bristol City Council leader Barbara Janke said:

"Bristol is one of the UK's best placed cities to create jobs and drive economic recovery, and investment in good transport links is crucial to maintaining this. This is why today's electrification announcement is vital for the whole of the West and Wales and recognition by the Government of the region's importance to the national economy.

"The three cities of Cardiff, Swindon and Bristol have lobbied hard to make this case, and I look forward to building on these links with much closer collaboration on economic issues in the future."

Electrification will speed up the journey between Bristol and London by 12 minutes. The proposed scheme work would see all of the line from London Paddington to Cardiff electrified, taking in Bristol Parkway station, along with the track through Bath to Bristol Temple Meads.

New Bristol office key step for finance firm's regional expansion

Target Press Release (extract) - March

Business advisory firm Target Corporate Finance has expanded into Bristol with the opening of new offices at Temple Quay.

The firm, launched by managing director Mark Harman in 2005, is part of Bath-based Target Chartered Accountants.

Opening an office in Bristol is a key step in furthering its presence across the South West, according to Mr Harman.

"The majority of our deal activity takes place in Bristol, so while Target Corporate Finance will still maintain a presence in Bath, the new office will become its main base in the region," he said. Since its launch, Target has handled more than £250m worth of deals across its office network in the South West, Thames Valley, City of London

and the Midlands.

Target Corporate Finance associate director Jim Shaw said: "The move to Bristol shows our continued investment in the firm and demonstrates our increased confidence in the outlook for merger and acquisition activity in the South West.

"As well as bringing the team even closer to the corporate finance community in Bristol, the new office also gives us a great base from which to expand in the future."

Target Corporate Finance specialises in advising owner-managed businesses across all areas of corporate finance, with particular sector expertise in the defence and national security, food and drink and green technology.

