

## Invest in Bristol News

## February 2009

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**UWE launches new space for start-up businesses**

**UWE Press Release - 23rd February**

The University of the West of England is launching a new 65 space business incubator called UWE Ventures in Bush House, on Bristol's Harbourside.

The new space will be fully equipped, with access to meeting space and mentoring from business experts, to help individuals and young businesses develop their ideas. It builds on UWE's successful business incubators in the Watershed across the Floating Harbour. Bush House is already well known as a creative hub, home to both UWE's Illustration students and the Arnolfini gallery.

**UWE students help design cockpit for world's fastest car**

**UWE Press Release – 20th February**

World land speed challenger Andy Green, OBE visited the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) on Thursday to try out for the first time a mock-up of the cockpit he will use in his 1000 mph record attempt. The cockpit test rig, designed and built by second-year product design students, will ensure that cockpit components such as chair and controls are in the optimum ergonomic position for the challenge.

UWE is a founder partner of the Bloodhound Project led by Richard Noble, a previous world land speed record holder. Product Design Senior Lecturer David Henshall said, "The challenge for the students was to consider the performance and ergonomics of the driver's position for a unique event that will take the driver across ten miles in 85 seconds..."

Driver of the 1,000mph car, Andy Green OBE, said: "There isn't a book to build a car like this and the students can't just look at their dad's car for guidance. The only requirement is to have four wheels. To be faced with a blank sheet of paper is quite frightening. That said, the students at UWE have done incredibly well and it's the support of universities such as The University of the West of England that will make Bloodhound SSC possible."

The Bloodhound Project was launched at the Science Museum in London in October 2008. Engineers from UWE have already produced a scale model for Bloodhound SSC, the car that aims not just to break the current land speed record but to achieve an astounding land speed of 1000 mph. The Bloodhound Design team is using the specialist facilities at UWE to help realise the formative stages of the project.

**£3.7 million for Britain's future**

**Bristol University Press Release (extract) – 18th February**

£3.7 million has been awarded to Bristol University to train Britain's future scientists and engineers. The announcement was made by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) - the UK funding body for science and engineering.

Professor Eric Thomas, the University's Vice-Chancellor, added: "This is wonderful news. It confirms Bristol will shape the future of many of the next generation's leading innovators."

**Bristol property agent wins award**

**Evening Post – 18th February**

Bristol property agent Savills has been named Planning Consultancy of the Year by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

It was commended by the judges for its ability to deliver major innovative projects by combining a visionary approach, with a technical ability and a good understanding of commercial drivers and new policy areas.

Nick Matthews, head of planning at Bristol-based Savills, said: "We are delighted our hard work over the past year has been recognised in this way. This is truly a team achievement."



**South West Based Company Bucks Market Trend With Impressive Financial Results**

**Peninsula Press Release (extract) – February 2009**

A Bristol based company has announced record results for 2008. The Peninsula Group, a privately owned office print provider, has outperformed market place expectations in 2008, reporting its annual turnover to be £4.7 million at the end of 2008. This represents a growth of nearly 59 percent on the previous year's figures. Peninsula's projected turnover for 2009 is forecast to be in the region of £5.5 million.

With 168 new clients gained over the last 12 months, the company leads the industry with its outstanding client retention rate of 98.2%. Executive Chairman, Nick Orme, comments, "A high client retention rate combined with excellent results in 2008 demonstrates that the Peninsula ethos really works. Our aim is to 'Change Print' – how we think about it, how we deliver it, how we charge for it, how we finance it and how we support it. Other print companies simply don't think like this. Thanks to this unique approach, we have already achieved over £2 million worth of savings for our clients."

The company has recently invested £250,000 in a new state of the art eco friendly digital 'Presstek' printing press to ensure a seamless flow of print production from desk to delivery. Combined with its growth in turnover, and a projected increase in staff and services, Peninsula will soon be moving into new corporate headquarters in Bristol.

**Bristol firm gets the go ahead for £17 million student residences at Oxford**

**GSS Press Release (extract) - 16th February**

Bristol-based practice GSSArchitecture has received the go-ahead to undertake the detailed design of a major new student accommodation project at Oxford Brookes University. The project, which has been costed at around £17 million, will provide an additional 358 places for both postgraduates and undergraduates. Planning approval was granted after a series of detailed consultations with local residents.

**Bristol companies nominated for Media Innovation Awards 2009**

**Media Innovation Awards Press Release – 16th February**

Eleven entries from Bristol media companies have been nominated for the 2009 Media Innovation Awards.

11 of the 46 nominated entries come from Bristol-based media companies, providing strong representation in 9 of the 16 award categories. A record 143 entries were received for the awards this year and the high level of nominations in Bristol demonstrates the wealth of media talent in the area.

Karen Stockdale of the Media Innovation Awards said, "Both the number and calibre of entries this year has been extremely high. There was a very strong response from Bristol and I am delighted that so many of the entries have been nominated in such a wide range of categories. The level of competition is increasing all the time and our panel of judges had a tough job choosing the shortlist from the huge array of exceptional entries."

**St Martins invests in Castlemead, Bristol's tallest office building**

**St Martins Press Release – 4th February**

St Martins has completed the £3 million refurbishment of Bristol's tallest office building, Castlemead, which is located in the heart of the city adjacent to Cabot Circus and Castle Park.

Castlemead comprises 19 storeys of offices, making it one of Bristol's landmark buildings. St Martins completed the extensive refurbishment of five floors providing high quality office space available from 4,965 sq ft – 36,137 sq ft.



**How Bristol building projects are booming**

**Evening Post – 2nd February**

Bristol is still booming when it comes to construction.

In an industry which is facing challenging times, there is a wealth of building work transforming the face of the city centre.

Work on the former Courage Brewery site will see it become Finzels Reach, a mixed-use scheme of homes and offices.

When it is completed, the one million sq ft development will not only be home to 1,000 people in 399 apartments, it will be a vibrant new city quarter complete with shops, cafe-bars, leisure facilities, public spaces and high quality offices...

The first residential phase of Finzels Reach is scheduled for completion in Summer 2010 and 40 per cent of the 400 residential units at Finzels Reach have already been sold off plan.

Work to complete the new office building which will house the HQ of law firm Burges Salmon is also progressing.

The Temple Quay Central building development includes the 210,000 sq ft office building next to Valentine's Bridge that will include the new 160,000 sq ft headquarters for Burges Salmon.

The firm has set up a webcam at [www.burges-salmon.com](http://www.burges-salmon.com) for staff and visitors to inspect progress, which this week includes installation of panels around the building's exterior.

The new waterfront premises will be ready in December this year, which is on schedule, and are set to be occupied by March 2010 following a fitting out process.

Temple Quay Central will also feature "The Eye", a 13-storey residential tower, as well as cafes, restaurants and an Ibis hotel.

Work on Bristol's Harbourside is also a hotspot as the new HQ for stockbroker Hargreaves Lansdown carries on apace.

The £30 million, 100,000 sq ft building, designed by Bristol architects Stride Treglown, will house the firm's 900-plus staff now split between five buildings in Clifton is expected to be finished in December.

Elsewhere, major landmark buildings are being given a new lease of life.

The former Bristol and West HQ in central Bristol will reopen on May 15 as a £20 million Radisson SAS hotel.

The development of the site, known as Broad Quay, includes 130 private residential apartments, 30 affordable flats and four shops.

Seventies office block Greyfriars, close to Hotel du Vin is also having a makeover from Bristol builders Midas.

An interior refurbishment and a new entrance is set to make the office building the very latest addition to the city's lettings market.

**iShed Receives TSB Grant to work with ANTIVJ**

**iShed Press Release – 27th January**

iShed received confirmation of funding this week for a new project: From 2009, Dreamworks will be offering all of its films in stereoscopic 3D and many other studios are following suit, but despite an exponential growth in computing power and 3D animation capabilities, there is no affordable system which enables the production and projection of content for smaller 3D display (rather than cinema or IMAX).

The project has been funded through a Technology Strategy Board Feasibility Grant to develop affordable prototype tools to enable objects created in 3D software to be displayed on non-flat surfaces. Visually, this could be compared to projecting a hologram. From gaming to live performance, the potential applications are significant and include architecture/town planning (3D visualization of a new developments); museums (3D visualization of content); education (visualization of 3D simulations in Biology/Chemistry); Medicine (3D simulations of body/operations) and advertising



(3D floating billboards).

iShed will work with projection experts AntiVJ, whose 3D mapping technology is already in use in exhibitions and installations across Europe, to explore how to merge existing tools used for stereoscopy, motion/object tracking and real-time 3D.

