

Science Park at forefront of entrepreneurial investment

Making Knowledge Work campaign has highlighted entrepreneurial ventures engaged in sectors such as bio-medical, clean technology, medical technology, digital media and ICT.

Birmingham Science Park Aston (BSPA) has played a key role in the development of new technology enterprises with many businesses receiving help and support from various programmes. Entrepreneurs for the future (e4f) is one of these programmes which has been at the forefront of entrepreneurial investment, aiding the next generation of entrepreneurs to deliver commercial success.

Funded by Birmingham City Council, Be Birmingham, and BSPA, the e4f scheme encourages collaborations and knowledge transfers between universities and businesses by helping to create new graduate-based companies and by promoting investment within new high tech and high growth ventures.

Some of the business start-ups which have resulted from BSPA's e4f initiative include:

Herman Claude

Primarily a medical device and health care prod-

ucts business, Herman Claude seek to empower consumers in their health through innovative products which aim to be accessible and advocated by and for health professionals. Such as first response products to recognise meningitis and other such skin indications of ill health

www.hermanclaud.com

Civico

Civico delivers live audio streamed via the internet, seamlessly integrated with live twitter, blogs, Facebook and Flickr bringing democracy to PCs, PDAs and mobile phones everywhere.

Civico is a digital democracy platform that has the potential to revolutionise democratic processes, providing councils and the public sector with an opportunity to demonstrate new levels of access, understanding and trust.

Data Discretion

Data Discretion is the computer equivalent of a front door key for computer files. This innovative

programme enables users to securely lock documents and files on their computer and networking, only allowing approved users to unlock and view the files. Unlike other products, Data Discretion involves no installation. The initial target market for this product is software companies wanting to protect their data from piracy.

www.datadiscretion.com

QRky

QRky is taking the 400-year-old business card into the 21st century. Using highly sophisticated Quick Response (QR) bar-coding technology, QRky are able to store a wealth of information within a barcode located on business cards. Information includes contact details, images, audio and visual all of which can be downloaded through an application on a smart phone. This enables immediate data transfer without having to sit down and manually type all of the information in.

www.qrky.co.uk

Delighted to be invited to MKW

Dr Phil Exance, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Business Partnerships and Knowledge Transfer said: "Aston University is delighted to be invited to present at Making Knowledge Work.

It will be an ideal opportunity to showcase Aston's strong knowledge transfer activities – in particular, its excellent collaborations with industry through Co-operative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE), and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs).

Also on show will be some of Aston's exciting research collaborations – such as its pan-European Bioenergy Research Institute, which aims to help foster growth in the region whilst delivering substantial savings and increasing energy capacity with a net "carbon negative" outcome. However, the event will also offer an opportunity for us to discuss alternative best-practice knowledge transfer with other organisations in the region and colleagues from Europe."



Nicolas Holzherr, Director at QRky; Annette King, Innovation Manager at Digital Birmingham; Simon McCann, Director at QRky

The future for Making Knowledge Work

The research and ideas for new products and services does not always find itself into commercially valuable innovations, with many ideas from universities and research companies not being utilised to their maximum capacity.

The Making Knowledge Work initiative wishes to overcome these problems by sourcing viable investors who will be able to bridge the gap within the innovation chain, allowing ideas and research to be implemented much more efficiently.

Following the 'Fact Finding' mission being held in Birmingham next week, members of the Making Knowledge Work Steering Group will meet to discuss the next phase of the project, and how other Euro-

pean partners can facilitate the development of Birmingham's own innovative ideas and products.

The aim of the mission is to identify key areas for development which will be formulated into an action plan. Once this action plan has been finalised, leading partners from the initiative will identify three European partners that will be able to assist in their development through knowledge sharing.

Coun Timothy Huxtable said: "This scheme is a prime example of how organisations should band together for the greater good. By sourcing European partners, innovative companies such as Data Discretion and Civico will reach the market at a far greater pace and in turn will benefit us all."

'IN TODAY'S INCREASINGLY KNOWLEDGE BASED SOCIETY, ECONOMIC SUCCESS WILL BE DERIVED FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF THE CITY. **BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE PARK ASTON** WILL BE A KEY COMPONENT IN DRIVING THE CITY'S KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY.'

BIRMINGHAM'S BIG CITY PLAN MASTERPLAN, SEPTEMBER 2010.

www.bsp-a.com

Birmingham Science Park Aston is working with Cisco, the University of Warwick, JANET and Tata Communications to create the UK's first 'science park without walls'. The state-of-the-art Ideas and Communications Suite will launch at the Park in January 2011, enabling SMEs and start-up businesses to communicate with leading innovators, academics and investors from around the globe as if they were sitting in the same room.

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