**Velocity grants top £1m and create 400+ jobs in first year**

Grants totalling more than £1 million have created 431 jobs and safeguarded a further 424 for companies across the South East Midlands.

The money has been awarded to 169 companies by business support service Velocity delivered on behalf of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership.

The largest single grant of £50,000 went to Towcester Racecourse towards its new greyhound track.

Other funds have helped a cider distillery in Milton Keynes, a remote controlled drone created by a firm in Stony Stratford and a reality games campaign in Luton.

Velocity chief executive Daniel Mouawad said: “It is vital that ambitious businesses have access to the funds they need to help them grow. The Velocity grants have done exactly that, helping to stimulate growth and create new jobs.

“We are now starting to see the impact these grants are having, with companies able to expand and put into practise projects that perhaps would have been able to get off the ground without this funding.”

A new round of grant funding is to begin later this year.

**Luton company wins major US deals**

Specialist engineering firm Hayward Tyler has signed a production alliance agreement with a Texas based company FMC Technologies, a big player in sub-sea systems.

The alliance will see Hayward Tyler manufacture permanent magnet motors for use in FMC Technologies’ 2.1 megawatt (Mw) sub-sea pump systems. FMC has also committed an initial US $2m towards the continuing development of Hayward Tyler’s Luton plant which is being expanded and modernised to include a dedicated test facility for sub-sea motors.

“The offshore oil and gas market is of long-term strategic importance to Hayward Tyler and underpins our investment into our Centre of Excellence in Luton. The production alliance agreement with FMC Technologies is of cornerstone importance in relation to our sub-sea activity,” said Ewan Lloyd-Baker, chief executive officer of Hayward Tyler.

Hayward Tyler also announced it has signed a letter of intent with existing partner Eureka to provide four submersible motors, valued at around US$1.25m, for use in Petroniast Nasional Berhad’s (Petronas’s) Baram field in the Malaysian gulf.

To read the full press release please visit: www.tinyurl.com/o3krx8c

**Lambert Smith Hampton secures a bright future for David Berryman Ltd**

Acting on behalf of the Industrial Property Investment Fund (IPIF), national commercial property consultancy, Lambert Smith Hampton has let a 24,716 sq ft warehouse on Airport Executive Park in Luton to David Berryman Ltd.

David Berryman, a leading provider of processed fruit juices, was looking for new premises following a fire in its previous warehouse back in January. Whilst their office block was mostly unscathed, their factory and deep freeze warehouse were badly damaged.

Airport Executive Park, where their new facility is based, sits within the immediate confines of London Luton Airport and benefits from good access to Luton Parkway Railway Station, the M1 motorway and Luton town centre.

To read the full press release please visit: www.tinyurl.com/pu7vwyw
Local Business News

Airport celebrates one million passenger milestone

Passenger numbers at London Luton Airport have grown by more than 15% in May compared to the same month last year. More than one million passengers travelled through the airport, the first time the milestone of a million passengers in a month has been reached before the start of the busy summer period. Four new routes launched by easyJet to Essaouira, Split and Bodrum and Thomson to Naples contribute to the increase. And that is expected to continue as Wizz Air prepares to fly new routes to Lasi, Ohrid and Constanta from this month.

Airport chief executive Nick Barton said: “As we move into the busy summer season we are committed to ensuring passengers enjoy the best possible experience. Our £100 million redevelopment project will help us to deliver that.”

Business Support Information

Broadband connection vouchers

Businesses and charities in Luton can get grants of between £100-£3000 to install superfast broadband through the Government’s broadband connection voucher scheme. Connection vouchers pay for the one-off cost of installing superfast internet to business buildings.

Destination Digital is running the Government connection voucher scheme for Luton on behalf of Luton Borough Council and the Central Superfast project.

Ishaq Kazi, Programme Manager of Marsh Farm Futures in Luton, explained why he applied for the scheme:

“Marsh Farm Futures had a very slow broadband service with a download speed of up to 3 MEG and 0.5MEG upload. We chose to go with BT who were already our providers and upgrade the system.”

“The Government voucher scheme enabled us to get this upgrade for cheaper than we were already paying whilst offering us a faster internet speed with a minimum installation cost and a price reduction over the term of the contract. We are actually paying less than we did previously”.

“With our new BT infinity Business Fibre we now have a download speed of 40Mbps and an upload speed of 10Mbps, a massive upgrade in both down and upload speed”.

“We are confident there will be a marked difference in our internet speeds once it is fully installed, thereby making us much more productive. If you are a small to medium business or organisation keen to improve your broadband speed, consider going through the connection voucher scheme. It’s worth it! “The funding ends next March and is available on a first-come, first-served basis (but finishing before March if the national pot of money runs out).

For more information about the scheme including eligibility and how to apply visit: http://destinationdigital.info/luton/
BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Capital grants of up to £8,000 available

If you’re looking to invest in areas such as LED lighting, heat pumps, small scale renewables, software design packages and licences, server upgrades, IT hardware upgrades or vehicle upgrades, then the low carbon keep capital grant scheme can help.

The scheme aims to support efficiency and innovation initiatives within SMEs that will result in reduced resource consumption and will support competitiveness and profitability.

A further £1 million has recently been secured for the scheme, which must be spent by this September. Grants of £1,000 to £8,000 are available towards projects with a total value of between £2,500 and £20,000.

To apply for a grant for your businesses, please speak to Carole Randall, Programme Manager, in first instance and she will check whether your business is eligible - telephone 0845 196 4310 or email carole.randall@anglia.ac.uk

For more information please visit: www.tinyurl.com/o9ngaby

Business TimeBank Service

Whether you are starting up or already running a business in Luton, the Business TimeBank Service can help develop and support your business. The service offers up to one hour’s free 1:1 advice with a local business expert.

For more information please contact our Economic Development Team on 01582 546423 or email Georgina.Barker@luton.gov.uk

For more information or to register please visit: www.tinyurl.com/nhv33wv

BUSINESS EVENTS, TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

SCIENet Challenge event

Location: Postgraduate Centre, University of Bedfordshire, Park Square, Luton, LU1 3JU
Date: 1 July
Time: 9am to 11.45am
Cost: Free

A ground breaking new group in partnership with Luton Borough Council, the University of Bedfordshire, Forvivo Limited and Amey invites bioscience related businesses in the region to the first SCIENet Challenge event. A national infrastructure company will be presenting its problems and challenges, and inviting delegates to pitch ideas for future funding as collaborative partners. Businesses with interests in biotech, biopharma, bioscience, bioengineering and associated supply chain companies are invited to attend. Booking is necessary.

If you would like to attend please call on 01582 489042 or email businesspartnerships@beds.ac.uk

Note: if this event would be of relevance or interest to any of your bioscience-related businesses, please forward this information to them.
Business Bootcamp for new businesses

Location: Bletchley Campus of Milton Keynes
Date: 13-14 July
Time: 9am to 5pm
Cost: Free

SEMLEP’s Velocity business support programme is funding and organising two Business Bootcamp days for owners. Designed to help fledging companies equip themselves with the skills, tools and confidence to grow, the bootcamps are taking place at the Milton Keynes College Bletchley Campus and open to new businesses based in the South East Midlands.

To find out more and register your interest call 0300 01234 35 or email enquiries@VelocityBusinessSupport.com

For more information please contact the Council’s economic development team

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