

Bedford Business

One passionate team, working together to help you www.investinbedford.com 01234 221889

July 2011

Features highlights from Bedford's business world, gives you a sneak preview of upcoming events and contains important snippets of information for local businesses.

Business News



New multi million pound hub opens

A new multi-million pound science and enterprise hub that brings together academia, SMEs and blue chip organisations, to encourage collaboration of scientific research and innovation, has opened at Colworth Science Park, north of Bedford. The Science Park has set out to become the UK's number one innovation hub for the health and wellness industry by providing the facilities to foster expert collaboration between the pharmaceutical and food industries - which will be crucial to developing this growing market sector.

Company Growth

Bedford based company Dunster House Ltd are currently enjoying interesting overseas ambitions with the news that they are in discussion with the Japanese Government for an order of 500 plus of their Disaster Interim Housing Solutions, with further interest from Pakistan, Swaziland, Panama and Ghana. With the foundations being dug out for their European Manufacturing and Distribution factory in Poland, further expansion in the UK and Hungary and the recent recruitment of 30 new staff, these are busy days for this local company.



Bedford Town Centre in Demand

The town centre is currently busy with store fit-outs and new retailers moving in. Builders are busy working on the former Woolworths store for Next and Iceland to move in by Christmas 2011 and this follows a handful of other retail units currently under offer. With Specsavers relocating, Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe opening, Marks and Spencer's investing in the town centre and the new Castle Quay restaurants due to open, further interest in Bedford is anticipated.

Plastic Replay Opens in Bedford

Recycling business Plastic Replay has recently opened their 18,000 sq ft site in Bedford. Their new location will help them service the 3 counties and surrounding southern areas, with it creating 10 new jobs in Bedford. Working with Bedford Borough Council's Economic Development Team in finding the right premises, it became apparent almost immediately that Bedford would benefit them the most due to its well connected location.



Millennium Studios News Update

It has been a very busy few months at Millennium Studios, located north of Bedford and which hosts over a dozen local companies providing production facilities for the Music, Film and TV industry. New companies have recently moved in on site, including Tangelo Design and Chaos Visual Production and the site has also been host to rehearsals for the likes of Cold Play and the Foo Fighters. To find out more about the facility [click here](#).

Events & Info



Bedford College Engineering Jobs Fair - Tues 12th July

Are you looking to recruit good quality Engineering apprentices? Bedford College have a large number of applicants who are seeking employers to provide them with an Engineering apprenticeship and would like to offer businesses the opportunity to meet these high quality candidates, with a view to offering them an apprenticeship. If you are interested in attending the event please contact Michael Burgoine on 01234 291027 or mburgoine@bedford.ac.uk

Recruitment, Skills & Enterprise Fair - 27th July

Following the success of the Recruitment, Skills and Enterprise Fair held at The Harpur Suite in Bedford last November, Bedford Borough Council will be holding another event on Wednesday 27th July. Last year's event was well received by the public and local businesses so Bedford Borough Council are keen to build on this. There are now only 3 free stands available to businesses, to get involved or to get involved or for further information contact amyjane.cahalane@bedford.gov.uk



Winning Council Contracts – 11th August

Have you ever considered bidding for Council contracts? We are providing a workshop that will help your company to access and understand Council tendering and contracting exercises. Find out how your business can overcome barriers to participating in tenders and submitting competitive bids for Council contracts. For more details and to book a place please email simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk

Venture Academy Series

In collaboration with Bedford i-lab, Bedford Borough Council sponsored the recent University of Bedfordshire's Venture Academy Series, which was a series of events focused on catalysing enterprise in Bedfordshire and involved over 30 local, start up businesses. Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, commented: "The successful Venture Academy Series competition is an excellent way of getting more people to get involved with business. Our sponsorship of the events is another example of our commitment to encouraging local business and enterprise, particularly in these challenging economic times."

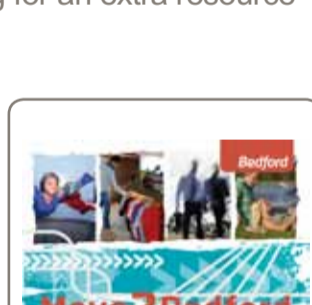


University pioneers International Internships Scheme

The University of Bedfordshire is launching a groundbreaking initiative to incorporate workplace experience into international students' time in the UK. The University is looking to identify a range of paid internships and unpaid work experience opportunities within businesses across the region for Postgraduates. For more information or if you know organisations looking for an extra resource email isis@beds.ac.uk or call 01582 489191.

Graduate Pack

Is your company struggling to attract graduates?, [click here](#) to view the recently designed 'Move 2 Bedford' pack, the essential guide for graduates and young people looking to work in Bedford. The guide helps highlight the positives of moving to the Bedford area and is an ideal tool for businesses when looking to attract graduates from further afield. For hard copies please email simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk

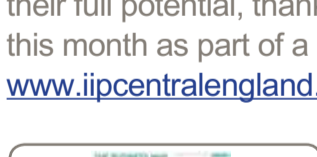


Understanding Finance for Business

The successful Understanding Finance for Business programme, which has helped companies raise over £4m in a combination of grants, bank finance and equity will be running workshops in the next few months to help Bedford companies identify the right forms of finance and improve their chances of securing it. Businesses will also get updates on current banking, investment and grant finance issues. For more information [click here](#).

Local support to help boost business performance

Employers across Bedford are being urged to make the most of local support being made available to help build their skills, improve performance and achieve their full potential, thanks to a new Investors in People Centre, launched earlier this month as part of a national refreshed network. To find out more visit www.iipcentralengland.co.uk

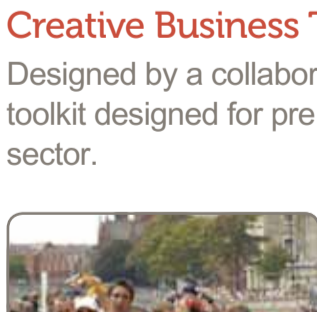


Business opportunities in Bedford and across the Region

To see what other Business events are happening in the coming months [click here](#).

Creative Business Toolkit

Designed by a collaboration of organisations, [click here](#) to see a comprehensive toolkit for pre start, start ups and existing business in the creative sector.

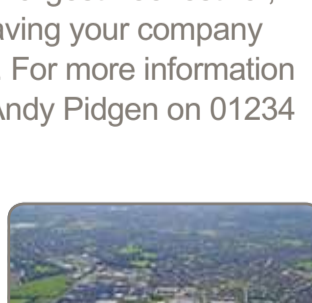


2012 River Festival

Fancy being involved?, the 'friends' package gives smaller businesses the opportunity to support and be associated with the regions largest free festival, giving excellent exposure to local audiences, including having your company logo on 65,000 printed copies of the Festival programme. For more information on this and other sponsorship packages please contact Andy Pidgen on 01234 227392 or email events@bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Property Search

Thinking about moving premises? To show you the range of sites and premises that are currently available in the Bedford area and help identify the right premises for you, we have developed a commercial property database including offices, business centres, industrial units, warehouses, commercial land and retail property. [Click here](#) to search for commercial property.



Help us to help you

Found it useful to have all this business information at your fingertips in an easy to read newsletter? Remember to keep checking our [website](#) for exciting news and events. Designed to bring the latest information to businesses, the website is a comprehensive guide for any business operating or considering locating in the Bedford area and to provide assistance to new businesses that are just starting their journey.

You can also follow us on twitter and facebook, which is updated regularly with all important, breaking news. Click on the links in the footer below.

We look forward to speaking to you soon!

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