

# Bedford Business

One passionate team, working together to help you

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September 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



### Business Confidence on the Up in Bedford

Bedford's businesses are feeling more and more confident about the future according to the findings of the 2011 Bedford Business Survey carried out in June. 44% of Bedford businesses thought their performance had improved in the last year, compared with 36% a year ago, and looking ahead to the next 12 months, 57% thought their performance would improve again. To see the full results [click here](#).

### Asteelflash Bedford opens its doors

To celebrate the opening of the company's new 35,000 sq ft Bedford premises, Asteelflash, an EMS specialist (Electronic manufacturing services), organised an 'Open Day' event in which over 50 key customers and suppliers attended. The company treated their attendees to a welcome speech, a presentation on their Bedford activities, and a tour of the new plant which is home to 130 employees.



### Bedford Firm wins £1m rail monitoring contract

A Bedford based electronics manufacturer has been awarded a £1 million contract to produce rail track monitoring technology. Briton EMS based on the Elms and Viking Industrial Estate, will build industrial data acquisition units that will contribute towards providing condition monitoring and analysis of trackside infrastructure to alert rail operators to the condition of their assets.

### Bedford i-Lab news

A new business based at [Bedford i-Lab](#) (serviced offices centre) is launching a revolutionary service that aims to help protect taxi drivers and their passengers. [www.amisafe.co.uk](http://www.amisafe.co.uk) allows passengers to check that a vehicle is correctly licensed before they open the car door and identifies unlicensed vehicles. Starting in the Home Counties, it plans to be UK wide by 2012, and has been attracting significant attention in both the local and national press.



### University presented with Royal award

Around 100 guests attended a special ceremony at the University of Bedfordshire campus to celebrate the presentation of the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade 2011. The University achieved the award for its outstanding achievement in increasing its overseas income by 154 per cent over three years.

### Preferred Developer selected for exciting Town Centre Riverside Development

Coplan Estates, working with Denne Construction and PRP Architects has been selected as Bedford Borough Council's preferred development partner for the much sought after Riverside North Redevelopment Project. The project will be a mixed use retail, leisure and residential project encompassing the area currently occupied by the Town Hall office block, the neighbouring Riverside House building and car park.



### All systems go for £3 million Bedford High Street Regeneration

Bedford High Street is set to receive significant investment after the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Council £850,000 towards the restoration and regeneration of the historic street as part of a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) grant, bringing the total High Street fund up to £3 million. For more information on the THI Scheme [click here](#) or pop into the launch event on 7th Sept, 58 High St (previously Evans) from 13.00 - 18.30.

## Events & Info



### Want to take the next step in your career?

Bedford College is holding an open evening on 7th September for higher level business and professional qualifications. Staff will be available to discuss your options and provide information on the College's range of subjects including AAT, CMI and CIM qualifications. For further information call 01234 291000 or visit [www.bedford.ac.uk](http://www.bedford.ac.uk)

### Charity Golf Day - 23rd September

Sue Ryder - St John's Hospice is proud to present its 6th Annual Charity Golf Day held at Wyboston Lakes Golf Centre. The day will start with breakfast and registration, followed by a round at the Wyboston Lakes which boasts a superb 18 hole, par 70 golf course. This a great opportunity for your business to enter a team, play golf, network, enjoy the 19th hole and raise money for your local hospice. For more information call 01767 641044 or email [paresh.nar@sueryder.org](mailto:paresh.nar@sueryder.org)

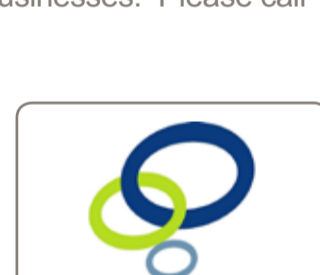


### Low Carbon Development Initiative Workshop - 29th September

This FREE event will provide an introduction to renewable energy systems, and how they could help your business save money. You will hear from industry experts, with a focus on breaking down some of the barriers to the uptake of renewable energy systems in small and medium sized businesses. Please call 07917 685 299 for further info.

### Improve your bottom line (with Business Link)

Are you an ambitious business owner looking to grow? Do you employ less than five people? Have you been trading for more than one year? This interactive and inspiring workshop will provide you with the skills and tools you need to plan for success by improving your bottom line and ultimately increasing your business value. For more information on workshops near you and to book call 0845 601 1000 or visit [www.bookevents.org](http://www.bookevents.org)

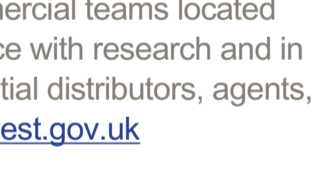


### Need assistance in succeeding in the global economy?

With professional advisers across 96 international markets, UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. UKTI's Overseas Market Introduction Service is a flexible business tool enabling direct communication between you and any of the commercial teams located in the global network of British Embassies. Get assistance with research and in identifying, qualifying and setting up meetings with potential distributors, agents, or customers. For more information visit [www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk](http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk)

### Improve your business performance

Up to £1000 leadership and management funding is now available to support Bedford business leaders seeking to develop those essential management skills required to compete and thrive effectively in today's ever competitive environment. For more information, call 0845 894 8969 or email [imas@embtld.co.uk](mailto:imas@embtld.co.uk)

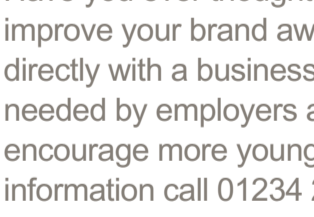
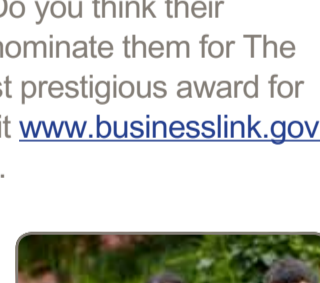


### Know someone outstanding in promoting business enterprise?

Do you know someone who's played an outstanding role in promoting and encouraging business enterprise skills in Bedford? Do you think their achievements deserve extra-special recognition? Then nominate them for The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion - the UK's most prestigious award for individuals in business. Make your nomination today, visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/queensawards](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/queensawards) For any enquiries, call 020 7215 6880.

### Working with Schools

Have you ever thought about working with local schools? Do you want to improve your brand awareness with the workers of the future? By working directly with a business, students can learn about the skills and attitudes needed by employers and can be a highly effective way to raise aspirations and encourage more young people to consider your sector as a career. For more information call 01234 276261 or email [simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk)



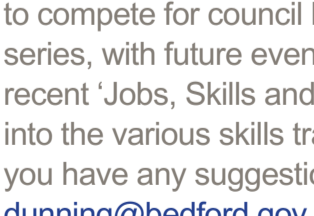
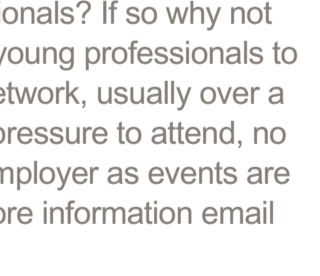
### Bedford Young Professionals Group

Does your business employ graduates or young professionals? If so why not tell them about YPG. Principally a means of connecting young professionals to share contacts and experiences, this is a great way to network, usually over a drink. Unlike many other networking events, there is no pressure to attend, no pressure to secure referral work and no impact for the employer as events are in the evening, with costs borne by the attendee. For more information email Elaine Connolly at [elaine.connolly@dppllp.com](mailto:elaine.connolly@dppllp.com)



### Event Success

25 Bedford businesses attended the recent Winning Council Contracts Procurement Event, which aimed at giving advice and guidance on how best to compete for council business. This is the second procurement event in the series, with future events being planned. Also, over 250 people attended the recent 'Jobs, Skills and Enterprise Fair', aimed at encouraging people to tap into the various skills training on offer and also to start their own business. If you have any suggestions for future business themed events, email [simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dunning@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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