

13th May 2010

Canterbury Innovation Centre celebrates occupancy success

Just five months after opening its doors to innovative and high technology businesses, the Canterbury Innovation Centre is celebrating an occupancy of over 60% and still continues to attract a great deal of interest from regional, national and international companies.



The uniquely designed £7.5 million building funded by The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and managed by Basepoint on behalf of East Kent Spatial Development Company (EKSDC), offers a range of office, workshop and studio accommodation specifically for high technology businesses and those businesses who can demonstrate an innovative edge to their company.

Businesses that have already taken occupation include specialists in nanotechnology, biotechnology, biometrics and security. Jo Clark, Centre Manager, comments: "We are already seeing a great business community developing here, with collaboration and synergy between companies. We have also hosted a number of events, such as the University of Kent launch of ICE - Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise, several student focused seminars, as well as networking events aimed at local and regional businesses, which have all proven extremely successful. We're delighted that the student and business community is benefitting from the centre."

Ross Garrett, Operations Director of BSL Consulting, who moved to the Centre in November 2009, said: "We moved in as the doors of this new facility first opened. We have been delighted with both the physical aspects of such a new and aesthetically pleasing environment, but more so by the supportive nature of the staff who ensure the smooth working of the centre. For our business, this has been the perfect move, and I can only recommend this facility to any company who is looking to step up a gear, impress suppliers and customers alike, or who are just starting out and wish for an environment where likeminded people are based."

Although the centre is filling quickly there is still office, workshop and studio space available ranging from 100 sq ft to 780 sq ft. The centre also offers meeting room space with the latest AV equipment in a bright and inviting environment ideal for networking events, executive



unique workspaces



latest technology



meetings or just a change of scenery for a general meeting but with the benefit of a fresh and unique work space. Interest for meeting room space is growing and bookings so far have included local authorities, the University of Kent and various local businesses.

The Centre is the first building on the wider science park based on the University of Kent campus. Companies are encouraged to view the centre to get a true feel for its exceptional location, excellent facilities and a highly professional environment in which to conduct their business.

For further information, please contact the centre on: 01227 811700 or visit www.canterburyinnovationcentre.co.uk, alternatively email canterbury@basepoint.co.uk

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Basepoint specialises in the development and operation of managed business, innovation and enterprise centres. These centres provide comprehensive accommodation and support infrastructure packages to new and early-stage companies within a supportive and secure environment. The company operates both wholly- and part-owned centres as well as managing facilities on behalf of public sector bodies. Group operations currently extend across Southern England and the Midlands, with additional opportunities under assessment across the UK.

Basepoint is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ACT Foundation, a leading grant-making charity dedicated to improving the quality of life of those in need. The ACT Foundation derives its income from a substantial and diversified property portfolio of which Basepoint is a major constituent.

www.basepoint.co.uk
www.theactfoundation.co.uk

SEEDA

SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.

SEEDA's support helped deliver the following over the period 2005-2008:

- 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
- 32,500 people helped to get work
- 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
- 137,500 businesses assisted
- £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
- 200ha Brownfield land remediated
- 148,500 people assisted in skills development

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