

Invest in Bristol News**December 2009**

Consumer Intelligence moves to new Bristol headquarters

Evening Post - 31st December

Bristol shops attract 250,000 for weekend sales

Evening Post— 28th December

Bristol buses are going green thanks to £3million windfall

Evening Post—24th December

Bristol wave power firm's gearing up for overseas expansion

Evening Post—23rd December

Bring it on! Success for Bristol's World Cup bid

Bristol City Council Press Release - 16th December

EasyJet launches 2 new routes with brand new Airbus 320

Bristol International Airport Press Release - 10th December

The Sweet Taste of Success

TasteTech Press Release - 9th December

Virgin Holidays open first store in Bristol's Cabot Circus

Evening Post - 4th December

Double first for Bristol in enterprise awards

University of Bristol Press - release - 4th December

UWE launches biggest exhibition space in South West

UWE Press Release - 3rd December

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Consumer Intelligence moves to new Bristol headquarters

Evening Post—31st December

Consumer Intelligence Limited, the award winning, Bristol-based mystery shopping research company has moved in to new Premises at Canard Court on St Georges Road.

The new offices make a wonderful sixth Birthday present for a company that is now seen on TV every single day through their work with organisations like CompareTheMeerkat and MoneySuperMarket.com.

The company now has over 40 staff in their Bristol offices and over 60 staff around the world in places like Vancouver, Lahore and Sofia.

"We have had an astonishing six years of growth, even during the recession we have grown more than 25% and next year is set to be our best ever. It's an amazing tribute to the hard work of our team," says Ian Hughes, managing director.

The company, founded in Bedminster in 2003, was named one of Europe's most innovative companies alongside BT, HP and Microsoft in 2009 and was given the Best business Award for Outstanding Innovation.

Mr Hughes was also awarded Wales and South West Entrepreneur of the Year in the O2

X-Awards in September.

Bristol shops attract 250,000 for weekend sales

Evening Post (extract) - 28th December

Bristol retailers were besieged by more than 250,000 shoppers on the Boxing Day weekend hoping to snap up a bargain as prices were slashed in a tough year for traders.

On Boxing Day some shoppers queued outside the branches of Next in Cabot Circus and at The

Mall, Cribbs Causeway, from 5.30am, to be the first through the doors to bag a good deal when they opened at 7am.

Bristol buses are going green thanks to £3million windfall

Evening Post (extract) - 24th December

Bus company Wessex Connect is set to receive nearly £3 million to help buy new eco-friendly buses for the Greater Bristol area.

The money will help put 23 new buses on the road within the next two years, using 'hybrid' technology that reduces carbon emissions by up to a third.

Transport secretary Lord Adonis announced Wessex Connect was one of several companies across the country to benefit from the £30 million Green Bus Challenge Fund, set up to cut the amount of CO2 emitted by buses on England's roads.

Approximately £2.8 million will go to the company, which will go towards the cost of 21 double-deckers and two single-decker buses.

Wessex Connect currently runs 115 vehicles in and around Bristol, so the new vehicles will represent 20 per cent of its existing fleet.

Bristol wave power firm's gearing up for overseas expansion

Evening Post (extract) - 23rd December

A firm which specialises in making high-tech equipment to harness the power of the sea is planning to expand abroad after raising £3.5 million in financial backing.

Bristol-based Marine Current Turbines (MCT) has been speaking to a group of investors which includes Carbon Trust Investments, Bank Invest, EDF Energy and High Tide. A group of private investors has also backed the firm.

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The fundraising is being seen as an enormous vote of confidence in the company which is

behind plans to create the country's first commercial tidal energy farm within the next two years.

The company has also developed SeaGen, the world's first and largest grid-connected system that extracts energy from tidal currents.

Bring it on! Success for Bristol's World Cup bid

Bristol City Council Press Release—16th December

The England 2018 World Cup committee have today confirmed that Bristol is amongst the top 12 cities selected to World Cup football and will go forward as part of England's bid to FIFA in May.

Bristol's successful bid highlighted the city's

fantastic cultural offerings and stunning locations for Fan Fest sites, positioned throughout the city and the surrounding areas as well as its plentiful hotel accommodation offer. The impressive plans for the new regional stadium and top-notch

training sites have also greatly strengthened the positive impact for Bristol's bid.

Bristol will now join a list of the England's most successful footballing cities along side the likes of Liverpool and Manchester. Being a part of England's national bid will offer the city a

fantastic opportunity to be seen as one that can rival even the country's most famous sporting cities.

Deputy Council Leader Simon Cook said: "This truly is wonderful news. Being granted candidate status will give us a unique opportunity to show off our beautiful city to the rest of the world. If England is successful in their bid to FIFA next year, we expect that hosting the competition in 2018 will have a huge impact on the local

economy and could bring in excess of £250m to the sub-region. We will see a significant rise in employment through construction and hospitality and hosting the tournament will leave a lasting impact on the city with improved transport links and acclaimed international facilities."

EasyJet launches 2 new routes with brand new Airbus 320

Bristol International Airport Press Release (extract) -

10th December

EasyJet today announced it would introduce a brand new Airbus A320 to its base in Bristol which will operate on its two new routes this Spring.

The addition of Tenerife and Cyprus (Paphos) to the airline's operations at Bristol will take the total number of routes on offer to 41, providing travellers with the opportunity to enjoy some early sunshine in 2010 from their local airport.

The new Airbus 320 is a larger aircraft seating 180 passengers and gives the airline the ability to fly longer distances, which means easyJet can now offer not only short haul European destinations, but also medium haul routes to areas such as the Canaries and Cyprus.

The Sweet Taste of Success

TasteTech Press Release - 9th December

TasteTech has become Bristol's 26th Beacon South West accredited company. As a specialist manufacturer of encapsulated food flavourings and ingredients working with leading bakery and confectionery clients in 28 countries around the world, TasteTech has been awarded Beacon status in recognition of its positive culture and innovative, tailored product offering.

Supported by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), Beacon South West brings together more than 200 of the region's most pioneering and rapidly expanding organizations, providing an environment for

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exploring new ideas and strategies with other successful companies.

Virgin Holidays open first store in Bristol's Cabot Circus

Evening Post—4th December

Shoppers can combine browsing for clothes with splurging on a luxury holiday as a travel shop opens in House of Fraser today.

Virgin Holidays will open their first branch in Bristol in the Cabot Circus department store.

The concession will have a team of travel experts to give advice on all the hot spots and

recommend the best places for shopping, eating, or whatever the customer requires. There will be a touch-screen booking system for those who know what they want and lots of brochures for ideas.

Double first for Bristol in enterprise awards

University of Bristol Press release (extract) - 4th December

The University of Bristol is celebrating winning both awards in the first-ever South West University Enterprise awards.

Jennifer Griffiths, who graduated with first-class honours in Computer Science earlier this year, won the best student business award for her business Snap Fashion, while Dr Sri Sharma won the best staff/alumni award for her business Ivita.

Snap Fashion is a pioneering new website that lets users search for items using images instead of words, allowing them to find the nearest match to an item they may have seen in a magazine, for example. They will define the region of the image they are interested in and the website will apply a number of image-processing techniques to the picture in order to find best matches for the item of clothing.

UWE launches biggest exhibition space in South West

UWE Press Release—3rd December

Wednesday 9th December sees the opening of a new Exhibition and Conference Centre (ECC) at the University of the West of England. Situated on the land recently purchased from HP the ECC will be the largest conference and exhibition space in the South West.

The official opening will give potential users the opportunity to take a good look at the enormous 9,000 square metre indoor arena boasting over 25 meeting rooms.

