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Multi-million research centre to open in Bristol

Evening Post (extract) - 26th November

A multi-million pound state of the art research centre specialising in the latest composite technology is to open in Bristol, it was announced this morning.

The centre is being backed by the leading aviation and engineering companies in the South West including Airbus, Rolls-Royce and GKN and the South West Regional Development Agency.

Composite technology is seen as key to the future development of aeroplane manufacture. The lightweight, super strong material is being used to build the next generation of aircraft at Airbus.

Talks are still underway over the exact location of the centre but £16 million worth of public money is being invested in the centre. Private firms including the leading players in the industry are also investing in the project.

The new National Composites Centre (NCC) is part of the Government's national strategy to back the aviation industry.

Bristol was chosen because the South West is a key area for aviation and composite technology. It is estimated that more than £450 million has already been spent on the industry in the region over the last six years.

Bristol Tourism Businesses Strike Gold

Destination Bristol Press Release (extract) - 25th November

Top tourism businesses in Bristol are celebrating having won Gold and Silver awards in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards 2009/10.

These prestigious regional tourism awards, known as the 'Tourism Oscars,' celebrate 'the

best in the South West' and aim to promote and reward excellence in the tourism industry.

This year was an outstanding year for Bristol, with tourism businesses scooping a remarkable four Gold Awards and three Silver Awards.

The winners were announced at a glittering awards ceremony at Saunton Sands Hotel in Devon. Gold Award winners will go on to represent the region at the National Enjoy England Awards for Excellence in 2010.

Bristol Gold Award Winners:

Bordeaux Quay - Sustainable Tourism Award
Brunel's ss Great Britain – Business Tourism Award
Oakham Treasures – Small Visitor Attraction of the Year Award
Ben Wookey, The Bristol Packet – Outstanding Customer Service Award

Bristol Silver Awards Winners:

Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel - Large Hotel of the Year Award
Bristol Zoo Gardens – Large Visitor Attraction of the Year Award
Brunel's ss Great Britain – Access For All Award

Bristol to build rocket-powered 1,000mph car

Evening Post (extract) - 24th November

Bristol has beaten off competition from around Britain to build the world's fastest car.

The city beat bids from Belfast, Coventry and Farnborough to host the £10-million Bloodhound Project, a rocket-powered car which aims to travel at more than 1,000mph.

And aptly enough, the car will be built next door to Brunel's maritime masterpiece which helped Bristol earn its reputation for engineering innovation and speed – the ss Great Britain.

The famous ship broke the record for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic during its maiden voyage in 1843.



The new Bloodhound headquarters were being opened today at the Maritime Heritage Centre, Wapping Wharf.

City council deputy leader Simon Cook said: "Bristol is a city renowned for its world-class creativity, design and advanced engineering and it makes perfect sense for the Bloodhound Project to be based here. We are delighted to add Bloodhound SSC (Supersonic Car) to Bristol's credentials and know it will be a massive boost to the city – attracting national and international attention.

"Its location on Bristol's historic harbourside, together with the development of a visitor centre and educational facility, will bring the Bloodhound adventure to the widest possible audience."

The city council, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) and the ss Great Britain Trust won the bid to build the Bloodhound after Science Minister Lord Drayson and Richard Noble, the former world land speed record breaker, had a vision for a national iconic engineering project to inspire tomorrow's engineers.

Steve West, vice chancellor of UWE Bristol, said: "Regional employers and schools will benefit enormously from having such an exciting project on their doorstep. Hopefully we will see a few 'Brunels' emerging from the inspiration this project provides.

"This builds on the significant technology, science and engineering traditions of the greater Bristol Region. We are leading the innovation in science and technology as a Science City."

He said they had already seen a 37 per cent increase in their engineering courses and some students were actually working on the design aspects of the car.

Rolls-Royce Signs \$171 Million F-35 Stovl Liftsystem Contract

Rolls-Royce Press Release—17 November

Rolls-Royce, the global power systems company, has signed a \$171 million contract with Pratt & Whitney to supply the Rolls-Royce LiftSystem® for a further 9 Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) variant F-35B Lightning II aircraft as part of the third lot of Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP).

This order is the second production contract for Rolls-Royce as part of its involvement in the JSF programme. The previous contract, for LRIP 2 and signed in December 2008, was for \$131m.

Honours for South West green energy Industry

Evening Post (extract) - 13th November

The world-leading maker of tidal stream turbines was one of the winners at the South West Green Energy awards held in Bath this week.

Marine Current Turbines (MCT) won the award for best business innovation at the ceremony hosted by television presenter Jonathan Dimbleby and organised by sustainable energy agency Regen SW.

The SeaGen turbine made by MCT is the first device in the world to create electricity from tidal flows on a commercial scale.

It was installed in Northern Irish waters in Strangford Narrows in May 2008, and generates 1.2 Mega Watts of electricity – enough to power 2,000 homes.

MCT managing director Martin Wright said the award would help the South West's cutting edge marine energy industry get the profile it deserves.

"The awards add to the credibility of our industry. It will help to put marine energy on the map – we



must make people aware of the leading businesses we have.

"I'm delighted to have won. It's nice to be receiving an award for doing something so important," he added.

Success for Bond Pearce in Chambers 2010 guide to the legal world

Bond Pearce Press Release (extract) - 12 November 2009

UK business law firm Bond Pearce is independently recognised as a leading light on a national and regional level in the 2010 Chambers Directory to the legal profession.

Its first class work in the Energy and Retail sectors is also acknowledged with Best of the UK rankings for these areas in addition to Health and Safety, Oil and Gas, Education and Local Government.

The strength and breadth of Bond Pearce, as a firm, is reflected with 37 rankings for individual practice areas and 62 of its lawyers recommended.

Bristol firms take their green energy message to America

Evening Post (extract) - 12th November

Three companies from the Bristol area will get the chance to showcase their products to US investors in Boston this week.

Clean Energy Week, which is taking place in Massachusetts, will see the companies pitch their new technologies – a real-time energy consumption monitoring system, a silicon chip to cut power use and tidal stream energy generator – to the US clean energy market at the 'Greenovation' international conference.

The mission to Boston is being led by the SETsquared Partnership, supported by UK Trade and Investment, which incubates early-stage technology businesses and combines the

resources of the universities of Bath, Bristol, Southampton and Surrey.

College Of Law To Open In Bristol's Temple Quarter

College of Law Press Release (extract) - 11th November

Bristol's Temple Quarter has been confirmed as the site for The College of Law's newest centre, due to open in September 2010.

Close to many key law firms in Bristol's fast expanding business district and to the heart of the city centre, the College will occupy some 20,000 sq ft on the ground and first floors of Temple Circus - a striking modern office building within a few minutes walk of Bristol Temple Meads Station.

This will be The College of Law's first centre in Bristol, representing a £1.2m investment and creating 40 new jobs. It will serve the whole of the South West region and consolidate the College's position as the UK's leading provider of postgraduate professional legal education. It will also offer courses for qualified lawyers.

Bristol bike shop has a wheely good year

Evening Post—6th November

A Bristol bike shop is going from strength to strength after expanding into new premises. Bool's Bicycles, in Staple Hill Road, Fishponds, is defying the recession to move into larger shop space next door. The firm was started by Daniel Bool, 40, in November 2007.

He said: "I worked for Halfords selling bikes and really enjoyed it and couldn't wait to start my own business.

"I had a couple of second-hand bikes and two new ones and we went from there." The shop is now an official stockist of the Dawes and Merida bicycle brands and services bikes as well as stocking second-hand models.

Dan added: "Bristol is a massive biking city now –you just have to look at the bike track a hundred yards from the shop –it's packed during the rush hour.

"People are using bikes to keep healthy and beat the credit crunch, which is great news for us."

Outstanding Consultancy' Award Completes Great Year for Brandon Hill

Brandon Hill Communications Press Release (extract) - 5th November

Brandon Hill Communications has been named 'Outstanding Public Relations Consultancy' at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards for the West of England region.

The agency also won Gold in the 'Integrated Communications' category for its 'We Love Broadmead' campaign – and was shortlisted in three further categories.

In their citation making the top award to Brandon Hill, the judges said: "When a consultancy of any size claims that 'Our clients are more important than our profits' and 'Life is more important than work', potential clients tend to listen.

Maybe those business objectives helped Brandon Hill Communications achieve strong growth during the recession.

Bristol business to sell tea in Harvey Nichols

Evening Post (extract) - 2nd November

A business run out of a one-room office near St Nicholas Market has signed up with Harvey Nichols to sell tea in its stores.

The link between Lahloo and Harvey Nichols starts this week in Bristol at the opening of the luxury store's dedicated food shop in Quaker's Friars. Lahloo founder Kate Gover said the partnership was "a dream come true". When the food shop

opens on Wednesday,

Lahloo will have a tea boutique inside, with a tea sommelier talking shoppers through what blends might suit them best.

New Business Branch For Allianz Commercial

Allianz Press Release—October 2009

Allianz Commercial has expanded its UK branch network with the opening of a new office in Bristol that will provide dedicated support to the 850,000 small business customers of Lloyds Banking Group.

The new team based at the Bristol Insurance Centre has now started work on the renewal of the 17 Commercial and Engineering products available to Lloyds' customers from November 1, 2009.

Bristol is the top UK city for quality of life

Invest in Bristol News - November

Bristol was rated as the second most sustainable UK city in the 2009 Sustainable Cities Index published by Forum for the Future.

Bristol also tops the quality of life table and has the highest scores for recycling and household waste collections.



