



Special Interest Groups launch in the region

A series of high tech Special Interest Groups (SIGs) is being launched by the LEP's sector group. Bristol and Bath High Tech (HB2) will bring together engineers and companies in the areas where the region has world class strengths. These include wireless and multicore technologies, as well as robotics and intelligent media. Other SIGs are planned for digital health and smart cities as well as education and careers and high tech marketing.

HB2 is an independent, non-profit membership organisation and will be controlled by its membership. Each SIG is controlled by a set of champions from the membership who determine the activity of the groups.

[More information and contacts on page 4](#)

STMicro closes Bristol site

ST Microelectronics is to close its design centre at Aztec West in Bristol next year.

The closure of the site, which was acquired with Inmos in 1989, is part of a global restructuring in response to changes in the industry and the macroeconomic climate. The High Tech Sector Group and Invest in Bristol and Bath are working closely with ST to support the engineers in finding new roles.

"ST has been part of the Bristol cluster for over 25 years and while it will be sad to see them leave, this highlights the strength of the cluster in responding to the changes in the global electronics industry," said Mike Bartley, chair of the West of England LEP High Tech Sector Group and chief executive of Bristol verification technology company TVS. "The High Tech Sector group has experience of successful outreach programmes in the past and we will certainly look to help both ST and its engineers in finding new exciting roles across the region."

[Invest In Bristol & Bath](#)

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SetSquared Bristol moves into EngineShed with £2m boost

The first VIP has visited Bristol's new business and innovation hub at the Engine Shed, with Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, seeing the recent £1.7m transformation of the historic Grade I listed building.

The Centre now hosts 16 high tech startups at Temple Meads, including 60GHz chip designer Blu Wireless Technology ([see page 4](#)), which just agreed a £2m investment, and social media TV analysis platform developer SecondSync, with an investment from Kantar, part of the WPP global advertising group.

www.setsquared.co.uk

The High Tech News banner was developed by Nanoscope Services in Bristol which provides diagnostic services to global semiconductor companies. The image of the Clifton Suspension bridge is just 8 microns long, milled into the bond wire of a silicon chip. www.nanoscopeservices.com

NVIDIA opens £2m chip design centre in Bristol

US graphics chip designer NVIDIA has opened its new £2m design centre for 4G LTE mobile chips in Bristol.

The centre at Aztec West was officially opened by David Willetts, Minister for Science & Universities. "Bristol is a hub of technology, producing world class businesses that are creating exciting growth opportunities and Nvidia is a real success story, providing skilled engineering jobs, expanding its workforce and working closely with universities," he said. "This new facility will allow the business to continue to expand its research and development, helping it to create new job and growth opportunities to keep the UK ahead in the global race. This is absolutely what the future of the British economy is all about, Bristol has got a great concentration of expertise and we are working very hard to attract companies like this to invest here, and this investment is a great vote of confidence for Bristol and the British economy."

The centre currently employs 196, doubling its size since the acquisition of Icera Semiconductor in 2011, and the company intends to recruit another 50 over the next two years says Steve Allpress, senior vice president of modem software, CTO modems and visiting professor at the University of Bristol. At 30,000 square feet of floor space and a specially designed and enlarged lab at the heart of the building, the centre is three times the size of the previous lab space and includes rework rooms, a shielded room and specialist lab areas as well as customer labs and break out areas.

"Bristol is one of a handful of locations worldwide that is a centre of excellence for microprocessor and wireless communications expertise, and it makes sense for NVIDIA to continue to invest in the region to accelerate research & development for our cellular modem technology," said Pete Hughes, Vice President Modem Hardware & Silicon. "We have almost doubled in size from around 100 to 200 engineers here in Bristol in the last 2 years, and moving to a bigger facility in Aztec West means we can continue to recruit new engineering talent in the future."

www.nvidia.com

Bristol opens up quantum computing in the cloud

A revolutionary new project called "Qcloud" run by the Centre for Quantum Photonics at the University of Bristol aims to make the resources for quantum computing available for everybody via the Internet.

The move has the potential to place Bristol at the heart of a new capability in apps for quantum computers.

Few quantum computers exist and most are currently used in academic research at organisations such as Google and NASA. However, from Friday 20 September, the quantum processor housed at the Centre will become the world's first open-access system, allowing researchers from anywhere in the world to access it remotely via the internet.

Using the website bristol.ac.uk/quantum-computing schools, academic research institutions and members of the public can log on and access a quantum simulator, which will be accompanied by user guides and manuals to help users get to grips with the basics of quantum computing. Once users are satisfied with the results of their simulation, they can submit their experiment to be run on a real quantum photonic processor.

The research team behind this new initiative are keen to open up the possibilities of quantum computing to the next generation of engineers, mathematicians, scientists and entrepreneurs – those in the classroom, as well as the lab, creating a quantum version of the successful Raspberry Pi low cost computer.

"This technology has helped accelerate our research and is allowing us to do things we never thought possible. It's incredibly exciting to think what might be achieved by making this more widely accessible, not only to the brightest minds already working in research, but to the next generation. I hope that by helping schools to access this technology, and working with the British Science Association to provide educational content around quantum computing, we can achieve incredible things," said Professor Jeremy O'Brien, the project leader.

bristol.ac.uk/quantum-computing

Bath plans £100m innovation quarter

A £100m Innovation Quarter in Bath is aiming to create 2500 new high tech jobs in the region.

Bath Innovation Quay will create a business location for the growing ICT, low carbon and creative sectors within the city and will link with the research and academic base in the city's two Universities. The development, which the Council will be encouraging to come forward by around the start of 2019, would create around 400,000 square feet of modern business space centred on the University of Bath Innovation Centre with up to 170 low carbon homes.

The University Innovation Centre is a core component of the plans. Dr Rob Head, Director of Research Development and Support at the University, said, "Our strong and successful programmes convinced us of the potential to build on these achievements and establish what we have termed our 'Innovation Campus'. We have been working with the Council on these plans and I am delighted to see this important progress towards creating around 2,500 high technology related jobs within Bath."

"Bath & North East Somerset Council wants to create a unique, compelling offer for businesses in the creative, digital, and knowledge sectors to relocate," said Councillor Paul Crossley, leader of Council. "The prospect of having hi-tech businesses, University research facilities, and places for people to live combining with the buzz of the city and World Heritage Site is simply mouth-watering in terms of opportunities for local people and prosperity for our area. A healthy, smart, zero carbon development will be created that will become the hub for imagination and creativity not just regionally, but worldwide as we take the area's internationally respected reputation for digital expertise to the next level."

The development costs for the plan would be around £65 million with the Council seeking a combination of Government money through the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the private sector.

www.ubic.org.uk

£2.4m backing for Bath 'IT in a box' cloud provider

Zynstra at the University of Bath Innovation Centre has completed a £2.4m round of funding to allow the company to accelerate innovation and expansion of its technology platform.

The company provides hybrid cloud services allowing small to medium-sized businesses to use the security of local IT combined with the flexibility of cloud computing.

The Series A round, led by Octopus Investments, brings the total investment raised to £3.8m. "We will use the additional funding to build on the existing patent-pending technology that sits at the heart of the Zynstra solution," said Nick East, Zynstra co-founder and chief executive. "We will also be aggressively expanding our channel programme to reach small and medium-sized businesses. We are delighted to have such great investors behind us."

Jon Craton, Zynstra's chairman, added: "Zynstra has rapidly gained momentum since our early deployments in October 2012, as evidenced by a growing base of fee-paying subscribers. Through our channel partners, we've secured some great customer wins and confidently expect accelerated uptake during the coming 12 months and beyond."

Zynstra was founded in 2011 by a team who had previously worked together in executive roles at Cramer Systems.

www.zynstra.com

Seeing with your ears at Bath

A device that trains the brain to turn sounds into images could be used as an alternative to invasive treatment for blind and partially-sighted people say researchers in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bath.

The vOICe sensory substitution device helps blind people to use sounds to build an image in their minds of the things around them. A research team, led by Dr Michael Proulx, looked at how blindfolded sighted participants responded to an eye test using the device.

The participants, even without any training in the use of the device, were able to perform the best performance possible, nearly 20/400. "This level of visual performance exceeds that of the current invasive technique for vision restoration such as stem cells," said Dr Proulx .

www.bath.ac.uk

Blu Wireless raises \$3.1m for its 60GHz chip design...

Bristol-based wireless startup Blu Wireless Technology has closed a \$3.1 million (£2m) funding round to customise and productise its chip design for the next generation of high speed wireless connections.

The funding will allow the company to double in size to 30 staff, and complete the development of its HYDRA programmable baseband IP that supports both 802.11ad next generation WiFi (WiGig CERTIFIED) and 4G mobile network backhaul applications that use the 60GHz frequency band rather than today's 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands, giving much higher speed links.

The funding round was lead by Qi3 Accelerator, who represented a syndicate of over \$1.5m (£1m) of London Business Angels private investors, including Wren Capital. A further \$0.9 million (£0.6m) was invested by the Angel Co-Fund, several additional investors made up the remainder.

Blu Wireless's baseband technology uses a programmable parallel processing architecture to efficiently support the complex modulation schemes required for emerging multi-gigabit wireless communication standards. The IP is currently optimised for chipsets used in both advanced WiFi and 4G small cell deployments, and can be simply scaled to support the anticipated future standards as they move to 20Gbps and beyond.

The firm is already working with several of the world's leading chip and system companies in these markets, says CEO Henry Nurser with the same customers using the IP for both 802.11ad and for wireless backhaul. The IP will be sold under license agreement to chipset manufacturers that compete in, or want to enter, markets that exploit the unlicensed 60GHz frequency band.

"With the completion of this funding round, we will be executing our plan to become the leading supplier of baseband system IP to manufacturers in the 60GHz sector," said Nurser.

"This is a very exciting sector and we are convinced Blu Wireless will be a global leader in 60GHz technology," said Tim de Vere Green of London-based Qi3 who will also join the board. "We believe 60GHz applications in both consumer WiGig and telecoms backhaul are set for rapid growth, and Blu Wireless is already working with several of the world's leading Semiconductor companies in these markets. The thorough due diligence we have conducted has given us great confidence in the team's technical and management capabilities, as well as their deep knowledge of their target markets."

www.bluwirelesstechnology.com

.. and secures a strong advisory board

Blu Wireless Technology has signed up a strong advisory board for its 60GHz technology development with Sir Robin Saxby, former CEO and chairman of the world's leading IP firm ARM, Glenn Collinson, founder of leading wireless chip firm CSR, and world leading academic expert in wireless communication technologies Professor Andrew Nix of the University of Bristol.

The appointments bolster Blu Wireless's leading position in the 60GHz baseband IP market for 802.11ad next generation WiFi (WiGig) and 4G mobile network backhaul applications.

"The deep technical and market expertise that these industry veterans bring to us gives us the strategic insights that will significantly accelerate our development cycle. Their backing is a strong endorsement of both our business model and our technological offering," said Henry Nurser, CEO of Blu Wireless.

Regional growth fund sees huge demand

The LEP's £25m Growth Fund has seen tremendous demand, with 335 applications rather than the expected 200 when applications closed at the end of July. This has slowed the processing but the team expects to get to every application within the next month.

The Going for Growth fund aims to support up to 400 companies in Bristol and Bath with matched funding from £10,000 to £1m. The focus is on generating or safeguarding jobs and there are a range of elements to the scheme, from providing capital investment to supporting research and development. While 100% support is possible for small startups the fund is looking at some level of matched funding.

www.goingforgrowth.biz

Intelligent Software test conference launches

Many organisations increasingly expect their software development teams and suppliers to improve the quality and integrity of the software they produce while at the same time reduce development costs and speed up delivery times, says Jim Thomas, Director of Software Testing, Europe, for Bristol-based Test and Verification Solutions. Bringing greater intelligence to how we test software can make a significant contribution to meeting these goals and the conference will be exploring some of the latest techniques and tools to achieve this.

The first Intelligent Testing conference is taking place on October 17th with a keynote address from Dot Graham, an entertaining and distinguished speaker well known to many in the software testing field. Dot holds the European Excellence Award in Software Testing, has co-authored four books on software testing and bring a vast experience in test automation to the conference. Dot will be joined by a number of other industry speakers who will be discussing a range of techniques to improve software quality and reduce time-to-market such as detailed code profiling, adopting "shift left" techniques and harnessing the power of randomisation.

As well as addressing intelligent testing topics that will be directly relevant to software professionals in the many organisations whose business depends on the software they or their suppliers develop, the conference will provide a much needed forum for the software community in the West of England to exchange software testing ideas and to network says Thomas.

The free event covers the latest software testing tools and techniques, their benefits and pitfalls to avoid, or wanting to engage with fellow professionals to share and discuss software testing challenges and ideas.

intelligenttesting.eventbrite.com

R&D consultancy offers £25K STEM bursaries at Bath

Science and engineering students at Bath have been offered paid bursaries totalling £25,000 with a leading global research and development consultancy.

Sagentia, which undertakes innovation, technology and product development work globally on behalf of organisations and start-ups in the medical, industrial and consumer products sectors, has been offering 10 bursaries of £2,500 to support science and engineering students during the academic year starting September 2013.

Bath is one of seven universities to benefit from the new bursaries which are on offer to students currently studying or have accepted a place on a range of science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) courses. The others are Cambridge (where Sagentia is based), Oxford, Southampton, Loughborough, Surrey and Imperial College London.

"Sagentia has a strong track record of providing exciting career opportunities to talented STEM students, who join us in applying cutting edge scientific and engineering thinking with the world's most innovative and successful businesses," said Dan Edwards, managing director at Sagentia. "The company is launching the Sagentia STEM Bursary Scheme to help financially support the brightest prospects in the next generation of innovators as a key component of Sagentia's graduate programme and focus on innovation."

"This investment in the education of British STEM students aligns PLC corporate social responsibility with the future requirements of Sagentia as a science and engineering company," said Bath alumni Martyn Ratcliffe, Executive Chairman and lead investor in Sagentia. "The UK has a well-deserved reputation for innovation, built on the UK's world leading science and engineering universities. Sagentia's future growth is dependent on increasing this excellent resource pool and the success of the company in recent years enables Sagentia to now make this investment."

Eligible courses include Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Engineering, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Product Design, or similar. Successful applicants will also be given preferential consideration for paid 10 week summer placements with Sagentia in 2014. Sagentia has provided opportunities to interns since 2000 with many going on to work for the company after graduating.

www.sagentia.com

Bristol hosts boost for industry skills

Executives from leading electronics firms came to Bristol last week to advance the business skills of the brightest electronic engineering undergraduates at UK universities, a third of whom are from EU countries other than the UK.

Hosted by the University of Bristol, the five-day Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF) Summer Skills Workshop works with UKESF scholars are the best prepared for a career in the UK electronics industry by adding business awareness and understanding to the technical skills. "These are the next generation leaders in our industry," said Wendy Daniell, the course co-ordinator.

Shortages in key business skills was highlighted as one of the biggest hurdles to achieving future industry growth. Highlighting the demand for these key skills, senior management from ARM, CSR, Dialog Semiconductor, Imagination Technologies, Jaguar Land Rover, NVIDIA, Toumaz Technology and XMOS actively participate in the workshop. Seminars on project management, business ethics, negotiation and emotional intelligence feature on the course for the 40 scholars attending, who are sponsored by 13 companies.

The recent ESCO report highlighted that the £78 billion industry, which employs 850,000 people, can grow by 55pc before the end of the decade but addressing the skills issue is critical to achieving this, with the report stating: "Undergraduate and graduate skills remain a subject of continued debate and complaint where employer feedback criticises the quality of output from higher education ... there are concerns in relation to employability and work readiness."

"We undertake cutting edge R&D to deliver the most advanced mobile communications technology and we therefore look to take on the very best people," said Steve Allpress, vice president and CTO for modem development at Nvidia in Bristol. "By engaging with UKESF and supporting our undergraduates through work placements and the workshop programme, we not only reach more of the brightest students at an early stage, but we can also ensure that they will hit the ground running when they join us as graduates."

"Bristol produces many of the engineering industry's leaders and being part of UKESF helps us place more of our students with world-class companies to gain vital industry experience. These workshops further enhance this experience with essential, albeit non-academic business skills. Employer support for the UKESF also demonstrates the demand for graduates in the sector, which has helped us attract more students to our degree programmes," said Professor Andy Nix, head of electrical and electronic engineering, at the University of Bristol.

The workshop was designed, and is delivered in partnership with Semta, NMI, the IET and industry partners and includes a presentation competition covering various industry scenarios. The competition was judged by executives from Jaguar Land Rover, Dialog, ARM and a co-founder of CSR.

The Disaster Management scenario saw a fabless semiconductor company that suffers a critical fire in one of their main subcontractor's assembly plant. The team has to develop a set of approaches to deal with this from day one to conclusion and follow-up. They have to present their approaches with justifications.

Another project was to investigate the launch of an own brand product for a leading IP company. Team had to conduct SWOT analysis taking into consideration political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental considerations. Have to present conclusions and recommendations.

Another scenario saw teams developing a range of products around Imagination Technology's recently launched Flow technology.

The winning team covered the disaster management well with a thorough analysis and creative and effective presentation of the solution, but all the projects demonstrated the need for more business awareness.

The UK Electronic Skills Foundation was formed in 2010 to increase the number of talented electronics engineering graduates entering the industry. Its creation was in response to industry concerns and followed a significant (44% since 2002) decline in UK applicants for electronics degrees, which threatens the performance and long-term prospects of the industry.

www.ukesf.org

Audium technology moves to new owner

The power efficient amplifier technologies developed by Audium in Bristol and part of HiWave for the last two years has been sold to a US audio company for an undisclosed sum.

FLAT Audio Technologies of Washington state is assuming responsibilities for all technologies, patents and operations for HiWave Audio's Balanced Mode Radiator (BMR) audio transducers. It also gains an exclusive license for the use of NXT Audio Panel Exciters in its Tectonic Audio range of professional audio markets, along with shared rights to provide products for consumer audio markets.

However, the technology is staying in the UK, as FLAT Audio has created a new UK company, Tectonic Elements Ltd to work with existing channel partners to ensure that the BMR, exciter and amplifier module customer base is well supported.

"We are very excited to bring HiWave Technologies and the core staff into the Tectonic family", said Douglas Milnor, CEO of FLAT Audio. "With this acquisition, we can protect the Tectonic Audio Labs product line with an excellent patent portfolio that we plan to apply in many different markets and products going forward. In addition, we gain a leverage point into European markets from our UK-based operations for Tectonic Audio Labs products."

"We're pleased to become a part of Tectonic", says Caroline O'Brien, Managing Director of Tectonic Elements Ltd which will have its headquarters in London. "Their new revolutionary speakers are a great association and proof of the value of the NXT technologies. With this new agreement, Tectonic Elements will continue to serve our markets with a dedicated and experienced engineering and sales team, and provide us with increased access to the US markets for our OEM products."

www.tectonicaudiolabs.com

Bristol leads £1.2m project to make robots more trusted

Bristol Robotics Laboratory (BRL) is part of a new £1.2m project which aims to ensure future robotic systems can be trusted by humans. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is funding the three-and-a-half-year project, which will explore how robots interact with humans in a safe and trustworthy manner.

Robots are increasingly being developed to serve as active 'helpers' in situations where humans require assistance, such as personal care robots which help patients during recovery. For human-robot teamwork to become viable and productive, the humans involved must be fully confident in the robot's behaviour.

Experts from BRL, a collaborative partnership between UWE Bristol and the University of Bristol, will work with industry partners and colleagues at the Universities of Liverpool and Hertfordshire on the "Trustworthy Robotic Assistants" (TRA) project.

Bristol University's Dr Kerstin Eder, the principal investigator for the TRA project at the BRL and Leader of the Verification & Validation for Safety in Robots research theme at the same institute, said: "Safety assurance of robots is an urgent research challenge that must be addressed before many products that already exist in labs can be unlocked for mass production. This requires collaboration of verification experts with roboticists and those who specialize in human-robot interaction, so that a human-centric, holistic approach to safety assurance can be developed."

'BERT', one of the robotic platforms being used on the project, was developed as part of a research project on Cooperative Human Robot Interactive Systems, at BRL. This has been used to examine manufacturing scenarios in which BERT collaborated with human colleagues to complete manufacturing tasks, including dynamic component handovers and product manufacture. "Working on this new research project with colleagues across the UK will enable us to tackle the crucial issue of developing robotic systems which can work safely with humans," said Professor Tony Pipe, Professor of Robotics and Autonomous Systems at UWE Bristol. "This is a vital step in developing robots for a whole range of functions for the future, where they will be useful to humans."

The project involves the University of Liverpool's Centre for Autonomous Systems Technology, the University of Hertfordshire's Adaptive Systems Research Group, the BRL, as well as industrial partners, including the British Automation and Robot Association (BARA) and RU Robots.

www.brl.ac.uk

Region launches series of Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups are a great way to allow people working in similar fields to connect up. It has worked to great effect in Cambridge with Cambridge Wireless, and the High Tech Sector group has taken the experience of that organisation to apply to the South West region

As a result, High Tech Bristol & Bath (HB2) is the umbrella company for a range of high tech Special Interest Groups (SIG) based in the Bristol and Bath area. The SIGs are open to individual and corporate members anywhere in the world, bringing together expertise in a wide range of technologies.

The SIGs are determined by the members, with two to three SIG champions running the groups with support from central administration to determine the frequency, location and content of meetings. SIG champions are elected by the membership of the groups, and are also represented on the board of HB2 as a Community Interest Company (CIC) alongside the High Tech Sector group of the regional Local Economic Partnership. Unlike other SIGs, HB2 will use the existing strong networking organisations in the region to host events and keep the administration overheads as low as possible - this is about bringing together the skills in the region to boost the cluster as a whole. A number of SIGs have been proposed, with SIG champions needed to lead them and determine their direction:

Wireless
Multicore and high performance processing
Intelligent Media
Digital Health
Smart Home & Future Cities
Robotics
Education & Careers
High tech marketing

HB2 is a membership organisation, where companies or individuals join and any staff or faculty member can attend any SIG meetings, vote for SIG champions and propose new SIGs. There are plans for a wider range of additional benefits that will be developed to support members.

Corporate or University membership: £4000
Medium company or university faculty (up to 40 staff) £2000
Small company member (up to 15 staff):£1000
Micro company (up to 5 staff) £400
Individual member: £200

Members can join as Founding SIG champions with a 50% premium in the first year

For info and to sign up, contact: Nick Flaherty nick@bristolandbath.co.uk 07710 236368,

Xsilon launches Special Interest Group

Bath-based networking chip startup Xsilon is looking to open up its machine-to-machine (M2M) technology to the industry for connecting the Internet of Things in the home.

The company has set up a Special Interest Group (SIG) to license its Hanadu communication protocol on an accessible FRAND basis, says CEO Russell Haggard. The SIG will work to complete the Hanadu specification, support it on its path to standardization, develop propositions for particular applications and markets, and support a widespread adoption of Hanadu technology. Haggard says he expects 5 to 10 members within the first year, and the company is looking at the HB2 SIGs in addition.

This global SIG will take over the development of the Hanadu specification from Xsilon in the same way as the Bluetooth, Zigbee and OpenET SIGs.

“Having worked hard to create the Hanadu concept and to develop its technology base, we are now moving on to the next level as we open out the platform to our partners,” said Haggard. “We’ve had nothing but positive responses to Hanadu from all our partners and customers throughout its gestation, and now they are working with us to build real momentum in the market for Hanadu products.”

www.xsilon.com

National Electronics Week visits Bristol

The South West Electronics show is visiting Bristol this week as part of National Electronics Week. The keynote speaker is Stephen Pattison, vice president of public affairs for ARM on the 'Internet of Things: Opportunities and Challenges'. Prior to joining the ICC, Stephen worked with Sir James Dyson as Head of International Business Development at Malmesbury-based Dyson. Before that, he was a British Diplomat, including postings as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Washington.

NEW is on at the UWE exhibition centre on 25th and 26th September.

www.nationalelectronicsweek.co.uk/ukregional2013/default.asp

Venturefest Bristol sets up for November

Venturefest Bristol 2013 will take place on Thursday 14th November at the UWE Conference Centre on the Frenchay Campus.

The event is aimed at SMEs looking for funding opportunities and support; investors looking for new opportunities; and researchers looking to commercialise their work, as well as larger companies looking for opportunities for collaboration.

www.sciencecitybristol.com

€70bn of ICT funding in Horizon 2020

The ICT Knowledge Transfer Network is holding an information event to provide an introduction and update on funding support for R&D in the ICT sector under the new Horizon 2020 European programme. This replaces FP7, and is the EU's new financial instrument for implementing over €70billion of research and innovation funding between 2014-2020.

The [free half day event](#) on 7th October at Deloitte UK, 3 Rivergate, Bristol, provides the latest developments in Horizon 2020 and to receive an overview of the proposed ICT Work Programme for 2014. This will be supported by speakers with extensive experience in EU funding participation.

This is another general information and [launch event for Horizon 2020 at HP Labs in Bristol](#) on 21st November.

Creating robots for healthcare...

Research in robotics is approaching a critical phase. Driven by a number of factors, research laboratories around the world have been transforming robot technology until it is poised for large-scale emergence from the isolation of the factory shop-floor to operate with us and amongst us to improve the quality of our lives. The motivating factors range from significant side-effects of the continuously improving age demographic, to the huge potential for ground-breaking technical advances in surgery.

With the ground-breaking work carried out in the Bristol Robotics Laboratory as the backdrop, the biggest research unit of its type in the UK, Professor Tony Pipe will consider the huge potential benefit to human society that are balanced by the great technical challenges to be faced, as well as briefly reflecting on some of the social and other effects to be taken into account.

The Bath Institute of Medical Engineering (BIME) lecture takes place at 7pm on Thursday 3 October 2013 at the University of Bath's East Building lecture theatre 1.1 and [registration is essential](#).

... and creating scalable Digital Health

The ALAN assisted living network is holding an evening networking event with Graham Worsley of the Technology Strategy Board from 5.30pm – 9pm on Thursday 21 November 2013 in Bristol.

He is presenting on DALLAS (Delivering Assisted Living Lifestyles At Scale) plus presentations from mobile technology companies.

[Places cost £10 plus VAT.](#)

Funding on the cusp

September has seen a dramatic boost in activity around the world, and the region is picking up at a similar rate. While the electronics industry is at the top of its historical cycle, the wider economy is only now picking up. The signs for 2014 are very positive, with long-delayed replacement cycles starting to happen, both for enterprise equipment and, more importantly for our region, for industrial systems.

Activity in the region is picking up, and we are seeing a lot of ground work coming to fruition over the next few months. This means the region is well placed to take advantage of the up-turn.

Looking ahead there are a some key elements that we haven't made enough of. The EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7) hasn't been well used by UK companies and the next programme, Horizon 2020, has over 70bn euros to spend on R&D in our markets, and this can give projects a tremendous boost. The focus programmes map well onto the sector specialities in the region - embedded and the Internet of Things, nanotechnology, sensors, smart cities and digital health. One of the complaints that are regularly made about such programmes is the complexity of the application process and the challenges of finding appropriate partners. This is why many programmes are put together by universities and large companies and the SME community misses out on a significant stream of funding and customers.

There are significant plans for 2014 through the LEP High Tech Sector group and the SIGs, and I urge you to sign up for these. There will be introduction meetings over the next few months with the aim of starting up individual SIGs. Perhaps one of these could cover the Horizon 2020 programme and other schemes, offering support for putting together those collaborative projects and the funding applications. That alone would cover the cost of the membership, but these will only happen if there is specific support so please do consider joining.

Nick Flaherty

INDUSTRY EVENTS

25th -26th September

[National Electronics Week](#)

UWE, Bristol

30th September

[Discovering Startups](#)

London

3rd October, 7pm

[Robots in healthcare](#)

BIME, Bath

7th October

[Introduction to Horizon 2020](#)

Delloitte UK, 3 Rivergate, Bristol

17th October

[Intelligent Testing Conference](#)

UWE Exhibition Centre, Bristol

14th November

[Venturefest Bristol](#)

UWE Conference Centre, Frenchay

21st November

[Introduction to Horizon 2020](#)

HP Labs

21st November 5.30 - 9.30

[Digital Health event](#)

Bristol

About the West of England Local Economic Partnership

The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership supports business growth and is working to attract new jobs to Bristol, Bath and Weston-super-Mare. The structure supports the LEP Board in making it happen, backed by multiple Sector Groups including the High Tech Sector which meets once a month. More information on the vertical and cross cutting sector groups is [here](#). For more information or to get involved join [the LinkedIn group](#) and sign up for the [High Tech Sector Newsletter at SW Innovation News](#) for news of events and Special Interest Groups

High Tech News is published by SW Innovation News (www.swinnovation.co.uk) for the High Tech Sector group of the West of England Local Economic Partnership. For custom newsletters for your company or events, please contact Nick Flaherty nick@swinnovation.co.uk