

# venturer

## Legal

Seriously sick or swinging the lead?

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Builders who bond with their environment

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A total service in all aspects of security

## for EEDA

l economy that can  
rt hi-tech businesses  
at the same time.  
ice its image and  
since the closure of the  
ill car manufacturing

DA has an ambitious  
to make the East of  
nd one of the top 20  
ean regions by 2010.  
gion is currently third  
the 11 UK regions in  
of economic perform-  
ut only 27th out of 77  
ean regions.

DA chief executive  
Marlow says: "Over the  
ear we take forward  
very important proj-  
hich will make a real  
ce to the bottom line  
East of England's  
ny." This includes the  
field Luton Technol-  
rk project.

low adds: "In the last  
nths we have estab-  
a close working  
nship with the Govt  
Office and the East  
land Regional Assem-  
hich will enhance our  
y to bring forward  
quality economic  
pment projects and  
e strong and influen-  
ce for the East of  
nd.

DA is evolving as an  
sation and, as well as

seeking continuous  
improvement for the region,  
we also strive for continuous  
improvement in the way we  
work ourselves."

The announcement  
comes as EEDA reveals it is to  
match the £0.5m the govern-  
ment has pledged from its  
Public Sector Research  
Exploitation (PSRE) initia-  
tive to set up an Eastern NHS  
Innovation Hub.

It is hoped the hub will  
create spin-off businesses  
and new jobs for the region,  
with new concepts and inno-  
vations translated into  
commercial ventures.

David Cudby, EEDA's life  
sciences sector adviser, says:  
"Enterprise Hubs are a key  
part of EEDA's vision to foster  
a culture of innovation and  
entrepreneurship in the  
region. We will now work  
with the region's hospitals to  
ensure that the necessary  
commercial sector expertise  
is available to help turn  
innovation in the NHS into  
viable new business enter-  
prises."

EEDA's cash boost was  
taken from the agency's  
basic budget allocation, but  
it is planned that the per-  
formance award will be put  
to other such business and  
regeneration uses to improve  
the region's economy.

## Teleworking support hub opens at Spires



ANYONE unable to go out to  
work can now access support  
to set up business from home  
after the launch of a  
new project by the Luton and  
Dunstable Innovation  
Centre.

The Centre, which is part  
of the University of Luton,  
has won £200,000 in fund-  
ing to establish a Telework  
Support Centre in the town,  
which is designed to offer  
help to people who have to  
be at home but who also  
wish to run a small enter-  
prise, such as carers of  
elderly parents, people who  
retire early and parents.

Lynette Warren, the Inno-  
vation Centre's specialist in  
Social Enterprises, says:  
"Many ventures are initiated  
by women from home with  
family commitments, and it

is hoped that this project will  
provide support and encour-  
agement to enable these  
enterprises to grow and  
flourish."

The Innovation Centre,  
based in the University's Spires  
centre, is combining forces  
with the Telework Association  
and other project partners, to  
produce a support pack,  
which will include member-  
ship of both organisations as  
well as a web camera and  
other items of low-cost hard-  
ware and software.

The pack will enable peo-  
ple to make a rapid start in  
running a home-based enter-  
prise, as well as enabling  
existing teleworkers to see and  
talk to each other, to profes-  
sional advisors, and to small  
business support organisa-  
tions, over the internet.

The money was won by the  
Innovation Centre's 'Devices'  
project, one of only 26  
schemes in Britain to receive  
funding under the award  
scheme, Building on the Best.

The 'Devices' project is  
pioneering the use of low-  
cost internet and  
communications technolo-  
gies to support teleworkers  
and homeworkers. It was  
originally set up with an  
award of £110,000 from the  
Department of Trade and  
Industry's Phoenix Fund.

Innovation Centre  
manager Mike Anstey adds:  
"This latest award of funding  
really is brilliant news for the  
Centre and for Luton. It helps  
to reinforce the growing  
national image of the town as  
a location for new and inno-  
vative projects."

02:04

this issue

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