

business

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HOVIP

Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme

INNOVATION drives success
A unique opportunity to
become more profitable



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2009 Innovation Awards winners and sponsors



Bryn Meadows Golf, Hotel & Spa

Celebrate success! Raise your profile! Recognise your employees!

Calling all businesses plus social enterprises, in the boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, RCT and Torfaen! Enter the 2010 Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards – deadline for entries May 14.

INNOVATION isn't just about invention, technology and R&D. It is about doing things differently to get better results and can involve any aspect of the business or enterprise.

HOVIP, the Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme, is showing how businesses across the Valleys are using innovation to raise their game and become more competitive. And at the same time HOVIP is raising the business profile of the region beyond the Valleys and Wales. Here are some of those innovative businesses.

Merthyr Tydfil based Shabby Chic Antiques took an innovative idea and created a sustainable business. This company recycles antique furniture with a French shabby chic look and sells across the UK as well as in the USA, China and Japan.

New Pathways, a social enterprise in Merthyr Tydfil, provides support services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. The business relies heavily on volunteers and has developed an innovative training scheme to ensure their volunteers have the appropriate skills.

Abertillery-based SteriTouch Ltd has developed a technology which enables any product to be made antimicrobial. However, it is also their innovative business model - imaginatively co-branding with over thirty companies – that is driving their success.

DecTek Ltd, which employs 16 people in Pontypridd and Spain, has developed a unique global asset tracking solution which can be used to track anything from luggage to livestock. To capitalise on such a wide potential, the company actively collaborates with customers and suppliers to create innovative partnerships.

Partnership and collaboration is the key to success for five businesses, across the Valleys, in the security sector who are working together as Secure

Wales. This cluster of businesses provide one point of contact for a wide range of specialist advice, products and services on any aspect of security from CCTV, intruder alarms and security lighting, to security gates, doors and fences, man guarding and fire protection engineering, as well as identity card printing, biometric security, IT security and e-crime consultancy. Having won their first joint contract worth £15,000, they are now focused on further opportunities to improve their competitive edge.

These are just some of the exciting ways businesses in the area are using innovation to achieve success.

Do you know of others?

Is your business or social enterprise doing things differently?

If so, why not enter the 2010 Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards. Or come along to the combined Awards Ceremony and Business Exhibition on 24 June from 4pm until 8:30pm in Bryn Meadows Golf, Hotel and Spa. HOVIP Manager Phil Burkhard explains, "Entering the 2010 Awards is a great way to recognise your employees and raise the profile of your business. All entrants automatically become members of HOVIP's regional business club.

There are four Awards categories, sponsored by Capital Law, BT, HSBC and South Wales Chamber of Commerce, with winning companies receiving a great prize package which includes being entered for the Wales Innovation Award and South Wales Chamber Business Awards."

"I would urge all businesses in the Valleys to find out more about the Awards and the Marketplace event, sponsored by the University of Wales Global Academy – just visit www.hovip.org.uk for all the details. Entries for the 2010 Awards are open until 14 May 2010 – so don't delay!"



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If you would like to find out how you can benefit from HOVIP, contact Phil Burkhard on 01685 725469 or Email phil.burkhard@merthyr.gov.uk or visit www.hovip.org.uk