



welcome...

New approach needed to drive UK plc



EVEN before the new government was formed we knew tough budgetary decisions lay ahead and so it has proved to be.

The task for businesses now is to recognise how these cuts will affect UK plc - its funding and its relationship with the public sector which must now look to support rather than drive.

As in the past, innovation has to be the watchword for the future. Tough though it has been for the past 18 months, the next 18 will be no better. If we are to compete with any degree of success, we are going to have to stand out as pro-active, regionally, nationally and as individual businesses, with exciting ideas. It is not an impossible task. We just need to approach things from another angle and look for alternative sources of funding and different ways of working. Businesses are going to have to work more closely together, with other businesses and the public sector, making the most of the resources that are available.

Manufacturing in the UK is just one area which, with the right input, will generate the much-needed cash flow. But, as well as strengthening our core base, we have to look to other markets. Other parts of the world continue to grow rapidly including China and Brazil. Europe is also the UK's largest trading partner and still affords good opportunities for market development.

At Beta we have the quality, skills and the experience to assist companies of all shapes and sizes. Our technical knowledge-base is second to none. But we can only help those who help themselves. We have the networking resources to match your ideas to partners, businesses to businesses, projects to funding streams. But we need you to take the first step.

Richard Wrigley
Managing Director
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A special thank you for 2 long serving Beta experts



The Specialist Consultant Placement service offered by Beta is one of its less well-known gems. But for many years now the company has offered a practical hands-on consultation service to industry and government departments both here and abroad.

At any one time Beta has 40 associates engaged on specialist projects but it has to say a fond and very reluctant farewell to two of its longstanding experts - George Jenkins and Dr Paul Potter.

George Jenkins has had a long and illustrious career in the nuclear industry. He was one of the early nuclear reactor operators, working his way up to Executive Director Operations, Nuclear Electric Ltd and then Executive Director, British Energy Generation. He has served on various international nuclear safety Committees, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) and was President of the British Nuclear Energy Society.

"I was a consultant with Beta for about eight years," said George." First with UKAEA (United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority) and, then what is now RSRL (Research Sites Restoration Ltd).

"Before that I worked in the nuclear industry for 40 years and when I retired I decided to give something back. I was from a power generation background and was asked to use my experience to advise on the safety aspects of research and decommissioning.

Dr Paul Potter has been with Beta Technology for 14 years, joining the company as a consultant in 1996 after his retirement from the United Kingdom Atomic Authority. He spent most of his career at the Harwell Laboratory where he was a group leader in Chemistry Division; his expertise is in the thermodynamic properties of nuclear fuel materials.

During his career he spent time at the Institute of Transuranium Elements of the European Commission and held a number of visiting professorships. He was seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the early 1990s as Counsellor for Science and Technology at the British Embassy in Moscow.

His final year with the UKAEA was spent on initiating a system of quantitative risk analysis for the decommissioning programme of nuclear facilities. This work continued with Beta after Paul had retired from the UKAEA. He also carried out a study on the opportunities in civil and defence nuclear programmes in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

“Even though I have now retired from Beta Technology, my interest in nuclear materials continues,” said Paul “I’ll always remember the excellent support and help given to me by many colleagues at Beta Technology.”

Beta Specialist Consultant Placement service leases experts to organisations enabling them to fulfil a range of projects from research, project management, and practical application through to acting in an advisory capacity.

The experts are trusted and select Beta associates with years of senior experience in industry and academia in their sectors. They deliver specialist projects both flexibly and reliably in a time and duration which best meets the needs of the host organisation.

“Both George and Paul are indicative of the type of people we are proud to call associates, sublime experts and professionals within their field” said Yasmin Khan, “The fact that we can supply this calibre of person to every business demonstrates the contribution of the Specialist Consultant Placement service to our overall success and the value it has to our clients.

For more details please contact yasmin.khan@betatechnology.co.uk or telephone 01302 322633.



Beta paves the way to Europe for UK Environmental Technologies



BETA demonstrated its value as an international matchmaker recently when director, Jayne Evans, visited Poland to forge a link between the National Laboratory Service (NLS) and the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU).

Beta has been assisting the UK-based NLS to explore European markets with a view to developing new partnerships. As part of this work, implementing the Water Framework Directive was identified as a common challenge for all EU countries. But the NLS has specific expertise in this field that could be

attractive to other environmental research organisations.

Beta has also been working on other projects with the Polish research institute - IETU- in Katowice. Following a discussion with Beta, IETU readily agreed to host a delegation from the NLS (Ian Rippin and Dave Gazzard - Commercial Director and Head of Science respectively) and Beta (Jayne Evans). In addition, the IETU attracted more than 50 delegates from throughout Poland to participate in the seminar and network with the UK delegation.

The event was a huge success and several topics and areas for collaboration were identified. The links are still ongoing and Beta Director Antony Davies is due to fly out to Poland later this month to formalise our partnership working with IETU.

"Izabela Ratman-Klosinska and her team at IETU did a fantastic job in hosting Beta and the NLS. They are clearly a key partner for Beta now and in the future in supporting the development of new environmental technologies," said Jayne who discovered that the Katowice area has some economic similarities to South Yorkshire - a declining coal and steel industry.

It was her first trip to Poland and she was delighted to make a second discovery - the direct link to Katowice from Doncaster Robin Hood Airport.

Innovation is the key

THE Showcasing Innovation in Manufacturing event, staged as part of Doncaster's iFestival, was a heartening experience for all involved and one which gives real hope for the future.

The originality and technical expertise demonstrated was a surprise to some although many of those closely involved with industry in the region are well aware of how far our process and production has moved on in recent years.



The penultimate event of this year's iFestival, staged at the Doncaster-based Cooper Lighting, was opened by James Newman, the Master Cutler, and Richard Wrigley, Managing Director Beta Technology and Chair of the Doncaster Innovation Strategy Group, and attended by key businesses from Yorkshire and Humberside.

"The breadth and quality of manufacturing in this region is well known to us in the North," said Mr Newman. "Innovation is a key component of that - from the smallest widget to the immense technological might of the aerospace industry. It is events such as the iFestival which spread the word further a field that can only be to the advantage of industry as a whole."

His belief that innovation is the key was reinforced by Richard Wrigley who said: "The manufacturing case studies provided an excellent illustration of how innovation is vital to keep all aspects of business on top of their game to ensure survival and ultimately success. They showed that Doncaster has some great businesses developing best practice."

Exactly how the coalition government will affect businesses is uncertain at this stage. Clearly, there will be less money in the pot but that should not deter businesses with good ideas from stepping forward. We at Beta have the knowledge and the expertise to make the right connections on your behalf.

Manufacturing contributes 18 per cent to UK GDP and 62per cent to our exports. With the banking sector contracting, public spending being sharply cut, and tax rises hitting consumers, exports are set to become a key component in the economic equation. It is important that every business now makes full use of every tool at its disposal to ensure its future success.



Two new Business Buddies on the beat



Two new advisors have recently joined the Beta Business Buddy team as part of our expanding service. They are Kay Mitchell-Gough and Mick Pope. "We are delighted that Kay and Mick have joined the team," said project manager, Lynsey Greenwood. "Like the other Buddies, they are passionate about supporting Doncaster businesses and helping them to grow."

Kay has experience of self-employment and business counselling within the private, public and voluntary sector, having previously worked as a business advisor with Barnsley Enterprise Agency, Emago and as a Business Link Start-Up counsellor, so she is well aware of the problems faced by businesses. In addition, Kay is very active in the Stepping Out programme which helps women wanting to set up their own business or return to the workplace.

Mick too spent some years helping both start-up businesses and working with existing and established companies in South Yorkshire. He provides coaching, planning advice and financial guidance. As a former bank manager he has a working knowledge of all self-employment requirements including record and bookkeeping, banking, finance, VAT, tax and self-assessment paperwork - all vital aspects of every business. He is also a cricket expert - but that's a different story.

The Business Buddy programme is now in its 3rd year, providing free, tailor-made advice and support to SMEs. It is all part of the Doncaster Council Success Doncaster scheme and to date has supported 1700 businesses and helped to create over 300 jobs.

"The beauty of the programme is that it is very flexible to needs of the businesses," said Lynsey "It is entirely up to the business concerned to make as much or as little use of the service offered. We are here to help with the challenges they face. But, as with everything in life, the more you put in the more you get out."

The Beta Business Buddy service is open to all companies large and small provided they are established and have been trading for at least six months and are located within the borough of Doncaster.

To team up with your Business Buddy, call 01302 322633 or email: businessbuddies@betatechnology.co.uk

Beta bowls them over

TEAM building and healthy living took on a whole new aspect at Beta Technology recently when staff members signed up for an ultra modern sports tournament to find the Beta ten pin bowling champion.

But there was no need to head to the bowling alley for this eager band - their matches were for the suited and booted and took place in the office with merely the loosening of a few ties.

With Ben Mico as team manager and tournament organiser, it was all staged via a Nintendo Wii console set up in the Board Room. Out of a 24-strong workforce 16 took part including managing director Richard Wrigley.



Overall winner of the knockout competition was Angie Pepper; runner up was Martyn Leat. Top honours for the plate was Richard Wrigley with Graham Hughes coming in a close second.

Fun though it all was there was a serious side to the event which is part of Beta's Health and Well Being strategy which had the added bonus of creating healthy competition within the organisation.

"The ten pin bowling was such a success that we then went on to do the real thing," said Ben. "The challenge was for participants to match their Wii score."

With Angie unable to attend and defend her crown, the competition was nail bitingly close between Ben, Richard and Antony Davies. In the end Ben clinched the victory from Antony by a gargantuan two points!

The buzz created was such that people have now signed up for the tennis tournament taking place during Wimbledon fortnight with the promise of a strawberries and cream celebration.

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