

# TVIN Briefing Update

March 2006



Thames Valley Investment Network - the bridge between investment and ideas

## Thames Valley Investment Network to celebrate its third Birthday

The first investment meeting of TVIN was held in March 2003 at Green Park Reading, and since this first meeting the network has gone from strength to strength. TVIN now holds eight investment meetings throughout the year.

Although headquartered in the Thames Valley, TVIN has no geographical restriction and has raised finance for companies based in Slough, London, Dunstable and Essex and further afield. In the past 15 months TVIN has raised just under £2m for companies seeking equity funding. A further 15 companies have gone on

programme

## Royal Bank of Scotland to sponsor TVIN

A further celebration at the start of TVIN's fourth year is that The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), one of the UK's leading high street banks, confirmed its support by sponsoring the network. The sponsorship should help foster closer relations between the network and the banking community in the Thames Valley area.

## Current prospects

**Company A** has successfully developed and is marketing a range of high performance magnetic microbeads under the Hi-Flux brand. The technical performance of the beads has been endorsed by prestigious universities in the UK. The company plans to optimize their Hi-Flux magnetic beads for DNA extraction using an established, yet competitively priced, scientific instrument. This will provide laboratories with an automated flexible low cost system for DNA extraction. Funding of £250k

**Company B** is a travel publisher, producing high quality illustrated books that has the exclusive world-wide licence for all editions to publish the Official Travel Guide: Rugby World Cup France 2007. With full distribution secured in the EU and in key overseas rugby territories, the book is set to become a best seller. The company is revenue earning, with four travel guides currently on the bookshelves, all of which are on core stock with Waterstone's, Borders, and Ottakar's. Funding of £300k

## Successful Ready to Invest Meeting

The ready2invest South East (r2ise) programme is managed by Finance South East, who organised a free workshop in February for TVIN investors.

The workshop provides a comprehensive programme to help individuals become successful investors. The **follow-on** meeting is being organised for the attendees. This will expand on the workshop, to cover how to identifying an investment ready company, negotiating (including contracts), market, supervising the investment and exiting.

Please note a further r2ise workshop is planned for later this year so please let me know if you are interested in attending this second workshop.

## Stop Press

### Congratulations to iDomus

Buckingham based group iDoums (Simply Automate), who presented at the January meeting, are in the process of closing their funding round and allowing them a more rapid expansion than anticipated. One further round is expected before exit.

### iBase Systems poised for rapid growth

London based iBase Systems, specialists in mobile data management systems, presented at the November meeting. They are now poised for rapid expansion following a very significant injection of new equity capital from angel investors and appointment of three key executives.

## Enterprise Capital Fund

Oxford Innovation's angel networks, of which TVIN is a member, have joined with SWAIN and GEIF to put together a bid for the launch of the ECF Pathfinder round. Successful bidders will be able to use the government scheme to attract private capital, with the government providing up to twice the amount of private money committed to each fund and taking a modest share of the profit - up to £200 million of government money will be made available between all of the funds throughout UK.

Please contact Eileen Modral for further information.

## Next Meeting

Thu 30 March 2006 at Green Park  
Reading

Full details can be found on the website: [www.tvin.co.uk](http://www.tvin.co.uk)

TVIN is managed by Oxford Innovation Ltd ([www.oxin.co.uk](http://www.oxin.co.uk)), the UK's leading operator of innovation centre premises for start-up companies, and sponsored by the Thames Valley Economic Partnership, the South East England Development Agency and Business Link.

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