

Enterprise Hub Showcase 2007 Announced

Submitted by: 2thefore

Wednesday, 13 December 2006

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) Enterprise Hub Network is to host its first ever company Showcase event at the QEII Conference Centre, Westminster, on Thursday 22nd February 2007. On show will be 40 of the UK's most pioneering fast growth potential businesses, six of which will be vying to pick up a £25,000 cash prize and potential investment as part of the Hub Showcase Challenge. Chaired by BBC Radio 4 Business presenter, Peter Day, the event will include a welcome introduction by James Brathwaite CBE, Chairman of SEEDA, and a keynote speech by Luke Johnson, entrepreneur and Chairman of Channel 4.

For those attending, the Showcase will also be an opportunity to hear first hand the key findings of research into high-growth entrepreneurship by John Cavill who is currently undertaking doctoral research into the characteristics of entrepreneurial teams. In what is expected to be a thought-provoking session for both investors and entrepreneurs alike, John will be addressing questions such as: 'Do we really understand the drivers of new venture success? Are entrepreneurs born or can they be made? How can you build a truly entrepreneurial team?'

The SEEDA Enterprise Hub Network began in 2000 as a flagship programme to accelerate the rate at which entrepreneurs, companies and academic researchers could produce successful businesses out of new ideas and concepts originating in the South East of England. The Network is currently working with over 1,500 businesses spread throughout the South East, including Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Thames Valley, Portsmouth, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

The Enterprise Hub Network provides a unique level of support to companies that need trusted and expert help in their fledgling growth periods. They receive tailored advice and help provided by the Enterprise Hub and access to a network rich in knowledge, experience, connections and expertise. As well as providing an insight into the success of the Hub since its formation, this event will prove to be a shop window for investors on the look out for successful businesses of tomorrow.

Since 2000 The Enterprise Hub Network has evolved and expanded to help hundreds of entrepreneurs and organisations bring highly pioneering and distinctive concepts to market. Many of the companies simply would have failed or not have accelerated their business propositions without the support of the Hub Network.

Companies throughout the Enterprise Hub Network have already started competing in five regional heats to win their place among six companies pitching for the Hub Showcase Challenge.

These shortlisted companies will be invited to present their business propositions to an audience of over 300 people, including potential investors, business advisors and entrepreneurs.

Each pitch will last 10 minutes. Forty companies will be exhibiting at the event to provide, under one roof, a unique insight into innovation and enterprise in the South East.

Marilyn Huckerby, SEEDA Enterprise Hub Director, said: "Hub companies are carefully selected and

nurtured because they have certain attributes which make them potential stars for the future. All of the companies presenting and exhibiting at the Showcase are developing products and services that are pioneering and unique. With the right support every one of them has high growth potential. Enterprise Hub Showcase 2007 gives investors a one-off chance to meet these entrepreneurs and companies in one place.”

For further information about the Enterprise Hub Network and Showcase Event, please visit:

www.seedaenterprisehubs.co.uk

Ends

For further press information, please contact:

Glen Goldsmith / Katie King

2thefore

Tel: 01483 811234 / 01403 254242 / 01892 520123

Mob: 07812 766338 / 07974 161179

Email: glen@2thefore.biz / Katie@2thefore.biz

About the SEEDA Enterprise Hub Network

The Enterprise Hub Network is a SEEDA-backed organisation that helps entrepreneurial individuals and organisations bring highly pioneering and distinctive ideas to market.

Working as a close knit team of commercial experts in Hubs across the South East, the Network draws upon a wide range of specialists to help people realise those opportunities with the potential for high yield and scaleable growth.

Through its unmatched connections in the business, academic and public arenas, the Enterprise Hub Network provides premium, personalised support, giving entrepreneurs access to advanced business insight, technical knowledge and financial investment.

Due to SEEDA's funding, it can offer this world-class service to selected projects at low cost to the individual, making it the pre-eminent partner in the South East to transform knowledge into enterprise.

About John Cavill MA, ADipC, CDir, FinstD, FCIM

Founder & Principal Consultant of Intermezzo Ventures

John Cavill has a strong track record in business growth and management.

See <http://www.intermezzo-ventures.com/expertise.htm>

In 1995 John received an EFER (European Foundation for Entrepreneurship Research) award as 'One of Europe's Top 500 Dynamic Entrepreneurs' and in 1998 was nominated by 3i plc for the 'FT/Cartier

Venturer of the Year Award'. John is a visiting faculty at Henley Management College, and a DBA Research Associate undertaking doctoral research into the characteristics of entrepreneurial teams.

John's current business interests include non exec Chairman and lead investor in Creating Careers Ltd a leading UK online learning company. He is also a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD) interview panel for Chartered Director Accreditation.

