

# Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and the Berkshire Media Group are Collaborating for Growth with New Business Show

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- Business Show 2012 to take place on 18th April at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre, Madejski Stadium, Reading, Berkshire
- Co-sponsored by SEGRO, Bracknell Regeneration and Reading UK CIC

Berkshire, 14th February 2012 - The Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TVB LEP) and the Berkshire Media Group (BMG), the county's largest independent newspaper publisher, are pleased to announce the first 'Collaborating for Growth - Business Show 2012', a one day event to encourage business growth in the Thames Valley which will take place on 18th April from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Organised in joint partnership between TVB LEP and BMG, Business Show 2012 is expected to attract over 50 local business exhibitors and in excess of 600 visitors. Free to visitors, the show is designed to accommodate every business professional and maximise business potential with high-level speakers, exhibitions, seminars, networking opportunities and workshops.

Steve Lamb, Chair of Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (TVB LEP) and senior director at Oracle comments: "Thames Valley Berkshire has a thriving economy and has done pretty well. However, we now face intensified global competition from Europe and the fast emerging Asian economies. We need to act now to stay ahead and to do this we need to act in a more integrated and joined up way. TVB LEP will work hard locally, nationally and internationally to keep the businesses we have and attract more. But we need the business community to get involved to help us achieve this. The power behind TVB LEP is the collaborative momentum that we can create together to drive our economy. The 2012 Business Show is all about how we can collaborate for growth and how businesses can get involved."

High-level speakers for the event include serial entrepreneur Kevin Gaskell. Kevin has led the iconic brands Porsche, Lamborghini and BMW. He also founded epyx, a market leader for automotive e-commerce. As CEO of EurotaxGlass Kevin created a world leader in automotive business intelligence. Kevin has been recognised as a 'top 40 leader under 40' and he now acts as Chairman to a number of companies.

Marcelle Speller, OBE, Founder and Chief Executive of Localgiving.com will also be speaking. Localgiving.com provides small, local charities and community groups across the UK with an online fundraising platform to help them become more sustainable. Marcelle is also a trustee of the Community Foundation Network and founder of the Ardbrack Foundation. Marcelle has worked in director and board level positions for multinational companies including American Express, Avis and Inter-Continental Hotels, and co-founded Holiday-Rentals.com, Europe's leading website for advertising private holiday homes.

Kevin and Marcelle will be joined by a host of other inspiring speakers including Eamonn Dolan, Manager of Reading Football Club's Academy Team who will be talking about finding the stars of the future and

Matt Rogan, Commercial Director for personal development company Lane4. Matt recently co-authored a book 'Britain and the Olympic Games: Past, Present, Legacy' Also presenting is Henry Hirsch coach of Reading Rowing Club and Jim McNeil who founded the Ice Warrior Project. Jim is a Berkshire entrepreneur and accomplished polar explorer with over 26 years of Artic travelling under his belt. There will also be presentations from TVB LEP led by Steve Lamb on TVB LEP goals for 2012 and how Thames Valley organisations can get involved.

The event is co-sponsored by SEGRO, Europe's leading commercial property, investment and development company based in Slough, Bracknell Regeneration, the regeneration programme for Bracknell and Reading UK CIC, the economic development company for Reading. The event is also supported by key business membership organisations including the Institute of Directors for Berkshire, the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses.

Amanda Gee, Managing Director for the BMG comments: "If you are serious about doing business and you are keen to help encourage growth in the Thames Valley area then this is an event no organisation can afford to miss. We all have a role to play in making Berkshire a great place to live, work and do business, and this show is all about forming a united, collective voice to help economic growth in the area."

Building on this theme, ahead of the show, TVB LEP is hosting its SME Forum on 22nd February 2012 entitled: "Selling to the Big Guns" where the headline speaker, successful Berkshire entrepreneur David Griffiths from Fiscal Technologies will share his experiences of setting the right model to successfully sell into both large corporates and the public sector. The event starts at 8.00 am and finishes at 10.00 am and is being hosted at Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd, Pinewood Campus, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, RG40 3EW.

TVB LEP is business led and made up of key leaders across the business, education, the voluntary and community sector and six unitary authority areas of Berkshire: West Berkshire, Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough of Windsor, and Maidenhead and Slough.

The Berkshire Media Group offers a portfolio of paid and free local newspapers and local websites serving a selection of markets across the Thames Valley. Newspapers in the portfolio include: Reading Chronicle, Woodley & Earley Chronicle, Reading Midweek, Bracknell & Wokingham News Series, Ascot News, Bracknell & Wokingham Midweek, The Villager, Slough & South Bucks Observer, The Royal Windsor & Maidenhead Observer, Midweek Observer and Newbury & Thatcham Chronicle

For more details on the event please visit: [www.bmgevents.co.uk](http://www.bmgevents.co.uk). For more details of the membership of TVB LEP please visit: <http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk>. For more information on how to attend, exhibit or sponsor this event please contact Gemma Keeping on 0118 955 3390 or email [gkeeping@berksmedia.co.uk](mailto:gkeeping@berksmedia.co.uk). If you would like to register or find out more about the TVB LEP SME Forum on 22nd February please visit: <http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/roadshow/event/sme-forum/>

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