

Welcome to West Lothian's monthly round up of local business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource for business - www.westlothian.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS www.westlothian.com/news

WEST LOTHIAN BUSINESSES are urged to pass on the message about an exciting competition that has been launched to attract innovative new businesses to the area. The *Alba Innovation Challenge* offers a fantastic prize package worth £50,000 to the winning business. For more information go to www.aic09.com

WORK HAS BEGUN on Glenmorangie's new whisky bottling plant in Livingston's Alba Campus. The bottling depot and offices are expected to be complete in the middle of 2010.

TOUCH BIONICS, developer of the world's first multi-articulating bionic hand, has opened its UK Centre of Excellence in Livingston. The facility is designed to provide fast track access to clinical and technical experts and was officially opened by Jim Murphy MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.

A £1BN RAIL UPGRADE has been confirmed that will boost the speed and reliability of train services from Linlithgow to Edinburgh and to Glasgow, as well as allowing a new fast hourly service from West Calder and Livingston South to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

WORK TO secure a new waste recycling plant for West Lothian is progressing well. The plant at Caputhall Road, Livingston has planning permission and the facility will help to reduce the amount of household waste going to landfill by 2013 to meet new legislative targets.

BUSINESS SUPPORT 

A NEW AUTUMN PROGRAMME of free workshops has been organised by Business Gateway West Lothian to help local businesses through the economic downturn. The programme has been designed to help companies cut costs and manage staff effectively during the credit crunch, and enlists the aid of a range of experts from the private sector. For more information call 01506 777400

HOW EFFECTIVE is your direct marketing? You can download a FREE Factsheet on How to Build and Use a Mailing List - just one of 100 FREE Factsheets available at www.westlothian.com/factsheets. To help you build your list, West Lothian's business information service can help you access local and national company databases. Call 01506 777910 or email enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk

ARE YOU PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS effectively in West Lothian's **FREE online business directory?** Check your listing at www.westlothian.com/businesssearch and email any updates to enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk

LOOKING to recruit new staff? West Lothian Council's *access2employment* team of employment advisers can help employers identify individuals who may meet their recruitment needs. Services to employers and jobseekers alike are FREE of charge. Call free on 0800 0329768 or follow this link for more information: www.westlothian.gov.uk/access2employment

BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian has a series of 3 FREE workshops to help businesses **Sell to Government** starting this month:

- **Selling to Government: An Introduction** on 29 September.
- **How to prepare a tender submission** on 28 October.
- **Winning and delivering a contract** on 26 November.

ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES 

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for July '09 (latest data released at August '09) is 4.3% (4,578 an increase of 5 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is now slightly above the Scottish (4.1%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates. KEEP UP to date with 15 **Key Economic Indicators** on our website at: http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/



BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian has organised a number of FREE workshops in Livingston:

- **Trading Online** on 3 September.
- **Get Real Results from your Website** on 10 September.
- **Handling Difficult Situations** on 15 September.
- **Improve your Search Engine Ranking** on 17 September.
- **Selling to Government: An Introduction** on 29 September.

OTHER **FREE** workshops are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington.

Start up workshops also run in Livingston each month. **For more information call 01506 777 400**



SCOMAC CATERING Equipment Ltd in Livingston has received a much needed financial injection from a Government funded scheme. Enterprise Minister Jim Mather announced the award of £190,000 in Regional Selective Assistance funding to help create 39 jobs during his visit to West Lothian on 11 August.

A PIONEERING GREEN SOLUTION has earned Livingston-based Specialist Lubricants Ltd a supply contract with giants Tetra Pak, the world's top brand of paper packaging.

LIVINGSTON BASED Institute for System Level Integration (iSLI) has leading a £3.3m project to develop a wireless sensor system which enables the real-time monitoring of critical components during flight. It is set to become a standard feature of the next generation of commercial aircraft.

JIM MATHER, MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, led an interactive mind mapping event at the Alba Innovation Centre in Livingston for the area's business leaders to address West Lothian's economic future on 11 August.

PAUL BOYLE of Boghall Butchers has received acclaim from the Dragon's Den after being voted Britain's best-loved local business.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE have delivered a new one-day Elementary Control of Infection course with the Kalyx Facility Management Team based in Addiewell Prison. For further information on the REHIS Elementary Control of Infection course, or any other courses at West Lothian College call 01506 427955.

ADVENTURE COMPANY GO APE are planning a massive high-wire forest adventure trail through the trees of Beecraigs Country Park in West Lothian if plans get the go-ahead, creating 15 new jobs.



TO CELEBRATE being "back" after the holidays, the next e-business West Lothian event will look "to the future" and attempt to predict what trends, technologies and developments are on the horizon that could have an impact on your business. Takes place at the Alba Innovation Centre in Livingston on Wed 9 September from 12 noon—2.00 pm. To book go to <https://www.eventelephant.com/ebw/>

AN ECONOMIC Business Breakfast meeting sponsored by the Clydesdale Bank offers you the opportunity to hear an economist's view on current and topical issues relating to business. On 16 September 2009 at 08:00 - 09:30 am. To book contact Brenda Cumming on 01506 777937

THE WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Annual Golf Day will be on Thurs 17 September from 08:00 am - 15:30 pm. Contact Brenda Cumming on 01506 777937

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS is hosting a lunchtime networking event on 29 September. To book or for more information email laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 777 400.

FREE EMAIL UPDATE

Would you like to receive this FREE Business Update by email?

Contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506-777911 to be added to our mailing list.

TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your feedback or comments, a **FEEDBACK** link is provided at the bottom of every web page on www.westlothian.com or you can email us at enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk