

Press Release: 21st November 2008

Scientists meet Angels in wine bar



Scientists from Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) and a group of 'Angel' Investors met up in Taunton this month to explore potential areas of mutual interest. Under the aegis of BioApproaches South West and the South West Angel Investors' Network (SWAIN), the informal meeting took place in Taunton over a meal and a drink.

PML scientists brought the 'Angels' up to date with some of their latest advances in marine science research that have potential commercial opportunities. Subjects included: Biotechnology, genomics, novel chemical compounds, remote sensing and the measurement of partial CO₂.

The idea of the event was to bring science and the commercial sector together.

Bob Huggins, Technical Director of the i-GPeninsula (i-GP) project, hopes that this is only the first such meeting: "The evening was a great success and we've had some very positive feedback; the informal setting really helped to break down any barriers there might have been. We have established informal relationships with a number of investors at an early stage of our projects and the next steps are to keep them informed of progress and then, when the time is right, talk to them about concrete investment opportunities in the future. It's vital to make these connections and our world class scientists certainly enjoyed meeting top flight people from the commercial investment sector.

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216 words

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Plymouth Marine Laboratory is a NERC Collaborative Centre.
Registered Charity number 1091222.

PML is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, company number 4178503.

Note to Editors

For further information please contact: Bob Huggins, Technical Director of the i-GP project, on 01752 633458 / info@i-gp.org.

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Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)

www.pml.ac.uk

PML is an independent, impartial provider of scientific research, contract services and advice for the marine environment, with a focus on understanding how marine ecosystems function and reducing uncertainty about the complex processes and structures that sustain life in the seas and their role in the Earth system.

As a truly multidisciplinary marine research centres, PML delivers highly innovative research and solutions for national and international marine and coastal programmes. The research at PML is timely and highly relevant to UK and international societal needs in research, development, technological solutions and training.

i-GPeninsula

www.i-gp.org

The Integrated Green Peninsula (i-GP) project is a technology translator that aims to establish a knowledge transfer centre at PML, with associated networks, to enhance entrepreneurship and enterprise. The project works to optimise funding from business and other sources by maximising the transfer of intellectual property for commercial exploitation.

The project is supported by the Environment Agency, CASIX, South West Regional Development Agency, Business Link, Marine Southwest, BioApproaches SW, South West Innovation Relay Centre and the National Marine Aquarium.

South West Angel and Investor Network (SWAIN)

www.swain.org.uk

SWAIN connects private investors, or 'Business Angels', with companies looking for investment. SWAIN specialises in helping small and medium sized companies to find equity finance, and assists private investors in the South West to search for investment opportunities in businesses with growth potential. SWAIN operates throughout the South West region incorporating the counties of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, former-Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

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BioApproaches

www.bioapproaches.co.uk

Supports business and professional development for the South West Biotechnology Sector.

Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership (PMSP)

www.pmsp.org.uk

PML is a founding member of PMSP. The partnership consists of seven organisations; Plymouth Marine Laboratory, University of Plymouth, Marine Biological Association of the UK, National Marine Aquarium, Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, Diving Diseases Research Centre and the Flag Officer Sea Training: Hydrographic, Meteorological & Oceanographic Training Group.

The partners work closely, and often collectively, to deliver world class marine research, education, conservation and technological innovations. Developing a strategic collaboration allows us to harness the full potential of enormous expertise in the region and puts PMSP in a unique position within the UK to deliver integrated marine research, education, conservation and technology programmes. This has created the largest student and advanced training centre in marine science and technology in the UK, as well as establishing the right climate for world class research and development projects, with the associated knowledge transfer and commercial exploitation.

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