



**South West Science  
and Industry Council**

## **PRESS RELEASE SOUTH WEST SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

**7 August 2009**

**Further information:**

**Emma Hall  
Science and Industry Coordinator  
Tel: 0117 9330369**

**E-mail: [emma.hall@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:emma.hall@southwestrda.org.uk)**

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### **PUBLIC FUNDING FOR BRIGHT IDEAS**

Companies from across South West England will find out how to access more than £1 billion of support to improve their businesses at an event in Bristol next month.

The Innovation Forum, organised by the South West Science and Industry Council in partnership with Enterprise Europe Network and Science City Bristol, highlights the different ways businesses can access funding to help them turn innovative ideas into commercial success.

The Government has committed to invest £1 billion over three years to boost business innovation and technology development. Funding is available through the Technology Strategy Board, Grant for Research and Development, and Framework Programme 7, all of which will be represented at the event.

Delegates will receive step by step advice on how to access the support that is available, as well as hearing inspirational success stories from South West companies that have used public funding to develop innovative products.

One such company is Auriga Energy Ltd, who are developing novel control system and power management technology for fuel cells to bring zero-carbon emission products to the emerging market. The company operates from the University of Bristol's business acceleration centre, SETsquared, and received a Grant for R&D from the South West RDA in August 2008.

Robin Gallimore, Chair of the South West Science and Industry Council, said:

“Innovation Forums are one of the ways we are trying to help companies survive the economic crisis and enable them to thrive in better times. The funding on offer allows businesses to research and develop new technologies and processes which will increase productivity and profit.

In these challenging times, innovation continues to be essential for the region's economy and will be a key element of our path to recovery.”

The free event will take place at the University of Bristol on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

To find out more and to register to attend, please visit the [Enterprise Europe South West website](#).

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**Notes to editors**

1. The SWSIC is made up of science, business and academic leaders. Funded by the South West Regional Development Agency, its aim is to ensure that the incredible talent within the scientific, technical and commercial sectors of the South West is brought together to raise the economic success of the region. For further information about the SWSIC, please visit [www.sciencesouthwest.org.uk](http://www.sciencesouthwest.org.uk).

2. The South West Regional Development Agency leads the development of a sustainable economy, investing to unlock the region's business potential. It is helping companies respond to the economic crisis and charts a course for recovery. The RDA is developing or expanding initiatives which include: establishing a Business Loan Fund; coordinating the response to large companies in difficulty; preparing for economic recovery. More information can be found at [www.southwestrda.org.uk](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk).

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