

## **SEEDA: AGENCY REPORT, 28 OCTOBER 2009**

### **GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS**

#### **Global Markets programme**

1. SEEDA has secured six inward investment successes since the last report, which will create 33 new jobs in the region over the next three years.

#### **Research and Development Programme**

##### **National Aerospace Technology Strategy**

###### *Next Generation Composite Wing*

2. SEEDA are investing £2.6m in this national collaborative R&D programme aimed at developing and maturing technologies to increase the level of composite material in future commercial aircraft wings. Airbus UK hosted the 8th Quarterly Review meeting on 14 October at their wing assembly plant in Broughton (North Wales) in order to demonstrate to all partners (industry and public) how the processes and technologies being developed across the programme are starting to feed into / influence their current production activities. The four south east partners (QinetiQ, GKN, GE Aerostructures and Eaton) continue to provide key support to the programme particularly in relation to systems integration, tooling, fuel valve technology and ice protection.

#### **Innovation and Creativity programme**

##### **South East Business Innovation and Growth Teams**

###### *Appointment of one new Team Leader*

3. [REDACTED] has been appointed as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] brings 25 years of business management, marketing, sales and international consulting expertise to help companies across many sectors create more business value.

###### *Two New Teams Launch*

4. The Oxfordshire and Kent and Medway Innovation and Growth Team have now launched. The Oxfordshire team will work with a community of 1000 high growth companies and intensively work with 270 companies over the next 3 years and aim to raise £36m in investment funding for the companies. The Kent and Medway Team will be working with 250 companies intensively and will seek to raise £30.6m in investment.

###### *Official launch of Solent Innovation and Growth Team at Collaborate 2 Innovate event (C2I)*

5. SEEDA's Chief Executive Pam Alexander attended this event (over 300 delegates from the region's technology sector and fast growth businesses were present) held at Southampton's City Cruise Terminal, to learn how collaboration has provided a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. C2I 2009 also saw the launch of the Solent Innovation and Growth Team which will work closely with businesses to help them face challenges and exploit opportunities. It will

reach out to over 1000 businesses in Urban South Hampshire providing in depth support to 250 companies per year to help them create new products and services.

#### *Promoting the RDA role on Innovation at Innovate '09*

6. SEEDA led the RDA representation at the Technology Strategy Board's Innovate conference on the 13 October. Over 1,300 delegates attended the day's events and exhibition, which included a joint RDA stand. Pam Alexander spoke on behalf of the RDAs, on a programme that included Lord Mandelson and Lord Sugar. In her speech, Pam highlighted the £1bn the RDAs are investing in innovation over the three years to March 2011 and pointed to three examples of successful inter regional working: the Printable Electronics Technology Centre; the space sector; and the low carbon vehicle innovation platform. She cited the pivotal alignment of RDA and Technology Strategy Board priorities as evidence of progress and outlined the RDA actions in support of industrial activism and New Industry, New Jobs.
7. The RDA representation at the Innovate conference builds on Pam's presentation to Technology Strategy Board Governing Board in July, where she emphasised the need to further develop RDA-Technology Strategy Board collaboration in support of the New Industry, New Jobs framework.

#### **British Science Festival 2009**

8. The British Science Association brought its Annual Science Festival to the University of Surrey and surrounding areas in September 2009. The festival, supported by SEEDA, the University of Surrey, Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council, attracted thousands of visitors to over 250 events - one of the largest programmes in history. Almost 50% of the events held were locally proposed, showcasing scientific innovation from the South East.
9. A number of local companies responded to SEEDA's call for them to engage with the Science Festival. Several took part in the "Science About Town" exhibition over the weekend of the 5th and 6th September in Guildford Town Centre, where they demonstrated the science underpinning their successful businesses. SEHTA, SEEDA's Sector Consortium for Healthcare Technologies also hosted two Telecare events that enabled companies to showcase their developments in assistive technologies and also allowed the public to debate and learn more about how technology will change the way care is delivered in the 21st century.

#### **Manufacturing Advisory Service**

10. The Manufacturing Advisory Service in the South East continues to over-perform in all areas of its business plan. The programme now has two funding enhancements from BIS via the Strategic Investment Fund. These are in the areas of Low Carbon and Advanced Manufacturing, and will give the South East MAS around £540k of extra funding in the period until 31st March 2011.

#### **Design**

11. In September SEEDA agreed to extend the current Designing Demand Generate programme to satisfy demand from SMEs who want to join the programme in the Autumn. The additional funding will be used to fund a further

four workshops targeting 80 companies from which 15 SMEs will be recruited to go on to the full programme.

## **SMART GROWTH**

### **Enterprise**

#### *Business Strategy Simplification Programme contribution*

12. SEEDA recently led and managed a series of sub-regional workshops (Making the Transition) for local authorities to support the alignment of their business support offer with the new Solutions for Business portfolio. These workshops build on guidance written and issued in the summer. SEEDA also took the opportunity to present an outline regional Start Up framework which will lead to improved coordination of start up support (regional and local) in the South East.

#### *South East Business Link Service*

13. Initial feedback following collation of Quarter 2 performance shows that the providers have met and exceed the key performance indicators for the service. Demand continues to remain high, with the service working closer than ever with Banks (through the Financial Intermediary Service) and JobCentre Plus following the introduction of the Department Work and Pensions/ JobCentre Plus 6 Month offer.
14. Since integration of the Business Link and skills brokerage service in April, some £1.7million has been levered through businesses themselves paying for staff to receive training to meet identified needs.
15. Business Link in the South East was awarded PROWESS Women's Flagship status in September. This is a culmination of the activities SEEDA and the BLPs have put in place to support and promote women's enterprise in the South East.

#### *Business Link Transition*

16. Since the SEEDA Board meeting on 23 July, the SEEDA transition team has been working closely with the Serco Transition team. There is a clear plan of activity spanning key areas of work. As we approach the end of October the due diligence gathering and review is almost complete. From November we move into a full transition and managing the contract closure activities. Contract negotiations with Serco are underway and progressing well. This area remains on target to conclude in November.
17. Partnership and stakeholder engagement is progressing well. SEEDA and Serco have developed an agreed stakeholder strategy and, following the BLP all staff briefings on 15 September, Serco are now actively meeting with all key partners and stakeholders in a coordinated way – this commenced with South East Business Support Advisory Board in September.

#### *Women's Business Service*

18. The SEEDA funded Women's Business Service pilot is fully operational with both the physical centre in Chatham and the regional network fully staffed. The service is working closely with the Enterprise Gateway Service to ensure seamless referrals and offer for clients. Both services are planning and coordinating a series of events and activities to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship week in November.

#### *Women's Enterprise Task Force*

19. The Women's Enterprise Task Force will come to an end this November and will mark the launch of its final report with a view to also making some key announcements regarding its achievements and continued advocacy. This

celebratory event will take place on Women's Enterprise day 18 November in a high profile event in London.

#### *Broadband and Information and Communication Technologies*

20. SEEDA has brought together private developers and telecommunication companies via the Ashford broadband project and work with BT and local authorities has resulted in BT announcing investment in fibre technology to replace copper telephone lines in Basingstoke, Milton Keynes and Dartford. The Digital Britain report has emphasised to partners the work needed to pass on the lessons learnt from the Ashford project to other regeneration areas, to focus the BT investment in urban areas and to support rural partners.

#### **Leadership and Management**

21. The SEEDA funded Leadership for Global Competitiveness Project has produced a publication 'Leadership for Innovation' which contains a series of in depth case studies drawn from over 500 south east businesses who received support as part of the project. Each case considers the impact of the support on the business and is accompanied by a commentary from the Leadership Specialist Advisers and also an academic commentary. This approach draws together all elements of the Leadership for Global Competitiveness project, business advisers, providers of Leadership and Management development and Academics. The publication will provide a valuable legacy to the project which concluded this year, and is already proving a significant resource for use by the business support community both in the south east and nationally.

#### **Tourism**

22. A busy period for the SEEDA funded Tourism South East. A record number of members attended the Tourism Southeast Council and conference (September 17 at the Sofitel, Gatwick) to hear about the policy realignment of VisitBritain and the newly formed VisitEngland. There were also presentations from some of the region's most successful businesses.
23. Maximising the impact of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games is an increasingly important part of Tourism South East's role. This month, they have started to look beyond 2012, with Tourism South East assisting Portsmouth and Milton Keynes in their bid to be venues for the 2018 Football World Cup.

#### *Making the Most of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games*

24. The focus of business support for 2012 is CompeteFor - the pre-qualification questionnaire system supported by the business network and supplier support, delivered by Business Link and the national Buying Engagement Team to release contracts from the tier contractors outsourced to BIP solutions. The CompeteFor programme is a partnership with all the Regional Development Agencies, Devolved Authorisations, The Olympic Delivery Authority and The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.
25. Overall 1,900 companies in the south East have been short listed for contracts representing over 4000 opportunities, 37 contracts have been awarded through CompeteFor. Some of the companies have multiple contracts that do not register on CompeteFor and there are different ways of winning contracts through the supply chain, resulting in the South East winning more than 170 contracts.

## **Learning and Skills**

### **Continuing Employment Support Service**

26. Over the past six months SEEDA's 3.5 FTE CESS brokers have provided brokered support to 113 companies and nearly 6,000 individuals facing redundancy; 13.6% above target. In the light of the intensive workload, five additional brokers, employed by Jobcentre plus, have been recruited from business and private industry to undertake this service for SEEDA. In addition, two new partners have joined forces with the regional recovery partnership. These are the Financial Services Authority, providing financial advice; and the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to help employers manage the consultation process.

### **Impact and outcomes for the 40 – 70 older workforce programme**

27. As part of mainstreaming this SEEDA driven initiative, key stakeholders from Government met with providers and agencies to evaluate and share findings from the work done in the South East. The findings set out a client-driven, tailored support offer. The full evaluation report is expected shortly.

### **Employment and Skills Strategy and Delivery**

28. SEEDA has continued to lead the plan to transfer to the RDAs the role of developing a regional skills strategy as an integrated part of the new Single Regional Strategies. Good progress has been made on the transition arrangements. A key milestone has been reached with Ministers confirming their decision on the change in roles, and setting out the specifics they expect to see, in particular:

- That the RDAs will lead in developing an annual skills investment plan, which will shape BIS' own investment decisions;
- That the RDAs and Leaders Boards will jointly work to ensure that any sub-regional skills strategies are consistent with the regional strategy;

29. In parallel, SEEDA has led work to develop stronger relationships with the Sector Skills Councils as a precursor to RDAs and SSCs working together to define the key sector skills needs.

30. As part of developing the RDA's relationship with government, SEEDA's chair and chair designate met with [REDACTED] on integrating employment and skills issues and action to target youth unemployment out of the recession.

### **Skills Summit and Skills expertise in support of the new Economic Development and Skills Board**

31. On September 16 the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Regional Employment and Skills summit took place in Slough and was attended by 80 people, many representing businesses. Hosted by the Regional Minister Jonathan Shaw, this event included practical feedback from a number of businesses on how they are approaching skills development, and included good practice on how employment and skills support is helping businesses respond to the recession.

32. SEEDA Board Member Alex Pratt is writing to members of the former Regional Skills and Productivity Alliance thanking them for their significant contribution to the skills agenda and asking that they contribute in future via Task and Finish groups in support of the new Economic Development and Skills Board.

## **SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY**

### **Sustainable Communities Programme**

#### **Corporate Cabinet**

33. Preparations have been completed for the launch of a high profile Dragons' Den style competition at Windsor Castle on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Between October and Christmas nine corporate companies will collaborate with the Third Sector to provide mentoring to groups of young people preparing for the December date. This 'Reaching for Gold' competition, launched by the Corporate Cabinet, has received over 60 applications across the South East and challenges teams of 14–19 year olds to put forward innovative projects for international collaboration. Supported by BT, CISCO, Honda UK, Huawei Technologies, Intel Corporation, Legal and General, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sony, and Toshiba Information Systems, the project is being delivered through Voluntary and Community Sector partners AbilityNet, The Prince's Trust and Groundwork.

#### **Third Sector intelligence**

34. RAISE launched the findings of the SEEDA funded Hidden Asset survey, illustrating the economic and social value of the third sector in the South East, at its recent AGM in October. The survey identified that:
- The total economic value of the third sector is £4,964million, 3% of the region's GVA
  - The sector is made up of 41,450 organisations
  - 303,200 employees (97,690 full time equivalents), 7% of region's workforce in education, health, welfare and social sectors
  - There are 657,870 volunteers in the South East
35. RAISE has and will continue to use this information to raise awareness of regional policy makers to the scale, diversity and value of the third sector.

#### **Making the Most of 2012**

36. Eight agreements identifying preferred venues in the South East for pre-training camps have been signed with Olympic and Paralympic sports teams following SEEDA's work at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing last year. Countries include Barbados, Belarus, Colombia, Finland, Papua New Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria and Ukraine. The SEEDA target is 10 Pre-Games Training camps, estimated to bring in an additional £250,000 to the regional economy. However, the economic benefits are much greater. With smaller countries there is the opportunity to develop tourism and University links along the lines set out in New Industry New Jobs. SEEDA has also had useful initial discussions with the National Olympic Committee for China, and we are working on details for a fact funding tour in 2010. This has included preliminary discussion around inward investment, tourism, and cultural opportunities for the South East.

## Low Carbon Programme

### Low Carbon Economy

37. SEEDA is moving towards agreement with key regional and national partners to take forward the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan at regional level. The partnership will develop collaborative projects around seven major work strands:
- Delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies of the South East Plan and Regional Economic Strategy and development and delivery of new policies in the South East Regional Strategy
  - Business opportunities arising out of the transition to a green economy
  - Innovation to deliver the carbon dioxide reductions and renewable energy increases required by the Regional Strategy
  - Business support required to help business make the transition to a low carbon economy
  - Bringing the investment into the region required to retrofit buildings
  - Leading the way on emissions savings through procurement practices.
  - Co-ordinating work on skills between SEEDA, Business Link, Energy Savings Trust, the Learning and Skills Council, higher and further education institutions and Sector Skills Councils.
38. The objective is to use the strength of all the partners to focus work on the SE, so that by March 2010 tangible impact will have been made. For example, on **major retrofit**, where SEEDA is leading a bid to the European Investment Bank for £100m+ of funding for a major public sector retrofitting programme across the South East; and Carbon Trust is leading a programme of private sector retrofitting loans to take up new Carbon Trust funding by March 2010. The EIB has responded positively to SEEDA's approach on behalf of the SE, and a programme of work is in hand to develop the list of major retrofit options from which the detailed business case will be developed.

### European Regional Development Fund

39. The regional Programme Monitoring Committee has approved submission of two loan fund applications to Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills for approval. The South East Sustainable Loan Fund will enhance support available through the regional funding escalator for businesses which are addressing the green economy and supporting sustainable production and consumption. The SE Sustainable Equity Fund would see a £2m European Regional Development Fund investment matching private sector business angel support to SMEs in the same sectors at a more advanced stage of their growth.

### Rural Communities

40. Faringdon in Oxfordshire has won "Action for Market Towns" 2009 'best project' national prize. Action for Market Towns is a national membership organisation dedicated to promoting the vitality of small towns. The project benefited from the SEEDA Small Rural Town programme but was delivered through local partnerships identifying their own economic priorities and activities. An

ECOWEEK event was staged with 33 Ecoevents to help the community create a smaller and more sustainable footprint.

### **Rural Development Programme for England**

41. SEEDA has awarded a further £1.8m during October to support major land-based projects. This included two winter water storage reservoir projects, the development of a farm shop as a farm diversification project and a collaborative grain store project that will support more than 40 farmers. This brings the total committed funding up to £14m with many other major projects in development. This takes the region well towards utilising its total allocation of around £64m of Rural Development Programme for England funds by the end of 2013, given that £29m is already committed to 14 locally delivered Leader programmes.

### **POWER Inter-regional Programme**

42. POWER is a €5.8m inter-regional programme aimed at driving *Low Carbon Economies* partly funded through INTERREG IVC in seven European regions: Andalusia (Spain), Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Malopolska (Poland), Noord-Brabant (The Netherlands), South East England (England), Stockholm (Sweden), and Tallinn (Estonia). Four projects were approved under the first call for funding.

#### *TrIsCo – Transition Island Communities: Empowering Localities to Act*

43. TrIsCo will engage with a range of community types or 'islands', including real isolated islands, social housing estates, rural and urban areas and fuel poverty districts, across a partnership of six regions encompassing the UK (the Environment Centre), Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and Estonia. The aim is to embed sustainability (social, economic and environmental) into behaviour change drivers and overcome barriers to implementing low carbon communities.

### **GENERATION**

44. The GENERATION project, '*Green ENERgy AudiTing for a LOw CarboN Economy*', is a 24 month project. The project will deliver a simplified tool for conducting building energy audits in the project partners' regions. Project partners come from four regions; Andalusia in Spain, The Environment Centre in South-East England in the UK, Emilia-Romagna in Italy and Malopolska in Poland. The Simplified Energy Audit (SEA) tool will be a more cost-effective method of assessing the performance of a building, leaving comprehensive audits only for those cases where they are truly necessary.

### **WICO**

45. The Province of Ravenna (Emilia-Romagna, Italy), Diputacion Huelva (Andalusia, Spain), Marine South East (South East England, England) have identified small wind systems, as a technology capable of integration with other kinds of renewable energies, representing an interesting opportunity to pave the way toward sustainable development.

### **ITACA**

46. The Itaca project is based on wind and other renewable energies, as a foundation for a new sustainable urban mobility, with the lowest environment and climatic impact. Partners are the Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial, the Province of Rimini, the Municipality of Ferrara, Stichting Brabantse Milieufederatie, the Diputación Provincial De Huelva and the Lidingö Municipality.



## **PEOPLE Inter-regional Programme:**

### *PEOPLE 3-day International Conference and policy visits – 07 to 09/09/09*

47. PEOPLE is a €4m inter-regional programme aimed at exploring new forms of employment, improving well-being and cohesion in the frame of the demographic and societal changes. The programme is partly funded through INTERREC IVC and involved seven participating European Regions: Andalucia (Spain) leading the programme, South East England, Venezia (Italy), Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands), Malopolska (Poland), Stockholm (Sweden) and Timis (Romania).
48. SEEDA leads on the sub-theme E-Health and Independence. SEEDA hosted an international conference to allow the exchange of Best Practices between policy experts of the participating regions. The event was timed to coincide with British Science Festival week and the launch of the International Centre of Excellence in Telecare (ICE-T) sponsored by SEEDA.

## **ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Strategic Development Fund Programme**

#### **East Cowes**

49. Waitrose submitted their reserved matters application to the Isle of Wight Council in July 2009. It is anticipated this will be determined in October 2009.
50. Heads of Terms have been agreed with in respect of the medical centre. It envisaged that a planning application will be submitted to the Isle of Wight Council by November 2009.
51. Contractors, Clancy Docwra, hope to complete Phase 1 infrastructure works by the end of October 2009.

#### **Cowes Outer Harbour**

52. The planning application and the marine consents were submitted to the relevant authorities in July 2009. It is anticipated that all the consents will be granted by the end of the year.
53. An Official Journal of the European Union procurement process will commence for marina developers by early November 2009. It is anticipated the preferred developer will be appointed in early 2010.

#### **Woolston**

54. Commercial negotiations with both Crest Nicholson Regeneration (CNR) and Palmer Johnson continue to progress.
55. Following the completion of the remediation of the site at the end of July 2009, it is hoped the validation report will be issued by the end of October 2009.

#### **Daedalus**

56. The Project Team continues to progress with the drafting of two Supplementary Planning Documents. These will set out the planning policy for the site and form the basis on which future planning applications are determined.

### **West Medina Mills and Stag Lane**

57. The Horsebridge Hill junction has been completed and is operational. It is hoped the reconstruction of Stag Lane will commence in late 2009.
58. Vestas has been granted planning consent by Isle of Wight Council following the submission of the reserved matters application in respect of the proposed global Research & Development facility for wind turbines on our West Medina Mills site on the Isle of Wight.
59. Vestas have commenced a pre-construction phase of works on-site involving the removal of obstructions from below the site. This is due to be completed by end of November 2009.
60. Heads of Terms have been agreed with Vestas and work is ongoing to complete the Development Agreement by the end of November 2009.

### **Shoreham Harbour**

61. SEEDA has led and influenced the direction of the project over the last three years, working closely with Local Authority partners, Government Office for the South East, Shoreham Port and other Government Agencies including the Environment and Highways Agency. SEEDA has helped to secure significant funding to deliver the project with a view to creating a planning framework in the form of a Joint Area Action Plan by spring 2012. The Plan will help to deliver sustainable economic growth in a series of new urban quarters, suitable for expanding businesses, new job creation and investment.
62. Shoreham Harbour has now been awarded full Growth Point status following the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all parties which addresses the flood and coastal risk issues. Funding of £2.5m between 2009 and 2011 has been awarded. In addition £5m has been allocated under the Community Infrastructure Fund (the only one in the South East) to facilitate the first physical works to deliver a rapid transit system for the project.

## **STRATEGIC INFLUENCE**

### **Living RES Process Programme**

#### **Area Teams**

##### **Sussex**

##### *Education Led Regeneration along West Sussex Coastal Strip*

63. SEEDA have invested £2m in a project to upgrade and redevelop the University of Chichester's Bognor Regis campus. SEEDA's investment will contribute to a £30 million project that has leveraged in a £6m contribution from Higher Education Funding Council for England. The project will enhance the University's business engagement activities, develop stronger business collaborations and provide supported facilities for business start ups. There is considerable political, public and private sector support for the project which is demonstrated by real and in-kind contributions

### *West Sussex*

64. The area team is working closely with West Sussex County Council to consider a new model for the sub-regional partnership. This model will recognize the West Sussex Economic Skills and Enterprise Board as the sub regional partnership and will enable SEEDA funding to be directed towards the business led Boards of the Gatwick Diamond and the Coastal West Sussex Partnership

### *Gatwick Diamond*

65. The Gatwick Diamond has set itself the target of being a world leading high growth airport region by 2016 and set out a strategy to achieve this in 2008 in the Gatwick Diamond Future Plan. The new Business Plan sets out the actions required to deliver it. Higher education standards and skills levels are seen as essential to attract employer's especially in high value added, innovative businesses. Key areas for consideration include: a full university campus, a host of transport projects and a superfast broadband infrastructure within an economic framework attractive to high growth businesses are just some of the aims of the Gatwick Diamond Business plan
66. The Gatwick Diamond website has recently been revamped as part of the Gatwick Diamond Initiative's marketing strategy. It can be found at [www.gatwickdiamond.co.uk](http://www.gatwickdiamond.co.uk). The site would welcome feedback from its visitors.

### *Innovation and Growth Teams*

67. The Two Innovation and Growth teams, West Sussex and East Surrey, and Brighton and Hove and East Sussex are continue to develop and build their propositions and have recently submitted their final business plans
68. The Gatwick Diamond and West Sussex Innovation and GrowthTeam have now formed a new company (GDWSIGT Ltd) and are planning a launch event on 30 November.

## **Kent & Medway Area Team**

### *North Kent Multi-Area Agreement*

69. The signing ceremony for the North Kent Multi-Area Agreement took place on 9<sup>th</sup> September attended by John Denham, Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government. SEEDA's Chair Jim Brathwaite also attended and took part in a tour of some of the new developments around The Nucleus at The Bridge, Dartford. Work to take forward the MAA agreement is now continuing and being led by the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership – one of the SEEDA supported sub regional partnerships in the region.

### *Thames Gateway*

70. During the summer the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) announced that the Department of Communities and Local Government's (CLG) Thames Gateway budget had been over profiled for the remainder of this spending period and partners were asked to review priorities. It was revealed that CLG's commitment of £80m towards taking forward initiatives by the Greater South East RDAs in the Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan had not been 'ring fenced' and had to compete with all other Thames Gateway projects for the remaining £70m available to March 2011.
71. SEEDA worked with the other RDAs and with local partners in North Kent and gained agreement for five 'top' priority projects in Thames Gateway Kent, securing over half of the funds available. These included SusCon – the sustainable construction academy which has a £3m allocation from HCA and SEEDA-led schemes in Dartford Northern Gateway (£8.25m allocation) and at Northfleet embankment (£3.65m allocation).

## **Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Area Team**

### *Milton Keynes South Midlands*

72. With a reference target of 225,000 houses and 192,000 jobs from 2001-2021 mksm is the largest growth area in the UK. SEEDA has led the development of a cross mksm Economic Development Implementation plan (EDIP), to complement local economic activities, supported by *emda* and EEDA and a wider mksm Economic Development Group (EDG).
73. The final EDIP consists of a linked thematic and sectoral approach, together forming a vision for mksm to be a 'Low Carbon Live/Work Area', with collective actions to exploit opportunities and overcome barriers. The EDIP was presented to the local authority Leaders meeting in October by Oona Muirhead. The Leaders agreed a number of follow-on actions including developing a better inward investment offer across mksm and working together on next generation Broadband.

### *National Enterprise Academy*

74. In July 2009, 28 students were the first NVQ Level 2 graduates of the National Enterprise Academy (NEA) in Buckinghamshire, having completed a SEEDA funded Pathfinder pilot programme - to enable young people to be entrepreneurial. 16 of the Pathfinder students have now started their own business or been offered work. The remaining 12 are continuing at the NEA to achieve a NVQ Level 3. As a result of the Pathfinder, the NEA has secured almost £9m investment from the LSC to continue running the programme as a National Skills Academy for Enterprise and to develop a national NEA HQ in Buckinghamshire - the legacy for the initial funding from SEEDA. The SEEDA grant has also helped the NEA secure funding from other RDAs - the North West are planning to invest in a regional hub for Manchester.

### *Progress on Initiatives in Milton Keynes*

75. During the last two months, Milton Keynes Council, the Sub Regional Partnership and wider partners have had success as part of their economic vision:
- The Government announced Milton Keynes to be part of Joined-Cities Plan to have electric and hybrid fuelled vehicles charging points
  - Higher Education Funding Council for England has announced that MK is one of only 6 submissions (out of 23) to be shortlisted as part of the University Challenge fund. This is a big win for MK University who have not previously secured any HEFCE funding.
  - MK has also been working on a World Cup 2018 host city submission.
  - BT have announced that they will trial broadband "Fibre To The Premises" in the Bradwell Abbey area of MK, serving 20,000 homes.

## **Surrey and Berkshire Area Team**

### *Economic Downturn*

76. On 9 September SEEDA held a Board Dinner with partners and key stakeholders from the public and private sector in Surrey. Over 40 attended including local councils, the University of Surrey, Surrey Economic Partnership and key businesses such as BAA Heathrow, McLaren Electronics, GlaxoSmithKline and Philips Applied Technologies.
77. A number of key priorities emerged from the discussion including; an overhaul of the image of Surrey as a key economic driver, installation of High Speed

Broadband, Business Critical infrastructure to Heathrow and Surrey Research Park and nurturing and keeping young entrepreneurs.

#### *Capacity Building / Sub Regional Partnerships*

78. In order to support develop capacity, SEEDA has taken on interim management of the Berkshire Economic Strategy Board's Global Competitiveness Group. SEEDA is now working with key partners to formulate a realistic and focused action plan focusing on continued inward investment success, Berkshire's innovation and R&D strengths and support for emerging sectors.

#### *Shaping Delivery / Programmes*

79. September has seen significant developments with regard to the closure of Thames Valley University's higher education facility in Slough in addition to the announcement to withdraw delivery of further education provision in Reading. This is creating a major concern in the Thames Valley and SEEDA has been involved in a number of meetings with the respective Councils, the Learning and Skills Council, and the Higher Education Funding Council.
80. SEEDA has supported local partners to review options for improving partnerships between Slough based schools and business, in line with the Borough Council's ambition of raising aspirations and achievement of its school children. A research paper was drafted giving an overview of existing successful relationships between schools and businesses, work undertaken by local brokerage organisations and best practice from other areas of the UK. The report highlighted the need to give businesses a menu of engagement options from one-off team building projects to ongoing relationships e.g. IT firms linking with School Clusters focused on IT excellence.
81. SEEDA, as a member of the West Berkshire Enterprise and Skills Group, supported the assessment process for a £50k allocation of LABGI funds. The funds were made available to support the group's priorities with particular emphasis on economic recovery. Fifteen applications were assessed and six projects were allocated funds including executive job advice, business support for rural business, training for young people who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) and a sustainable woodland management project that will create jobs and training opportunities.

### **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Contribution to Agency Report**

#### *Low Carbon Economic Areas*

82. SEEDA is supporting partners in South Hampshire to develop proposals for the sub-region to be designated a 'Low Carbon Economic Area' by Government. South Hampshire is already home to a number of environmental technology, or 'cleantech' firms and related world class research at the University of Southampton.
83. The bid focuses on the themes of built environment and renewable energy for the marine sector and Port. South Hampshire also seek to forge a strategic alliance with the Isle of Wight on wave and tidal renewable energy, utilising the Solent.

#### *Linde Material Handling*

84. Following Linde Material Handling's announcement in June 2009 that they will be closing their manufacturing plant in Basingstoke making 350 staff redundant, SEEDA in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and a range of other stakeholders held an Open Day on October 15 for those staff facing redundancy. The Open Day marked the launch of a support package providing on-site support, information, advice and training to help employees plan for the future.

### *Solent Waterfront Strategy Progress Update*

85. SEEDA has responded to the shortage of skilled aluminium welders required to build commercial work boats and high end yachts. SEEDA, working with Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council has developed a pilot aluminium welding course delivered by Southampton City College. The course is the first of its kind in the Solent region and will provide vital new skills and training to meet demand for specialist skills in the boat building industry. Those on the course include 24 former Vestas' employees who are re-training in aluminium welding.