

Clearer Vision at Redraven


Cooperation between the EpiCentre at the Magee campus and Redraven, the Belfast-based engineering firm founded in 2004 by former mountain bike champion Jonathan Knight, has resulted in the invention, design and production of a self-cleaning goggle system – Speedview – which will solve the problem of keeping riders’ goggles clean during off-road cycling and racing.

The prototype built at Magee campus, has already undergone rigorous testing and Redraven is currently in talks with potential distributors, both inside and outside the UK, to secure orders.

Jonathan said: “Finding the best electronics partner is becoming more and more difficult, especially for the smaller companies. Working with EpiCentre allowed us to call on the expertise of its technology and staff which has proved very important in bringing Speedview to fruition. Without their help and support we would not be in such a strong position to release such an innovative product. We believe Speedview has global appeal in the action sports industry.”

Redraven is aiming to source at least 65% of the manufacture of Speedview locally and, with further support from Invest NI, could create at least six new jobs.



 For further information contact **Malachy McElholm, EpiCentre,** telephone (028) 7137 5189 or email m.mcelholm@ulster.ac.uk

Collaborate, Innovate, Improve

Eight companies located in the Omagh District Council area have recently benefited from ground breaking research and expertise from the University of Ulster through a Council funded initiative – the Innovation Promoters Programme (IPP).

Through the IPP, manufacturing and service-based businesses were matched with University experts who provided solutions to advance their innovative projects. Typical initiatives included feasibility studies, design and prototyping of new products and services and environmental testing. Participants included William & Henry Alexander Civil Engineering; Soup Stone Productions; Provita Eurotech; Techno Tyrone; Window Crafters; Classic Marble; and Carmac Waste Handling Systems (WHS).

Councillor Martin McColgan, Council Chairman, said: “Innovation is critical to maintaining business competitiveness. Omagh District Council is delighted to work in partnership with the University of Ulster to ensure that companies in this area have access to leading research, expertise and technologies to gain competitive advantage.”



Artwork undertaken for Carmac Waste Handling Systems (WHS) under the Innovation Promoters Programme (IPP)

 For further details on accessing the University of Ulster’s expertise, contact the **Business Liaison Office,** telephone (028) 9036 8019, email enquiry@ulster.ac.uk, or visit www.ulster.ac.uk/oi

Turning ‘Brain Drain’ into ‘Brain Gain’

Greenshoots – a Newry-based joint initiative of the University of Ulster and the Southern Regional College recently launched a programme aimed at persuading expatriate graduates to return home and set up knowledge-based businesses.

IQ360 Cross-Border Brain Gain also seeks to encourage locally-based would-be entrepreneurs in knowledge-based sectors who commute daily to Belfast or Dublin, to set up businesses in the expanding cross-border ‘corridor’.

The programme is aimed mainly at the engineering, software, ICT, creative and digital media, as well as renewable energy and assistive living sectors. It was kick-started by an intensive cross-border marketing and advertising campaign, including a powerful internet site – www.IQ360.eu – which showcases the help available online and face-to-face in Newry and Dundalk.

Kieran Fegan, Greenshoots centre manager, explained: “The project will reach out and deliver a very clear message to graduates living both inside and outside the east cross-border region. Academic institutes on each side of the border want to actively support innovative knowledge-based ideas and help promoters turn those ideas into thriving businesses – our aim is to turn what was previously brain drain into regional brain gain.”

 For further information contact **Kieran Fegan,** telephone (028) 3026 5402, email info@greenshoots-newry.com or visit greenshoots-newry.com



Kieran Fegan, centre manager, Greenshoots (back left); Anthony Kieran, director, Media Lightbox Ltd (front) and Sean MacEntee, incubation centre manager, Dundalk Institute of Technology, at the launch