

Spring Newsletter

Welcome to Orion Innovations' Spring 2009 Newsletter. This last six months has seen us travelling the world: mostly as a result of an interesting international project we have been conducting for the Newfoundland and Labrador Research and Development Council, but also associated with a number of emerging projects with our European Partners in Greenovate!, and also our Charity Challenge bike ride across Vietnam and Cambodia. We are continuing to work on a number of challenging assignments relating to the development of innovation programmes into 2009 and are looking forward to growing the business and recruiting in new staff in the coming months.



St John's, Newfoundland

Strategy Development for New Innovation Agency in Canada

The easterly province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada has historically been economically challenged, with a dependence on mature and/or declining industries such as forestry and fisheries. The recent discovery of offshore oil and gas has provided a one-off opportunity to invest to build the foundations for sustained prosperity. The Newfoundland and Labrador Research and Development Council (NLRDC) has recently been established to improve the quantity, quality and breadth of research, development and innovation within the province in support of economic development.

Orion Innovations was commissioned to support the NLRDC in developing its initial strategy and defining its roles in relation to other organisations within the evolving provincial innovation system. We developed an evidence base on which to establish the NLRDC strategy through two programmes of work:

1. A review and analysis of other European countries and Canadian provinces that are considered to be relevant, and best-in-class, in terms of growth and delivery of R&D and innovation support
2. A strategic assessment of current R&D activities and future potential within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Having successfully completed the strategy, we are hosting a trip by the client team to Europe in February to meet with a number of benchmark organisations in the UK, Norway and Finland and to discuss key programmes and interventions of specific interest in more detail.

Charity Bike Ride – We Made It!

In November, Noel, Alison and Juliet successfully completed a 500km Charity Challenge bike ride from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to all those who so generously supported our appeals.

All three of us raised over £3,000 each in sponsorship for our chosen charities: Diabetes UK, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Cambodia's Children.

The trip was a richly rewarding experience in which the beauty of the coconut plantations and rice fields, the magnificence of the Khmer temples and the warmth of the local people amply compensated for tired limbs and scabby knees!



Noel, Alison and Juliet at Angkor Wat

£1m Sustainable Refurbishment Project Secured for the Energy Technology Centre (ETC)

The Energy Technology Centre (ETC) in East Kilbride is to become a key node in the INTERREG IVB NORTH WEST EUROPE – REGAIN Project (Reducing the Greenhouse Effect through Alternative Industrial Estates management in North West Europe). This project seeks to encourage the use of innovative products, services and methodologies in the field of “energy and environment-friendly efficient tertiary and mixed-used buildings” among Business Park Managers and the business community at large. In mid January the ETC hosted a kick off meeting with project partners from Belgium, France, Italy, and Wales, and supported by Scottish Enterprise (see photo).

The project is at the heart of sustainable energy development for the built environment in Europe, opening up major opportunities to stimulate development, demonstration and supply of sustainable products and systems such as low energy construction products, lighting, heating, power systems.

The contract will be managed via a new company, Sustainable Energy Technology and Innovation Centre (SETIC) – a ‘not for profit’ collaboration formed from the three organisations currently supporting the ETC contract, including Orion Innovations.

The investment associated with the REGAIN project will deliver a sustainably refurbished building with an expanded range of facilities and services offered. The space available for technical development projects has been doubled, and new structural test facilities are being installed. In addition, serviced office space is now available to projects within the ETC, providing project teams with access to a comfortable working environment, internet connection, and meeting rooms.

The ETC of the future will offer technology developers the scope to develop, test, demonstrate and show case a range of technologies from power generation devices and power trains, through to building energy systems. Discretionary funding from Scottish Enterprise provides an added dimension of commercialisation support services tailored to the needs of the individual organization.

If you have a project or technology that you think would benefit from the services and facilities available at the ETC, then please contact Alison at alison.cavey@orioninnovations.co.uk.



Project Partners visit to the ETC in East Kilbride

Business Analyst Required

We are currently looking for a full-time, business analyst to be based in our London office. The job will involve challenging and varied consultancy projects, together with opportunities for participation in the development of our fast-moving and rapidly evolving business.

Suitable candidates will have a minimum of two years work experience in a commercial or innovation-driven environment, together with a good degree (preferably post-graduate) in a relevant subject. Candidates must demonstrate enthusiasm, flexibility and the capacity to work independently. Data analysis, problem solving and excellent written and oral communication skills are essential.

Salary will be based upon experience. To apply, please email your CV and a short note explaining why you would like to join us to the address below.

Who Are We?

Orion Innovations is a specialist business consultancy that provides strategic and operational support to organisations involved in innovation and technology commercialisation in the Cleantech sector. We work extensively with clients in both the public and private sector, and have specific expertise in the development and evaluation of policies, interventions and programmes in support of economic development and commercialisation. We work with clients to identify value creating opportunities, develop the strategic and operational plans for their exploitation, and ensure internal delivery capability is in place to realise them.

Please contact us if you would like further information. Noel can be reached on 07836 723940 and Alison on 07816 754614, or email below.