

granite times

Autumn
2011

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Granite PR Expo showcase launched

Granite PR is gearing up to launch its latest division which will showcase the very best of north-east business.

Granite PR Expo will become the fifth brand under the Granite banner, joining Granite PR, Granite Interactive, Granite Times and Granite Networks. The day-long October event will take place in Aberdeen and will feature trade stands, a networking café and a series of hourly seminars on a range of topics. It is hoped that Granite PR

Expo will become an annual fixture on the local calendar.

Commenting on the launch of Granite PR Expo, Granite PR founder and managing director Brett Jackson said: "This event will be a celebration of SMEs in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and is sure to appeal to a range of businesses, from those just starting out to those looking for inspiration and support to take them to the next level."

To find out more, turn to page 14.



Managing director and founder of Granite PR, Brett Jackson

Successful trip to Asia for Downhole

Ian Kirk, managing director of Downhole Products, based at Portlethen, has recently returned from a very successful Asian tour that included a visit to Saudi Arabia and the Asian Oil and Gas Show in Malaysia.

Ian said: "I was in Saudi Arabia to finalise a manufacturing agreement for some of our products. These will be manufactured under licence by a local Saudi company, ENPRO (Energy Projects Support Company) and supported by our Chinese partners. This is an ARAMCO-driven project that will include local content which is becoming

increasingly important in certain parts of the world."

He continued: "That was followed by a trip to the Asian Oil and Gas Show (Malaysia) where we sealed a \$1million plus order for our equipment."

Later this year, Ian will be at the opening of Downhole's new Chinese partner factory complex which is over 11,500 square metres in size. This is being set up in order increase capacity of new and current product lines for the Asia and Middle East regions. There are also plans to open a base in Perth, Australia which should be completed



Ian Kirk, left, with Furaih F. Al-Huraish (CEO, ENPRO) and Wang Bei Xing (Chinese manufacturing partner) after signing deal later this year.

For more information, visit www.downhole.org or call (01224) 784411.

ThinJack receives support for Angolan school project

ThinJack Ltd has received an enthusiastic response following its call to north-east businesses and a local school to lend their support to an ambitious school-building project in the Angolan capital, Luanda.

A meeting at the firm's Westhill headquarters gave the chance to share information on the project and gauge potential support from business and the community.

In 2010, ThinJack completed its first contract in Angola and, whilst working in the country, director Guy Bromby became aware of a ground-breaking

project to provide education to some of the nation's poorest children on the outskirts of the capital city, Luanda.

Local man, former teacher, translator and oil worker Kisuka Baltazar is gradually funding the improvement of the current school using contributions from his own salary and donations from oil and gas companies working in Angola. Current requirements involve sourcing and packing stationery.

To find out more or lend support to the school project, email Guy Bromby at gcb@thinjack.info or call ThinJack on (01224) 330645.



Guy Bromby

New events company seeks hidden gems

Local businesswoman June Ross has launched a new online company to help you find everything you might need to create the perfect event. June set up YourEventScotland.com after seeing a gap in the market for a website aimed at giving people easy and direct access to a variety of suppliers, services and venues at the click of a button.

Whether a striking venue, stylish transport, special effects or a fabulous entertainer, Y.E.S.com is looking for unique ideas to help match people from all around the globe with what they seek. Highland-born June has a strong sense of the best Scotland has to offer, and having spent many years living and working abroad, has experienced a wide variety of cultures and services.

June says: "Scotland's a treasure trove of hidden gems which aren't obvious even to those of us who live here and people are increasingly keen to find them. So if you know of a spectacular location or have discovered something outstanding which we are unaware of, please point them out to us!"

You can get in touch with June and her team via www.youeventscotland.com or email enquire@youeventscotland.com



June Ross

H1 Healthcare creates new home care division

As the number of people being cared for at home continues to rise, the health care sector is having to make dramatic changes and provision for the ever increasing demands. A north-east healthcare company is gearing up for the new government plan and preparing for the changing healthcare horizon.

Aberdeen-based H1 Healthcare has established a new division called Care at Home. Registered by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, H1 Healthcare Care at Home will provide care and support at home for a wide range of individuals, including the elderly and disabled.

The new division will be headed by Gwen Robinson, a highly experienced nurse and healthcare manager, who comes to Aberdeenshire from the central belt, where she was group operations director for Independent Living Services across Scotland.

Pam Easen, chief executive of H1 Healthcare, says: "Gwen is particularly knowledgeable in this area so she's the perfect addition to the team. This is a challenging new direction for the company and we are confident that Gwen is the best person for the job."

For further information on H1 Healthcare, call 0845 643 2610 or (0122 563100).



Pam Easen

Business support for SMEs on offer

Gray Business, set up in July 2010 by Ray Gray, offers support to SMEs in a variety of business areas, including company restructure, company sale and purchase, business planning, strategies, new business planning and sales.

Ray Gray draws on his own wide experience in commerce to aid his clients in taking their companies forward. With his guidance, his clients can spot potential avenues for new revenue, ways to improve and streamline their internal systems – for example, in administration and/or accounting, make new contacts through networking and produce more honed and focused business plans.

Ray has had a varied and international career, having worked across the UK, Europe and North America with various clients and enterprises, including The Disney Channel, Tartan TV and Scottish Enterprise. Latterly, he also established a Wireless Internet Service (WISP) in Murcia, Spain, a business which he sold in January 2010.

For more details on the services Gray Business can offer, call Ray on 07794 401298 or email businessgray@aol.com



Ray Gray

Business Plus Scotland offers added value

Helping businesses gain and retain their competitive edge has been the main focus of Business Plus Scotland since its inception in 1996. Headed by Anne Iravani, the company provides business development consultancy and market research services, working with both the public and private sector across a wide variety of industries including oil and gas, education, tourism and hospitality, IT and the arts.

As an associate of Granite PR, Anne has brought a wealth of business knowledge and experience, gained both internationally and locally, which has been invaluable to the company's growth and success. Business Plus Scotland organises the regular Granite Networks evenings and has considerable experience organising a range of different events, from cultural festivals, company meetings & social events to multilingual conferences requiring simultaneous consecutive interpretation and multilingual documentation.

To find out more, contact Anne Iravani on (01651) 891790 or email bpscotland@btopenworld.com



Anne Iravani