

News Release

November 18, 2008

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR GLASGOW JOBS EXPANSION

Finance Secretary John Swinney today welcomed the creation of 100 new jobs at Glasgow-based BiP Solutions.

On a visit to new premises at Pacific Quay's Digital Media Quarter, Mr Swinney explained that an £800,000 Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) grant from the Scottish Government would help the company expand and create vital new jobs.

BiP Solutions is a provider of electronic business information services relating to public procurement for the public and private sectors.

Mr Swinney said:

"Today's announcement is excellent news for Glasgow and the wider economy, particularly in the current climate.

"This RSA award underlines the Scottish Government's commitment to ensure Scotland is well placed for a faster and stronger recovery. By supporting job creation and helping to increase sustainable economic growth, RSA can be an important tool in our effort to help companies - and our economy as a whole - weather the global downturn.

"Having attended the recent launch of the Digital Media Quarter, I know that BiP Solutions will benefit from the excellent new facilities, which will provide a platform for the company to grow and endure.

"At the same time, this Government will push ahead with delivering our Scottish economic recovery plan to help more and more businesses not just survive, but grow and flourish in these difficult times."

BiP Solutions currently employs 160 staff in Shawfield near Rutherglen and is planning a £1 million programme of capital expenditure, which includes moving to the Medius Building at Pacific Quay's new Digital Media Quarter.

Ron Burges, CEO of BiP Solutions, said:

“We are delighted to have been granted an RSA grant from the Scottish Government. This investment is a tangible recognition of the success of BiP, the dedication and expertise of our staff and the quality of the leading edge services we provide. By making the grant available, the Scottish Government has placed its confidence in BiP’s future development, which will deliver more opportunities for local people to become part of our success.

“Our new HQ at Pacific Quay provides BiP with a platform of opportunity, offering not only a state of the art facility that reflects BiP’s ambition, but more importantly, the space to expand and deliver new and innovative services to a growing market, both nationally and internationally.

“Everyone at BiP feels invigorated by the prospects that await us as a company, and with the RSA grant, our new HQ and our ethos of growth through innovation and quality service delivery, we look forward with excitement to what the company can achieve over the coming years. These are exciting times for BiP – both its staff and customers.”

Liz Connolly, Regional Operations Director at Scottish Enterprise, said:

“Scottish Enterprise worked closely with BiP Solutions on all aspects of their RSA application and this announcement is very welcome news. It represents a significant investment for the company helping to create and safeguard jobs and support their business expansion plans.”

NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

RSA is the Scottish Government’s main national scheme of financial assistance to industry. It is aimed at encouraging investment and job creation in the Assisted Areas (AAs) of Scotland. It also encompasses support available to Small Medium-sized Enterprises in other areas (referred to as Tier 3). Payments of RSA are made in instalments, typically over several years, provided that job and project expenditure targets are met. The amounts quoted here and in the report represent the maximum grant potentially available if the project is satisfactorily completed, and not the amount actually paid to date. All job numbers are based on firms' forecast figures at the time a grant is offered and are subject to change, depending on future economic conditions and other factors affecting the business concerned.

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