

The Hethel LaunchPad Competition - Expression of Interest

How do I apply?

In the first instance we invite interested parties (companies or individuals) to register for the competition by submitting the information requested below. This should be sent to Hethel Engineering Centre by fax (01953) 859101, e-mail scoward@hethelcentre.com or post to Hethel Engineering Centre, Chapman Way, Hethel, Norwich NR14 8FB.

What are we looking for?

Engineering Entrepreneur Competition is looking for business and business concepts in engineering or manufacturing or technology based that can demonstrate a future strategy for growth and development based on innovation, rapid new product development or commercialisation of Intellectual Property.

What happens next?

Shortlisted entrants will have the opportunity to present their ideas to a formal review panel – this will include a review of a business / investment plan and other key areas of the business.

Information required:

Name of applicant
Position in company (if relevant)
Company (if relevant)
Postal address
Contact details – email, phone, mobile.
If your company is already trading please provide the name, date of formation, last 3 years' turnover, number of employees, and description of business type.
Business overview - no more than 1000 words. To include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of your products and services• Overview of your current strategy/business and product plans for the next 5 years
Examples of business achievements to date.
If successful, would you be willing to participate as a featured case study during your year of free tenure?

Important note

Hethel Engineering Centre takes no responsibility for the actions or business performance of any company associated with Launchpad, either the winner(s) or the partner and supporting companies. Nothing in this competition offers any guarantee of business success for any participant.

Hethel LaunchPad Competition

Creating the conditions for success...



Free Factory for a year

The Hethel LaunchPad Competition gives your start-up or early stage business the chance to win free incubation space at the prestigious Hethel Engineering Centre near Norwich, with the added benefit of a comprehensive business support package of advice and services from specialist providers.



The Hethel LaunchPad Competition is an initiative led by Hethel Engineering Centre in partnership with Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk District Council, and a number of other partners to support the growth and future prosperity of an innovative business or business concept in the region.

Hethel Engineering Centre (HEC) exists to serve the advanced engineering and hi-tech manufacturing sector within the region - to provide world class facilities for early stage business growth and new business start-ups. Additionally HEC will provide world class knowledge exchange, training service and an open forum for organisations seeking to achieve best practice in their business operations.

HEC has a vast array of tools at its disposal to support businesses, including engineering services providing CNC Toolroom lathes and mills, a 5-axis Vertical Machining Centre, Laser cutting, Rapid Prototyping Machines, a Wire Erosion Machine, Injection Moulding, a Co-ordinate Measurement Machine and CAD/CAM.



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Creating the conditions for success...

Recent winners:



Winner Active Technologies, led by two experienced ex-Lotus engineers, is a business providing engineering and design solutions to the automotive, motorsport and general manufacturing industry. Recent clients have included Lotus, JCB and Rolls-Royce, through to smaller companies and individuals needing expertise to develop new products.



Winner Syrinix is a spin-out company from the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Following almost ten years of research and consultancy in the field of water leak detection and location, Syrinix was created to exploit this expertise. Syrinix believes that it has the most sophisticated and most sensitive leak detection algorithms available, offering world-class signal processing through such products as TrunkMinder.

Winners **Sonar Link Ltd and Coatiseal**, both have grown from strength to strength. Sonar Link have secured EEDA funding and Coatiseal were runners up in the recent EEEgr Innovation Awards.



Hethel Engineering Centre is much more than a building - it recognises that to nurture and grow a high performance engineering and manufacturing business you need much more an exceptional quality of accommodation. Hethel Engineering Centre also offers ongoing advice, support and the services of a fertile network of advisors and supporters sympathetic to and passionate about engineering and manufacturing.

Removable coating systems for long term corrosion protection

Benefits

Hethel Engineering Centre has links to a wide range of supporters. Our goal is to provide the support and guidance to resident businesses that maximises growth, profitability and sustainability by doing and researching the things they never seem to have the time to get done by themselves!



A comprehensive range of support services are offered in-house - including access to HEC's Engineering Services and its range of leading-edge equipment. HEC, tenant companies can rent the workshop machinery for their own use to manufacture/develop and prototype components and processes. This effectively puts more than £0.5M of capital equipment at the disposal of a tenant business. (Note - there are charges for this service).

A wide range of training courses and high profile conferences takes place at the engineering centre of excellence - all tenant businesses benefit from exposure to all audiences if they so wish.

Resident companies also enjoy a 10% discount on the current published price for all facilities/equipment for hire (Conference Room, ICT Suite, Training rooms, Lap Tops, Projectors etc). Tenants also have use of the Coffee Forum providing beverages for themselves and their guests and an excellent working environment with patio area overlooking the entrance bridge and water feature. Public areas are WiFi-enabled to allow both tenants and visitors to access the Internet from the general reception area and the Coffee Forum.

The Engineering Centre is attracting increasing numbers of innovative companies; there is also a large throughput of engineers/personnel on training courses, offering tenants a huge opportunity to get exposure to new staff, suppliers and customers. The Centre has established links with universities such as Cambridge, Cranfield, Hertfordshire and the UEA. Resident business advisors provide advice and support. There is also the potential on the doorstep for move-on space for growing companies.