



Folkestone Harbour

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Overseas Investment

- Locate in Kent also focuses its efforts on attracting businesses from overseas to invest in the county. Another company to benefit from its assistance is US-based Solace Pharmaceuticals. With its American office in Boston, Solace Pharmaceuticals is a privately-owned organisation which researches and develops innovative pain relief treatments. The company approached Locate in Kent for assistance in finding suitable commercial property and subsequently moved four employees to The Denne Hill Business Centre, near Canterbury. The company expects to create seven further jobs in the county within three years.
- Lille-based Mediama, creator and manufacturer of indoor and outdoor billboard products, chose Tonbridge, Kent, as the location for its UK operations. Mediama was the first success from one of the Locate in Kent's French investment seminars, held in Lille in 2007. Mediama's Kent branch will provide a centre of operations for all product and service sales in the UK. The company works on both small and large-scale projects and has ambitious plans to grow its UK operations over the next three years.

- PARTEC, a German company which specialises in measuring devices for the life sciences industry, has opened an office in Kent, with the help of Locate in Kent, SEEDA and UK Trade & Investment Germany. The company based in Munster, Germany, signed the deal in June 2007 but is already open for business, providing technical, scientific and sales support for PARTEC Flow Cytometers from its new office in Canterbury. PARTEC's Flow Cytometry technology is being successfully used in many biotechnology sectors including human healthcare, microbiology, industrial applications, food quality control, agrosiences and aquaculture.

Financial Assistance

New criteria announced recently by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) for a business grant scheme to be delivered by SEEDA in the South East region, could benefit many Kent and Medway businesses looking for financial assistance to help fund expansion plans.

Key changes to the Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) grant scheme mean that small companies could be eligible for grants of up to £2.5m and medium-sized companies could qualify for up to £1.25m – rather than the previous limit of £100,000. ▶

