

PRESS RELEASE

Winner of free office competition announced! Local social enterprise HCMA is announced as winner and moves into Stevenage business centre!

In June 2011 budding entrepreneurs in Stevenage were given the opportunity to enter a competition and win six months free office space at the Business & Technology Centre (btc) in Stevenage, a prize worth more than £2,500.

Over 50 local businesses entered the competition, supported by Stevenage Borough Council, to win the prize which offered the winner six months free office space in the btc. In addition the prize also included free monthly business review meetings and access to in-house events, seminars and surgeries to help ensure their long term success.

[HCMA](#) was announced as the winner at our recent Beat the Competition event. Eileen Hutchinson and Elaine Connolly moved into the office last month and are so far delighted with new office.

Eileen says; “We were very pleased to move into the btc, especially as we viewed the centre before and considered it an ideal location for HCMA to locate. On top of the first-class facilities, I am looking forward to getting to know the other businesses in the building and eager to attend some of the events here in the near future”.



HCMA is a social enterprise specialising in training, including business, NLP, management, coaching, mentoring and HR training. In addition to this HCMA are also committed to promoting and developing volunteering and mentoring in the community and to promote healthy living within the community.

Ros Beattie, btc centre manager, said: *“Free office space in the current climate is a tremendous opportunity for businesses to take the next step on the path to future success and we are pleased to welcome Elaine and her team to the centre. As well as providing modern office facilities, the btc offers a perfect environment for starting and growing a business as well as enabling existing innovative businesses to flourish, we very much look forward to seeing HCMA grow.”*

The btc offers a variety of business support services including office and workshop facilities, a business incubation centre, conference and meeting room facilities and virtual office services. For more information on the services available please visit: www.btcstevenage.co.uk.

To find out more about HCMA please visit www.hcma.me.uk.

Notes

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Photo caption (from left to right): Eileen Hutchinson (HCMA Founding Director) and Donna Spicer (btc Centre Coordinator)

- The **btc** is owned by Stevenage Borough Council and managed by Wenta Innovation, a division of Wenta one of the leading Enterprise Agencies in the East of England.
- The **btc** is being re-launched later this month following a multi million pound development to transform the centre into the primary Innovation and Technology Centre in Hertfordshire, aimed at supporting knowledge based businesses and promoting innovation within the local community. This exciting new development is the Council's vision to create quality business space and support in the heart of the town's business community and it is part of a £7M investment funded jointly by the Council and EEDA, the Regional Development Agency and the Government Growth Area Fund.
- The **btc** is the longest serving Enterprise Hub within the region promoting networking, the sharing of knowledge and cross trading. Working to develop innovation and inspire enterprise, the **btc** also works with local schools, colleges, regional agencies, other enterprise hubs and universities to offer educational visits, work experience, mentoring and training.
- Wenta is a not for profit organisation independently funded through the ownership and management of its two business centres in Watford and Potters Bar and management of the **btc** in Stevenage. These business centres comprise workshops and offices with a combined space of over 100,000 square feet, let on monthly licence terms to small businesses. Wenta also attract funding from a number of public sector organisations including Business Link East, Job Centre Plus, local authorities in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and EEDA.
- In addition to incubation and managed workspace Wenta's service offering includes business advice, guidance, training, graduate and undergraduate work placements and a comprehensive enterprise awareness programme to schools, colleges, and universities.