

Press Release

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LOCAL BUSINESSES TARGET GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

BUDDING entrepreneurs can discover whether they have got what it takes to succeed in business at a series of events taking place across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week (November 15th-21st).

Global Entrepreneurship Week was founded in the UK in 2008 and quickly became established as a worldwide event.

Last year, over 32,000 events ran in 88 countries, attended by more than 7.5 million people. In the UK, over 529,000 people attended 4,812 events.

Scheduled events taking part across the region include:

- **Let's Talk Starting in Business**, Stanborough Centre, Watford November 16th
- **Let's Talk Starting in Business**, the btc, Stevenage November 17th
- **Survive and Thrive in Business**, Central Resources Library, Hatfield November 17th
- **Introduction to Starting a Business**, West Herts College, Watford November 18th
- **Skills & Enterprise Fair**, Harpur Suite, Harpur Square, Bedford November 19th
- **Skills & Enterprise Fair**, Central Library, Luton November 25th
- **Let's Talk Starting in Business**, The Business Centre, Luton November 25th

Steve Pryor, business advisor at Wenta, the local Enterprise Agency for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, said: "These workshops and exhibitions are a great opportunity for anyone who has a business idea in their head or a business plan in their hands.

"They can talk their approach through with an expert business advisor and discover what support and training is available to help them turn their dream into reality."

To book a place on one of these events or for further information, please contact Wenta on 0845 371 0891

For more information contact 0845 371 0891 or Email: marketing@wenta.co.uk or visit www.wenta.co.uk

Notes for Editor

- Wenta was founded in 1983 to encourage business start-ups and to support small businesses in South and West Hertfordshire. The agency is independently funded through the ownership and management of its two business centres in Watford and Potters Bar and management of two further centres in Stevenage. These business centres comprise workshops and offices with a combined space of 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.
- Wenta run a number of programmes aimed at inspiring young people and giving them the confidence to make their ideas happen. Wenta's education team work with local schools, colleges and universities to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- Wenta's advisory team work in partnership with organisations such as Business Link, The Prince' Trust and Job Centre Plus to provide advice and support to start-up, new and

existing businesses across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Services include: one-to-one general business advice, specialist advice including Tax. Legal and IT and training and skills development courses.

- Wenta Innovation, a division of the Wenta Group run two Incubation Centres under the 'My Incubator' brand at The Business & Technology Centre in Stevenage and The Business Centre in Luton. These centres are designed to help entrepreneurs and create successful businesses. The Incubation Centres offer start-ups a work station for 3 months free of charge on the proviso that they work with our onsite advisory team to ensure that they are ready to sell their product or service, raise money or become investor ready and importantly connect them with other individuals and businesses to network.

- Wenta is now the largest enterprise agency in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and second largest in the Eastern region. Over the last 27 years, over 13,500 people have benefited from Wenta's advisory services, 1000 businesses have been accommodated by their centres and over 5000 students have participated in their education programmes.

Notes

- 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.