



Business Information Centre

Free access to a wealth of printed and electronic business information and commercial intelligence

January 2007

Introduction

All businesses need access to accurate, up-to-date and relevant information and commercial intelligence.

The right information and intelligence at the right time could be critical in signing a contract, developing a lead or competing successfully in the global marketplace.

By basing your business decisions on sound commercial intelligence you will be able to grow your business with confidence.

Invest NI offers an extensive portfolio of information and expertise to everyone in the Northern Ireland business community - and beyond - who is seeking advice on business issues.

How will it help me?

Our Business Information Centre will help you:

- research your key markets, including the European and worldwide marketplaces;
- generate sales leads or identify new customers or suppliers;
- access company profiles worldwide;
- get basic guidance on setting up licensing, agent, distributorship and other agreements;
- source key components and raw materials; and
- resolve many other business problems and issues.

Using carefully selected resources and support from our fully trained staff, the Business Information Centre can also provide you with information on all aspects of running a business.

How does it work?

You can use our Business Information Centre at any time on an ongoing basis. You can use our enquiry service (see below), make an appointment to call in, or call using the contact details overleaf.

Business Information Centre

Our Business Information Centre houses a comprehensive range of market research, company databases and directories, and other business information.

You can discuss your information needs with trained staff, who can suggest the best resources and demonstrate how to use the relevant databases.

European Information Centre

Run in conjunction with our Business Information Centre, our European Information Centre (EIC) is part of a European network of centres that house a huge range of European business information.

The EIC can provide information about EU public sector tender opportunities, EU issues and policies, legislation, sources of funding, directives, regulations and much more (see our separate EIC brochure).

Enquiry Service

The Business Information Centre runs an enquiry service where enquiries for information can be



made by email or telephone between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

Enquiries are answered quickly, usually within two working days, although additional time may be required for more complex enquiries.

How much does it cost?

Our Business Information Centre is generally free of charge, but there may be a nominal cost for larger reports, specialist searches and items such as photocopying.

Who is eligible?

This service is available to Invest NI clients and all businesses in Northern Ireland.

Becoming an Invest NI client

To qualify as an Invest NI client company your business must meet certain criteria.

You should typically be from the manufacturing or international tradeable sectors and be able to demonstrate that currently, or over the next three years, your business will have:

- total sales of over £100,000 a year;
- sales outside Northern Ireland of greater than 25 per cent of turnover or greater than £250,000 a year; and
- the capability and willingness to work with Invest NI.

If you are not an Invest NI client, but can satisfy the above criteria and would like to become one, please contact the Invest NI office in your area.

Full details can be found at www.investni.com.

Contact

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If you are an Invest NI client you may also contact your Client Executive if you feel your business will benefit from this service.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Invest NI has launched a new online information and support facility, **nibusinessinfo.co.uk**

This web site provides all Northern Ireland businesses and entrepreneurs with free access to an extensive source of essential business information.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides 24x7 advice, information, guidance and signposting, with over 5,000 fact sheets and over 70 interactive tools on offer. Every aspect of setting up and running a business is covered, from the earliest days of developing a business idea to the legal issues involved in selling a business concern.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk also features case studies showing how local businesses have handled particular business challenges.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides you with a single point of access for all your business information needs, freeing up time for to concentrate on running operations.