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23 April 2009

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Mr Peter McNaney  
 Chief Executive  
 Belfast City Council  
 Adelaide Exchange  
 24-26 Adelaide Street  
 BELFAST  
 BT2 8GD

CORE IMPROVEMENT  
 23 APR 2009  
 DUTY FREE OPENED

CORE IMPROVEMENT TEAM	
24 APR 2009	
Forward to .....	
Reference... Gm 37/04	

Dear Mr McNaney

Thank you for your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in which you requested additional information for the purpose of informing the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the work carried out by the Ormeau Business Park.

The information that is accompanying this letter relates to the key areas you have outlined in terms of support to the small business sector, the benefits of an enterprise agency and the performance indicators in terms of employment created and occupancy on site.

The Board would welcome the opportunity to meet with yourself and the relevant Committee to discuss further the concerns of the organisation.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Ms Patricia McNeill  
Manager

**hand delivered 23 April - 2.55 pm  
receipt requested and given by  
Gillian**



An Ormeau Enterprise Development At The Old Gasworks Site

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## **Ormeau Business Park 2000 - 2009**

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## Background

Ormeau Business Park (OBP) is the local enterprise agency for South Belfast. The company was first registered in 1990 as Ormeau Enterprises Ltd. The Directors identified the Old Gasworks site as the most suitable location within the south of the city for an enterprise agency with 100% funding to the sum of £1.9 million being sought from Ledu, Making Belfast Work, International Fund for Ireland and the European Economic Development Fund.

Trading began officially in December 1999 on this landmark site positioning the organisation in the hub of local economic regeneration. The mission statement of the organisation is: 'To promote economic development and job creation in South Belfast through the provision of support to aid the start up and growth of business.'

### Capability and Capacity

- OBP as an enterprise agency is a major community asset to the local area of South Belfast in terms of the provision of business advice and workspace.
- OBP is a company limited by guarantee and therefore works on a 'not for profit' basis.
- OBP contributes to the local economic development by acting as a key delivery agent of the Start A Business Programme and provides access to additional initiatives aimed at the start up and developing business sector.
- OBP is a member of Enterprise Northern Ireland which represents the network of enterprise agencies across the province, all of which are branded business advice centres for their particular locality.
- OBP has established a track record in business development advice, mentoring and training for entrepreneurs. The agency outsources expertise when necessary in order to provide a broad and specialist service to its clients.
- OBP engages with the local community through the promotion of enterprise awareness through community groups, universities and the local business networks.
- The voluntary Directors of the agency have established roots within the local and neighbouring communities having in many cases had significant involvement in a wide range of initiatives.

- Flexible, competitively priced accommodation is available to businesses through the 33,000 sq ft of lettable space on site. In addition financial and non financial assistance is offered to tenant companies through the ENI Loan Fund and a range of ongoing specialised seminars.
- OBP is a major community asset and reinvests its profits into local economic development by cross subsidising enterprise programmes through the physical resources of training rooms and workspace.
- Local enterprise agencies make a significant contribution to the social capital of their local area providing a platform by which local communities can respond to both opportunities and challenges.
- South Belfast is a culturally diverse area which presents opportunities for the agency to work across the various marginalised groups.

### **Economic Context**

In terms of the rationale for providing business support to start up and growth companies it is important to recognise the importance of the micro business within the local economy and the benefits which an enterprise agency can contribute.

The 2001 GEM Report (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor) again points to the 'entrepreneurial deficit' in Northern Ireland compared to many UK regions. It is to this end that the benefits of the offerings provided through this portfolio of support can be argued within an economic context given the major contribution made to the Northern Ireland economy by the small business sector.

Within the Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy launched by Invest NI in 2003 there was a commitment to securing a more competitive economy within which the key objectives of 'promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity'. Underpinning the vision of the strategy was a realisation that long term success would depend on a co-ordinated contribution from those stakeholders and partners who engage with entrepreneurs. In terms of the local enterprise network the OBP is firmly positioned to work with the relevant bodies in order to implement this strategy.

Responding to the AES the objective of the enterprise agency network has been realised through the delivery of a wide range of core support programmes including the flagship SABp to locally focused business start ups.

The promotion of entrepreneurship to under represented groups such as women, young people and those in disadvantaged areas such as highlighted within the

Neighbourhood Renewal and Anti Poverty Strategy are central to the core work of the agency allowing for the engagement with local communities and stakeholders by providing training at a pre enterprise support level.

In terms of supplying business accommodation for South Belfast the local enterprise agency is the key provider in the area.

Research carried out on behalf of the South Belfast Partnership Board in 2008 highlights the lack of appropriate workspace as previously identified in 2003 within the Belfast Masterplan.

It is imperative that the agency continues to work with identified clusters for example the creative businesses in understanding their business needs and providing an accommodation solution.

The challenges presented within this aforementioned research paper cite further opportunities for the South Belfast area to nurture knowledge based spin out companies for Queens University and the relocation of businesses based in Victorian terraces in the locality.

Ormeau Business Park is therefore in a key position to respond to the aforementioned challenges that have been highlighted and would welcome the opportunity to further explore with the Belfast City Council and Invest NI the feasibility of developing specific initiatives that are beneficial to the business community.

**Programmes or Support offered to Start Up  
and Growth Businesses  
2000 – 2009**

The following key programmes and initiatives are an indication of the work carried out by the Ormeau Business Park during the period 2000 to date.

**Start A Business Programme – SABp - 2000/2009**

The Start A Business Programme was the main intervention designed to support locally focused business start ups in Northern Ireland.

The objectives of the SABp were endorsed within the 'Go For It' campaign and delivered by the Ormeau Business Park for the South Belfast area.

The rationale behind the regional programme was to raise the level and quality of mainly business starts delivering a core package of support for all entrepreneurs encompassing an initial assessment of the business idea, a series of training modules on marketing, finance, legal matters, employment issues, ICT and support to develop a business plan.

The table below shows the outputs collated against the enquiry, assessment and training through to the actual start ups levels associated with the Ormeau Business Park for the period 2000 – 2009.

	Enquiries	Business Assessments	Completed Training	Business Starts
2001-02	133	102	29	12
2002-03	358	245	133	58
2003-04	440	298	130	94
2004-05	357	214	74	75
2005-06	379	178	88	44
2006-07	342	201	99	36
2007-08	399	222	107	41
2008-09	333	165	74	30
Totals	2741	1625	734	390

No of jobs created (2.8 per business) = 1,092

Economic contribution (£65k per business) = 2.2530

Cost per case = £655

Value for money – cost comparisons for start up support in the mainland UK.

- Scottish Enterprise - £884
- Tees Valley - £980
- Wales - £665
- NI SABp - £655 (showing greatest value for money amongst the selected regions)

Evidence from monitoring these businesses would suggest that after an initial 3 year period 65% were still actively trading.

### **Start A Business Programme Testimonials**

*'Baltica found the SABP both useful and informative; the network opportunities gained through the Ormeau Business Park were of particular use to the company'.*

Nevco Juralewicz  
Baltica  
Office 7  
184 Lisburn Road  
Belfast BT9 6AL

*'The programme was extremely worthwhile and we found it great preparation for our future business. We would recommend it to anyone who is thinking of 'Going For It'.*

Colin McKeown and Lesley Bell  
Whitespace 2  
The Basement  
45 Little May Street  
Belfast BT2 8LD

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 a new package of Enterprise Development Programmes was launched by Invest NI replacing the established SABp and offering a wider remit of support from pre-enterprise through to the growth business stage - all of which shall be made available through the Ormeau Business Park.

Within the newly developed suite of support there is a distinct focus on the disadvantaged areas that encompass the identified Neighbourhood Renewal areas

of South West and inner South Belfast where there is a combined population of 13,249. In addition the marginalised groups such as ethnic, women and disabled shall be addressed within the new programme at pre-enterprise level.

Acting as a referral point for Invest NI, the agency plays an important role in nurturing the local businesses that have export potential. It is notable that between 2007 and 2008 Invest NI gave the highest rates of assistance per head to the South Belfast area where, as stated by Economic Agency, 'the location is chosen by many businesses because it provides access to labour, transportation linkages and proximity to suppliers and customers'.

The combined support offered under the Enterprise Development package shall endorse the benefits of starting a business and will focus on the growth aspects to include existing companies that may have the ability to access export markets.

The Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster launched the new support initiatives in March 2009 stating that 'The small local businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. The new Enterprise Development Programmes are in line with the Government agenda which focuses on the growth of our private sector, including those important small and medium sized indigenous companies'.



## Programmes

### Exploring Enterprise For Ethnic Minorities – 2003/2007-8/2009

The Exploring Enterprise programme was designed as a pre-start vehicle by which potential entrepreneurs could 'explore the opportunities and skills involved in setting up in business'.

As part of the two year pilot, Ormeau delivered Exploring Enterprise to a specific target group of Ethnic Minority clients.

The programme acted as an introduction of the agencies services to this audience who were recruited directly through the Chinese Welfare Association and the Indian Community Centre.

The programme was funded by the EU Programme Building Sustainable Prosperity, Invest NI and the International Fund for Ireland.

Twelve clients attended the 8 week course which ran from November – December 2003.

### Exploring Enterprise (Neighbourhood Renewal Areas) – 2007-2008

A strategy for neighbourhood renewal was published by the government in 2003. Within the policy context the paper was aimed at targeting deprivation within the most disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland.

The South Belfast Partnership Board and the Ormeau Business Park collaborated in the roll out of the Exploring Enterprise programme which assisted in the delivery of action plans addressing the renewing communities agenda.

The Exploring Enterprise sought to engage 10 South Belfast community based organisations in the roll out of the programme. A target of 50 participants over five courses was set with 84% being achieved.

Four of the participants have gone through to the mainstream programme.

The launch of the programme was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Meter House on the Gasworks site. Speaking at the event local celebrity chef Michael Dean lent his support to the programme stating:

**'Self employment gave me the freedom and flexibility to grow and develop an idea which I was passionate about and wanted to share with others'.**

The rationale taken for the programme was to help participants develop and address any barrier to starting a business with the provision of a basic overview of the steps involved in establishing a business model.

The programme gave the participants the potential opportunity to engage in full mainstream support in order to help develop their business idea by the progression onto the Start A Business Programme.

Graham Davis Invest NI's Director of Regional Economic Development stated:

**'There is a wealth of untapped skill and entrepreneurial talent in the local community in South Belfast and Invest NI is committed to supporting initiatives which encourage people to use their enterprise potential to start new businesses. Such programmes are essential in helping to develop a strong local economy'.**

#### **Exploring Enterprise - 2009**

A third series of 3 Exploring Enterprise programmes shall be rolled out over a two year period commencing in September 2009 and the candidates shall be awarded the CCEA Certificate in Business Level I.

The aim of the pre start programme shall be to extend the employment opportunities of unemployed, long term unemployed and inactive people by helping them to enter, remain and make progress in sustained employment.

There shall be a focus on people with disabilities, health conditions, lone parents, older workers, young people not in education employment or training, women and people with low or no qualifications.

This programme is funded partially through the Department of Learning and the European Social Fund.

#### **Enterprise NI Loan Fund – 2002-date**

The Enterprise NI Loan Fund offers finance to local businesses both in the start up and growth stages. Access to such unsecured loan funds is available through the Ormeau Business Park as a member of Enterprise NI.

## **Regional Action Plan – 2003-2004**

Under the Regional Action Plan funded by Invest NI each of the Eastern Region Enterprise Agencies engaged in activities to promote Enterprise Awareness in their localities. Within the South Belfast area this included the following enterprise awareness opportunities along with access to the Target Growth and Home Start programmes.

### **Key Influencer Presentations**

A series of key influencer presentations undertaken by the Manager gave the agency an opportunity to promote the services of the agency within the locality to the following organisations.

- ❖ University of Ulster at York Street
- ❖ Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Chinese Welfare Association
- ❖ Councillor Representatives
- ❖ First Trust Bank
- ❖ Queens University
- ❖ South Belfast Partnership Board Economic Development Sub-committee
- ❖ Jobs and Benefits office – Shaftesbury Square

### **Ideas Generations Sessions**

2 Ideas Generation Clinics were held in November 2003 and January 2004

### **Promotional Activities**

A promotional campaign was held at Castle Court shopping centre in September 2003 and Forestside February 2004.

### **Outreach Clinics were held at:**

Windsor Womens Centre  
Markets Development Association

## **Building Bigger Visions - 2004**

'Building Bigger Visions' is part of Invest NI's Investing in Women strategy to support and encourage women entrepreneurs.

Ormeau had the opportunity to deliver one of the key areas of the programme aimed specifically at women considering self-employment for the first time. The programme was promoted amongst the local community groups and attracted 14 attendees.

### **Tradelinks – 2004-2008**

The Tradelinks Programme was launched in Monaghan in November 2004.

Funding for the Programme was secured in 2004 from Interreg, the International Fund for Ireland, Invest Northern Ireland and the Border County Enterprise Boards.

#### **The Aims and Objectives of the Programme**

The Tradelinks Programme is a suite of business support measures aimed at addressing barriers to trade by providing a framework for a co-ordinated intervention to support micro enterprises based in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland i.e. the 'Border Corridor'. This strategic approach is designed to support businesses displaying entrepreneurial flair but which do not have access to a continuous programme of company development, to become more sustainable and competitive; and to generate greater added value, earnings and wealth within their host communities.

The following companies have received assistance through Tradelinks and represent a mixture of tenant and non tenant client companies of Ormeau to have benefited from the programme:-

Teuton and Co  
Landscape Stuff for the Garden  
Red Raven Industries  
Golddigger '79 Ltd  
Sonic DJ Academy  
CanDo Interactive

Phase II of the Tradelinks Programme is due to commence in July 2009.

Ormeau Business Park is represented on the Joint Management Committee of the Tradelinks programme.

### **Microtrade Programme Phase I/II/III – 2004 to date**

The Microtrade programme was launched in Athlone in November 2004.

The Microtrade programme is a collaborative initiative of the County and City Enterprise Board, Enterprise Northern Ireland and Intertrade Ireland.

The aim of the programme has been to build strategic linkages with enterprise agencies and county enterprise boards through initiatives such as 'Meet the Buyers' events, Tender Support programmes, Link up Funding and Market Entry support, sectoral and business networking events.

- Inter-Agency exchange to observe best practice in micro-enterprise support including key staff exchanges and involvement of Chairman and Board members.
- Identification of common micro enterprise clusters in both areas and the development of a programme of support for these clusters with a view to the development of trade between the clusters. One such cluster in the fashion/knitwear area has already been identified.
- Bring companies from both areas to a major trade event e.g. Intertrade, chamber of Commerce or PLATO event and including networking for those companies.
- Agreeing to act as a 'first point of contact' i.e. if a Limerick City Enterprise Board client needs some advice on an issue in Northern Ireland, that enquiry would be made via Ormeau Enterprises Ltd.
- Listing on respective websites of company information including matching of purchasers and suppliers.
- Identification of sources and preparation of joint funding bids for more long-term co-operation.

The principal benefits will be as follows:

- The development of a new cross border partnership
- Greater understanding between staff in each Agency (CEB and LEA), of the supports and programmes available to companies on each side of the border and for companies wishing to export in either direction.
- Opportunity for Board members from each Agency to broaden knowledge of the sector.
- Research opportunities and an opportunity to add to the literature on small business research.
- Direct benefit to companies by way of providing opportunity for trade.

Ormeau Business Park is represented on the Microtrade Steering Committee by the Manager.

### **Thimble – The Textile Networking Group – 2004-2008**

Ormeau Business Park acted as a facilitator for the Thimble initiative.

The objective of the programme was to allow owners, directors and managers to benefit from direct contact with each other, developing synergy between individuals and companies to increase the knowledge and to gain opportunities for micro businesses within the textile sector.

The textile initiative was funded by the Business Support Division of the DETI, Invest NI and Belfast City Council with the key objectives being to:-

- a. Develop synergy within the textile sector leading to enhanced business opportunities between delegates, key linkage opportunities, accessing space at trade shows and shared best practice.
- b. Provision of opportunity for members to increase their knowledge on matters relevant to the textile sector.
- c. Provision of opportunity to exchange views, gain advice and develop knowledge and expertise within the sector.

### **E Commerce I/II – 2004/2005**

An Enterprise NI initiative which allowed tenants access to an IT advisory service. Businesses got support in areas such as setting up websites, networking computers, setting up broadband, internet security and computer back up.

### **Enterprise Network Europe Programme/Tradebridge - 2005**

The Enterprise Network Europe Programme (ENEP) was an Enterprise NI initiative supported by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

Ormeau Business Park, through the Tradebridge element of the programme joined representatives from other LEAs to visit the Czech Republic, Bratislavia and Budapest during the year.

Tradebridge was delivered by a partnership between Larne Enterprise Development Company Ltd (LEDCOM) and its associates on behalf of Enterprise NI. Working exclusively with the small business sector, the initiative was designed to help small Northern Ireland companies to expand and to trade with mainland Europe. The programme included market visits and export preparation and training for micro enterprises. Funding was made available for Tradebridge from the EU through OFMDFM to run the programme until the end of December 2005.

### **Minority Ethnic Business Research – 2005**

Funding was received from Invest NI to carry out a needs analysis of the minority ethnic business community in South Belfast.

Recommendations deriving from this research have assisted in understanding the needs of the marginalised groups and form the basis for further linkages and collaborative ventures.

### **Points of Presence - 2006**

The Points of Presence initiative was rolled out across the network during 2006.

The objective of this programme was to create a visible support network for local business start-ups through the physical presence of the Enterprise Northern Ireland members.

The 'Go For It' branding was rolled out across 32 sites in the enterprise network. Tapping into this brand recognition was aimed at creating greater awareness of access to information points in each locality and giving recognition to each agency as a business advice centre.

The branded signage was designed to increase awareness of the business advice centres in line with the 'Go For It' advertising campaign that aimed to attract potential clients under the Start A Business Programme and the additional initiatives.

### **Belfast City Council Funded Workshops – 2006-2007**

The Belfast City Council funded the six local enterprise agencies to run one Exploring Enterprise programme and a series of six workshops commencing in November 2006 during 'Enterprise Week'.

The following workshops were delivered at Ormeau Business Park:-

- Successful Selling
- Introduction to Franchising
- Window Display for Retailers
- An Introduction of Effective Public Relations
- Presentation Skills

- Building Your Brand
- Tendering

### **Advantage NI – 2008-2009**

Ormeau Business Park was invited by Advantage NI to assist in the design and delivery of the training modules for the pilot programme of the Business Bootcamp.

The Advantage NI Bootcamp programme was part of the Invest NI and Renewing Communities agenda giving young people in disadvantaged communities of Belfast the opportunity to consider the idea of self employment.

Initial 'impact' days were held with local businesses giving 105 participants the opportunity to experience working within a small business environment.

Idea development workshops and business training formed the key stages of the initiative allowing the 13 participants completing the course to visit Canada and to meet with young entrepreneurs.

This programme has proved to be extremely successful as a key programme for Shell Livewire and will be continued in 2009.

### **Creative Programmes - 2008**

#### **1. Level 1 Creative Crafts – Retail and Window Display**

In collaboration with the WEA, Ormeau Business Park facilitated the above course which ran from January to June 2008.

Sixteen participants enrolled on the course with eleven completing all modules.

The local retailers were initially targeted for the programme however the majority of the participants attended were from province wide retail outlets.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to offer this course and an additional Level II accreditation in the forthcoming year.

#### **2. Craft NI Making It – 2007-2008**

Ormeau have delivered the business training for the Craft NI flagship programme 'Making It' for the third consecutive year.



It is anticipated that this will continue in 2009 and in addition create stronger linkages between the two organisations through initiatives that will improve the business skills of the designer maker.

**Belfast City Council Funded Workshops 'Get Into Business' – 2007-2008**

Funding to the value of £15,000 was received across the network from the Belfast City Council to deliver a series of pre-enterprise events which were held at each agency comprising of workshops and business clinics under the umbrella of 'Get into Business'.

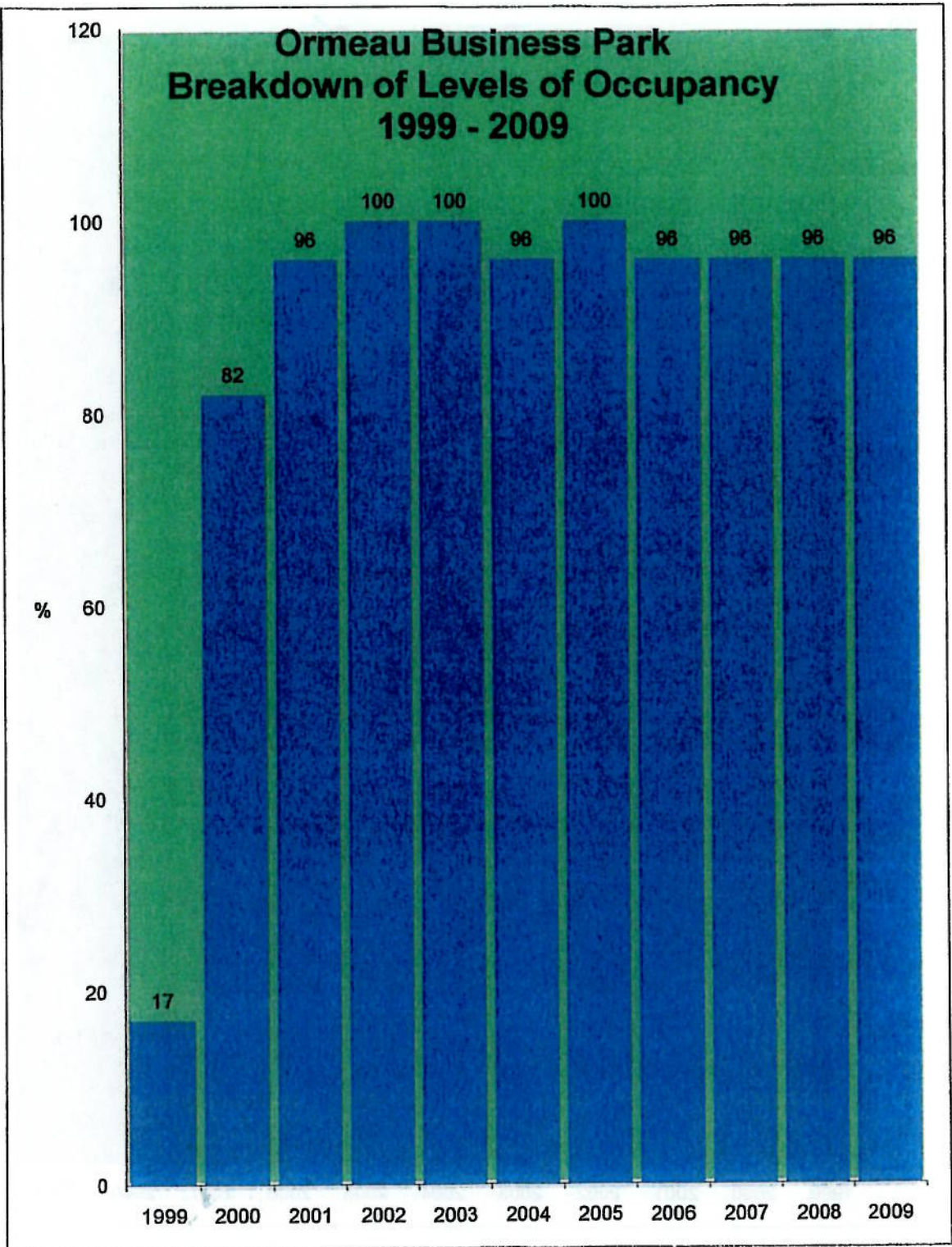
In addition the following workshops were held at Ormeau Business Park

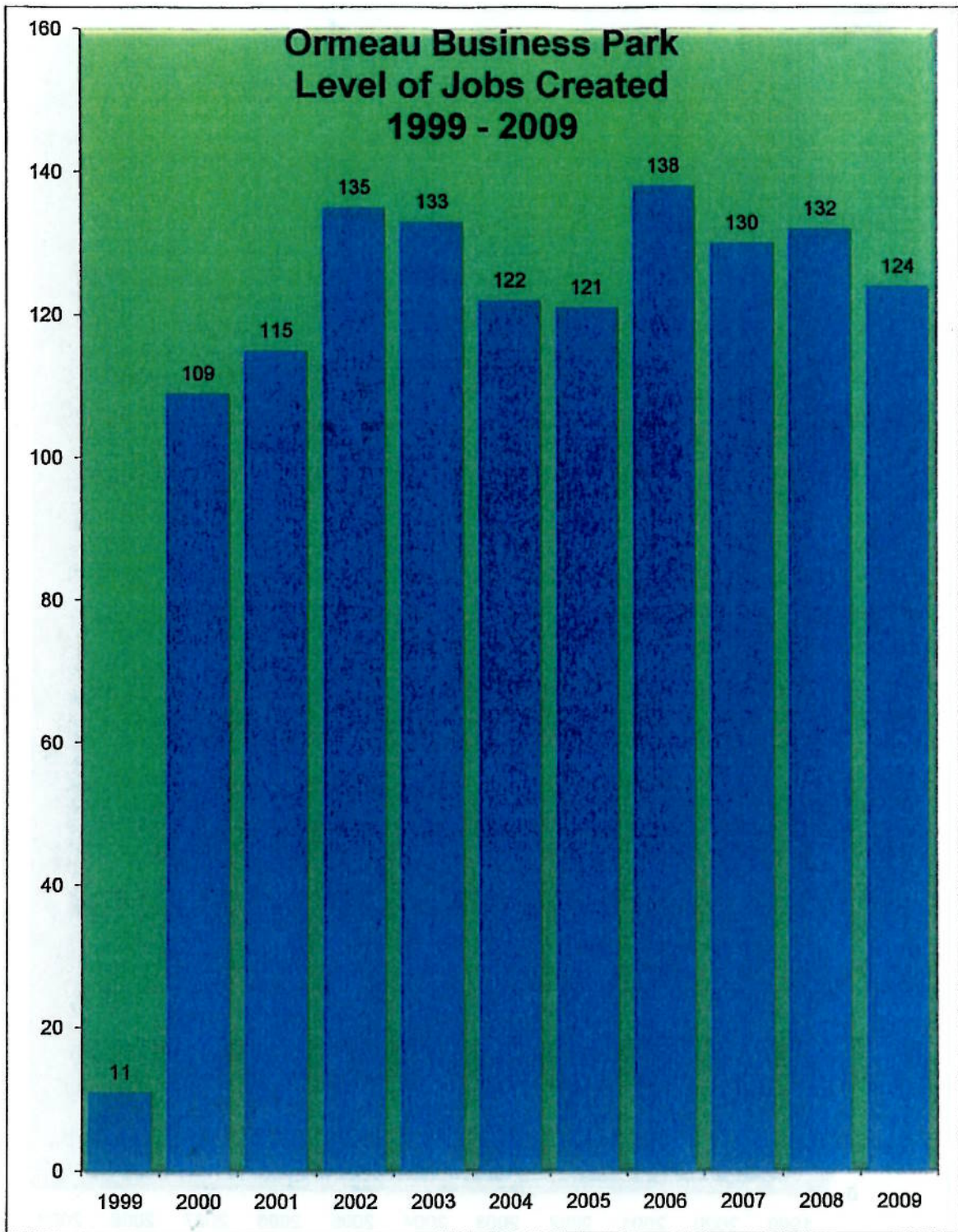
- Marketing Your Business
- PR Workshop For Creative Industries
- Computerised Book-keeping
- Marketing
- Presentation Skills

**Ormeau Business Park Tenants**  
**April 2009**

Unit	Name of Business	Business Activity	Employees	
			Full	Part
1	Belfast City Com	Communication Systems	2	1
2	Blueprint Consultancy	Development Consultancy	2	1
3	O4 Research Ltd	Medical Research Company	2	1
4	Spot On	TV/film Production Company	2	-
5	Stream On	Data Communications	14	1
6	Stream On	Data Communications	-	-
7	G Woods	Structural Engineers	1	-
8	Stream On	Data Communications	-	-
9	Clean Slate TV	TV/film Production Company	2	-
10	Landscape	Designer Garden Store	3	-
11	Malik Bond	Website Developer	5	-
12	Rehab Studio	New Media Agency	12	-
13	Magdalene Ltd	IT Solutions Company	6	-
14	PTM Calibration	Calibration Testing	4	-
15	Eyeparks	Graphic Design	2	1
16	Hospitality IT	IT Solutions	4	-
17	Dupes	DVD/video production/dubbing	1	-
18	Global Care Recruitment	Recruitment Agency	2	-
19	Protocol Skills	Training Company	11	1
20	Vacant			
21	Iconi	Web development/solutions	8	-
22	Profile Publishing & Design	Publishing Company	3	2
23	Teuton & Co	Kitchen Design & Installation	6	-
24	Tedfords Rigging	Rigging & Sail Making	4	1
25	Special Olympics	Disability Sports Organisation	6	-
26	City Underwriting	Insurance company	3	1
27	Softsign	PC & network support	3	-
28	Burkes Office Supplies	Office Supplies	5	1
		Total Employees	113	11

46% of the above units are dedicated to business activities within the creative industries as defined by the UK Government (1999)





## **Exemplar Business Models**

In terms of past and current tenants the following four companies are indicative of successful business models that have been nurtured through the Ormeau Business Park.

### **StreamOn.Net Ltd (2000 – current)**

StreamOn.Net Ltd is a spin out company from The School of Computer Science at Queens University Belfast.

Since the company was established in 2000 they have delivered complex web based media solutions to companies such as Hewlett Packard, Panasonic and a number of government agencies and public sector bodies.

The company have expanded their workforce to a level of 15 employees since its formation and is a dynamic example of the growth of a university spin out.

### **Biosyn Diagnostics Ltd (2000 – 2007)**

Biosyn Diagnostics Ltd is a leading distributor for Point of Care medical equipment. The company started as a spin out from Queens University under the Directorship of Dr Conor McGurk.

As specialists in blood gas, cholesterol and cardiovascular diagnostics as well as therapeutic monitoring in both acute hospital and community environments the company is now exporting to the ROI, mainland Europe and USA.

Biosyn Diagnostics is now an established market leader and has outgrown the facilities at the Ormeau Business Park relocating to purchased premises in the Titanic Quarter.

### **Excite Exhibition and Display (Tenancy 2000 – 2008)**

Excite Exhibition and Display moved into premises at the Ormeau Business Park in August 2000 operating as an exhibition and display contractor and employing 2 people.

The company continued to grow and develop widening their client base in the Northern Ireland market and extending their services to the Republic of Ireland, mainland UK and Europe. Excite built up an impressive list of clients which includes all 26 of NI local Government and Councils as well as several cross border agencies.

In 2008 the company's growth which had now expanded to a staff of 12 necessitated a move to a purpose built 25,000 sq ft office and showroom in Knockmore Hill Industrial Estate, Lisburn.

#### **4 Sol Ltd**

4 Sol Ltd commenced trading within the Ormeau Business Park in January 2003 and in 2006 grew their business by acquiring additional workspace on site.

The company is a technical solutions company and is the highest certified indigenous Microsoft Gold Partner in Ireland.

In the years 2003 – 2007 the staffing levels expanded from 5 to 16 people.

In June 2007 the company merged with another leading Belfast based IT company Real Time Systems Ltd to become Novosco thereby creating Ireland's leading partner for Microsoft, VMWare and Citrix creating 20 new hi tech jobs.

The growth initiated by the merger resulted in the company relocating to larger premises in Carryduff.

## Ormeau Business Park Collaborative Partnerships

- Belfast City Council
- Invest NI
- South Belfast Partnership Board (Economic Development Committee Member)
- Local Community Groups in South Belfast
- WEA – Workers Educational Association (External Moderator 2004 – 2007)
- Mitchell House School (Student placements)
- Cedar Foundation (Student placements)
- Fleming Fulton School (Student placements)
- Aquinas Grammar School (Student placements)
- University of Ulster at York Street (Insight Programme, Botanic Arts Festival Initiative, Creative Career Open Days)
- Queens University (Sponsoring the 'Most Creative Business' award 2009 in conjunction with the Students Union)
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Craft NI
- GEMS - Gasworks Employment Matching Service
- Chinese Welfare Association
- BEN - Belfast Entrepreneurs Network, Belfast City Council
- Enterprise Northern Ireland (Represented on ENI Board of Directors by the Manager)
- Skillfast UK (Represented on the Sector Skills Council Advisory Board for Fashion and Textiles Northern Ireland and the Design Directions panel by the Manager)
- Ethnic Arts Forum Represented on the Steering Committee by the Manager)
- Social Economy Network
- Crescent Arts Centre Belfast
- Polish Association NI
- Princes Trust (Represented as a Member of the Belfast and Eastern Regional Business Committee by the Manager)
- Advantage NI Ltd
- Young Enterprise
- Prime

