



Philip Murray, Customer Service Director for Harlands

FROM HERE TO AFFINITY WITH LATEST NETPARK NET RECRUIT

NETPark Net, one of the fastest growing innovation networks in the UK is set to expand further with the launch of a new initiative.

The Affinity programme is the newest addition to NETPark Net, the community set up to extend expertise and support available at the North East Technology Park (NETPark) to a wider audience.

Affinity will bring a structured platform for a limited number of professional services companies to provide a wealth of expertise, advice and support for the region's burgeoning science and technology companies.

NETPark Net, delivered by the County Durham Development Company on behalf of Durham County Council, already has nearly 300 active member companies and organisations operating in the science, technology and engineering fields. Affinity is expected to help them develop at a faster rate in the future by bringing in new members with specialist knowledge in business-critical areas.

The latest Affinity member to join the network is County Durham based Harlands Accountants which specialises in providing accounting and taxation services to growing Small to Medium size Enterprises (SMEs)

Philip Murray, Customer Service Director for Harlands, said: "It was clear from our first interaction with NETPark that it is a unique community where world class science and technology companies and individuals come together and the NETPark Affinity package allows Harlands to contribute to this exciting community. We aim to bring specialist expertise to help companies at all stages of development from those looking to start a new business or helping business owners to understand the financial requirements of their business to ensure it is successful and plays the right part in their life.

Harlands will be providing in-depth support to NETPark tenants and members of NETPark Net as part of the Affinity programme

which will include monthly clinics as well as being available on a one-to-one basis for science and technology businesses in need of a more individual service. In addition, Harlands will encourage best practice and knowledge sharing within the network by writing articles and blogs for tenants to keep them up-to-date with news on changes in legislation.

Philip added: "Getting your financial systems right is essential within small, fast growing companies because each decision has a far greater impact than on a larger organisation. The UK government has put a big focus on supporting innovative companies through mechanisms like Research and Development (R&D) tax credits and we want to help companies access these benefits".

CDDC anticipates that the expertise provided by the Affinity programme will be a valuable support to the network's members.

Stewart Watkins, CDDC managing director, said: "The Affinity programme will offer the additional benefit of bringing in professional services expertise which is vital for companies looking to develop and take new products to market.

"The Affinity package provides the ideal platform for professional service companies such as Harlands to interact with the North East's science and technology community. Science and technology companies can now start to access this expertise and knowledge on demand through regular seminars, clinics, online discussions and blogs."

For more information on the Affinity programme, visit www.uknetpark.net/Partners.aspx

