

Innovations in Southampton



Promoting our innovative city

Each month we are bringing you details of innovations developed by creative and inventive companies based in the Southampton region. This month we are taking a look at two organisations that are moving Southampton forward as an innovative city of excellence.

Business Southampton is always interested to hear about and promote the innovations being used within the city region right now. Information on how to submit details can be found on the website or by contacting Anna Boterhoek on 02380 233 741. www.businesssouthampton.com

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Sun smiles on Southampton

By Hyde Housing

www.hyde-housing.co.uk

A 'winter garden' may sound like the sort of place you visit if you're retired and enjoying a day trip to the seaside. But think again! Winter gardens are actually the latest thing in house building – a trend set by one of the most unique and pioneering housing developments in the country at Portswood, Southampton.

The SUN (Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood) project is a collection of five 'green' architect-designed homes built with a range of energy saving features, but its the ground-breaking 'winter gardens' that really set them apart.

Attached to the front of the house, these sun-trapping super conservatories act as

a lobby and provide insulation as they stop warm air going out of the building when the front door is opened. Made of glass and sustainable solid oak, their real selling point is the free heating they give. Fixed to a southerly façade they store up heat from the warmth of the sun during the day and release it back into the house at night.

Project architect Brendan Kilpatrick of PRP Architects reveals: "Since developing this concept at Portswood, using winter gardens on new properties is becoming commonplace." His advice is that anyone interested in energy efficiency, and in having lower heating bills, should join the pioneering set and have a winter garden of their own!

Southampton delivers tomorrow's technology today

By NXP

www.nxp.com

Southampton is ahead in the world of innovation with an Advanced Systems Lab (ASL) right here in the city coming up with some nifty new gadgets ahead of their time. It's one of only four such labs that exist globally, and is situated at the Millbrook Technology Campus where leading engineers and designers hypothesise about, design and test the technology of tomorrow. One of the best examples of what's being worked on now is 'Near Field Communication' (NFC).

Picture this: you see a poster advertising a concert with your favourite band. By flashing your mobile phone near the poster, you are able to download information about the event from a smart chip in the phone. You can then immediately and securely buy tickets and store them electronically on your handheld device. On the night of the concert, you can access the venue without ever having the need for a paper ticket and payment is just an item on your phone bill. All sounds out of this world? Well, thanks to the work that is happening in Millbrook, this will soon be a reality and will drastically change the way consumers shop, travel and exchange data.

The centre is supported by partnerships with NXP, the University of Southampton, Solent Skill Quest, Southampton City Council and Southampton Solent University, among others. Steve Delaney, of NXP's Millbrook Technology Campus, says: "The Millbrook campus serves as an innovation hub – one that aims to power consumers' multimedia experience with vibrant technology."