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**To:** 'admin@tekc.co.uk'  
**Subject:** FW: Thanet & East Kent Chamber weekly bulletin "The Insider"

**\*\*\* Welcome to the Thanet & East Kent Insider \*\*\***

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber.

*We celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> edition with our very first pictures, see item 6.*

Thanet & East Kent Insider  
15 July 2008

### **1. Spaces Available**

Howdens Joinery is expanding in Thanet. While still maintaining its operations at its current site on Pysons Road Industrial Estate, Howdens has signed a new lease for part of the former Barretts Soft Drinks premises in Tivoli Road, Margate. The company prides itself on its trade only status and is a well-known name to builders and property developers. There is still 20,000 sq ft of space available for rent in Tivoli Road which could be split for multiple occupation. Any company looking for slightly larger premises might be interested in a 24,000 sq ft warehouse available for immediate occupation at the Timberyard, Manston Road, Ramsgate. For full details of both properties, contact MPG properties; tel: 01843 596224 or email Mick German to [mick.german@btinternet.com](mailto:mick.german@btinternet.com) with the subject line "Commercial Property Enquiry".

### **2. Universities and Business**

This Chamber is preparing a paper on the interchange between Higher Education and companies. Whereas universities talk about an "academic year", companies are more interested in "the next quarter's figures". There are similar clashes of culture in pairings such as "research/production figures", "qualifications/skills" and "funding/sales". If you have any comments, anecdotes or experiences of working with universities, positive or otherwise, we welcome your contribution. It would be helpful if you would state whether or not you give permission to be quoted. Please email to [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line "Culture Clash".

### **3. Forum for You**

As outlined in last week's Thanet & East Kent Insider, this Chamber is organising a series of sector-specific events along the lines of the successful forums earlier this year. The dates are as follows: Chamber Charity Forum: Tuesday 2 September at 1100 hrs. Chamber Human Resources Forum: Tuesday 2 September at 1500 hrs. Chamber Training Forum: Wednesday 3 September at 1100 hrs. Full details will be available from 22 July. In addition, the Managing Director of Thanet Earth has assured the Thanet & East Kent Chamber that his first public presentation will be arranged through this Chamber "in early Autumn". We will keep readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider fully informed.

### **4. Start Up and Go**

This Chamber is launching an attractive start-up package for new companies. In liaison with our professional organisation, the British Chambers of Commerce, we are pleased to offer new companies three years of free business banking and an attractive package supported by AXA, BlackBerry, BT, Dell, Microsoft, Sage and Xerox. Following our partnership agreement with the Channel Chamber, Thanet & East Kent Chamber members are entitled to a range of benefits worth many thousands of pounds. The start-up package is only available through accredited Chambers of Commerce. For an overview, see [www.thebusiness-startup.co.uk](http://www.thebusiness-startup.co.uk) or email [enquiries@tekc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line "Start-up Package".

### **5. Website**

Thanet & East Kent Chamber is pleased to announce a new commercial sponsor of the Chamber website. With immediate effect, CARISS will provide web and email support to the Chamber. We are pleased to be joining a contented client list that includes Pfizer, Legal & General, New Life Christian Fellowship and a host of local and regional companies. Specialists in open source software, CARISS has been a Chamber member since 2004. We look forward to a new life with CARISS and trust that all our members will soon benefit from our redesigned website. There are new sponsorship opportunities available across a range of Chamber initiatives, including this weekly business bulletin. For a confidential discussion, please telephone the Chamber Chief Executive on 01843 609289.

## 6. A SEEDA Triumph

The Regional Development Authority that is directed by government to structure the business climate of the South East outside London is SEEDA, the South East Development Authority. Recently, this publicly-funded body has been subject to harsh criticism. The MP for Lewes has demanded an investigation into its finances. The Tax Payers Alliance has demanded that SEEDA be either “abolished or brought back under democratic control”. Our own distinguished Chamber President, Bill Moses, has been widely quoted over his concerns that bodies such as SEEDA and Business Link “simply consume taxpayers’ money, tick boxes and do very little.” Last month, the BBC highlighted the spending on taxis of the SEEDA Chairman under the condemnatory headline on its website, “Seeda boss spent £50k on car bill”; even going so far as to reduce the final four letters of the organisation’s acronym to the lower case. How’s that for an insult? Always willing to see both sides of any question, the Thanet & East Kent Insider celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> edition with its very first pictures, see below.



The image on the left is from the roadside on the approach to the business park developed by SEEDA at Hersden near Canterbury. You will note that it refers to “Lakes View”. The image on the right is from a SEEDA sign at the entrance to the business park which lists “Lakesview”. SEEDA has obviously decided that the two words should be united as one. The Thanet & East Kent Insider is pleased to publicise this undeniable example from SEEDA of joined-up thinking. We invite readers to contribute their own examples of similar triumphs by public bodies which we will be pleased to consider for publication. Please email your contributions to [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line “Public Triumphs”. We will know what you mean.

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