

News, comment and analysis on the young company market

MCS is located on the Science and Technology Park and delivers advanced engineering and software solutions to the subsea oil and gas industry globally. The company is a spinout from the University of Galway in Ireland, and since 1983 has grown to a point where it now employs 180 people in six centres, including Aberdeen. Robertson says: "Its growth has been quite astonishing here, to the extent that the company has recently relocated to substantially bigger premises on the Science and Technology Park."

www.mcs.com

Atlas Interactive has been producing e-learning modules for the oil and gas industry since 1995. It now claims to have more than 100 blue chip companies around the world as clients and its products are used by over 250,000 people every year.

Robertson says: "Atlas recently purchased from us the building that

they occupy. Again their growth has been exceptional. They started off with only a couple of people in 1995 and they now have 50 staff with offices in several overseas locations."

www.atlasinteractive.co.uk

Examples of some of the younger companies now based on the parks include:

Axis Well Technology was founded in 2001 as an independent well engineering and sub-surface support consultancy. The company's range of services includes technical expertise for the design, planning and implementation of well operations, including well testing, completions, interventions and work-overs.

Firsteq Solutions specialises in two main areas, information technology

and accountancy, providing software and database development, IT consultancy, and a range of accountancy services.

Infotechnics was formed in 1999, to provide specialised operations software and consultancy to the oil and gas industry. Through extensive market research, it discovered a lack of standardised logging formats within organisations, and no ability to share or search on historical information. This led to the development of Opralog (formerly known as Logbook), which can be used across many locations to log all operational events, create handover reports without repeating information and allow important events to be highlighted. These problems were not restricted to the oil and gas industry, and Infotechnics software is now also being used in the power, chemical, and storage/shipping industries.

Sporting Chance Initiative backs research projects

The Sporting Chance Initiative (SCI) at Stirling University Innovation Park has made two recent awards from its ScoPE fund, each of just over £4,000.

The SCI is backed by the Scottish Executive's SEEKIT programme and the European Regional Development Fund. Its ScoPE awards are designed to fund project activities which promote innovation and knowledge transfer into companies from public sector research organisations such as universities. ScoPE awards are discretionary contributions to projects of up to £5,000 (excluding VAT).

The first award was to **Zone Fit Ltd** for its Fit Zone™ product, an athletic training programme designed to improve motor skills, reactive training, aerobic conditioning, muscular strength, endurance, flexibility and body composition. This high-intensity, low-impact programme involves moving inside a square frame, with the option of performing upper torso body building movements. The Fit Zone™ group exercise programme is designed to accommodate all fitness levels.

SCI will fund a study to measure heart rate as well as the amount of calories burnt during the specific cardiovascular group exercise programme using The Fit Zone™ and to compare them with results from other published studies of a similar nature ie step aerobics and body attack. This research will be carried out by Robert Gordon University, and volunteers will be recruited from David Lloyd Leisure in Aberdeen, which is currently undertaking a 6 week exclusive trial of the equipment and group exercise programme.

Zone Fit was established in Aberdeen by Beverly Gove to develop fitness training products and exercise techniques, Fit Zone™ being one of these.

Bev Gove says, "We are very grateful to the Sporting Chance Initiative for providing funding for this useful piece of research. We are extremely excited about the David Lloyd Leisure trial and are looking forward to finding out just how effective a typical Fit Zone™ workout is."

The second award is to **Dalriada**

Products Limited, set up by Professor Ray Noble and Tom Gilchrist of Giltech as a joint venture company in 2005 specifically to develop products using Giltech's organic polymer technology. The award will help investigate a new method for the dietary delivery of nutrients. This technology underlying the product means that it can be easily adapted to a wide variety of sporting situations.

The SCI will help to support laboratory investigations, workshop engineering and prototype production carried out by Dalriada/Giltech as well as analytical services essential to the project that will be undertaken by the Nutritional Analytical Services at the University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture.

Professor Ray Noble says, "We would like to thank the guys from the Sporting Chance Initiative for their support and we are very pleased with the response to the ideas and the proposed work. It is now time to put words into action."

www.sportingchanceinitiative.co.uk