

August 2009

Latest News from YFM Group in the North West

- **NWBIS - Best performing fund of its type in the UK**
- **Thank you for helping us attract £200m into the region**



Regional North West fund outperforms its peers

Keeping pace with change

Securing funding can be challenging. Sectors can fall in and out of favour and events can affect funders appetite.

Since 2003, when the NWDA launched the **North West Business Investment Scheme (NWBIS)**, there has been a steady supply of funding available to businesses in the North West region. There have been a lot of changes in this time, the economy has had its ups and downs but businesses have always relied on the security of finance whether they were requiring funding post.com in the boom years - for development capital, or in the current economic climate.

Investment

To date NWBIS has invested in **58 North West based businesses** across all stages and many sectors. These investments were made alongside **£200 million of other private sector co-investment**.

The businesses backed employ almost **4,000 staff**, not only in the region but across the UK as a result of expansion and growth.

Early stage businesses are showing great promise as they mature and grow.



Creating Wealth

Almost **40% of the original investment has been realised so far**, exceeding expectations and as far as we can see is the **best performing region in the UK**.

Working together

During the last 6 years our team has worked with **innovative entrepreneurs and management teams alongside numerous corporate advisers, accountants, lawyers, brokers, HR specialists, government agencies, journalists, banks, corporate investors, venture funds and private investors** across the UK and beyond.

A big Thank You

It would be impossible to thank everyone personally who contributed to the activities over the years, so on behalf of NWBIS investment team and YFM Private Equity Ltd, we would like to thank you all for your support.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the funds portfolio of businesses and on investing the other funds under YFM's management.

Portfolio Developments

Surface Transforms wins French deal

AIM-listed components maker Surface Transforms has won a two-year contract worth €245,000 from Microturbo SA France, part of the international aerospace group SAFRAN.

Bglobal secures £15m finance deal and launches carbon reduction campaign

AIM-listed smart metering company Bglobal has secured a £15m finance facility to further drive the roll-out of its services.

The new campaign is for business customers seeking to comply with new directives on carbon reduction. Its Energy Counts scheme aims to help companies prepare for the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) challenge through its smart metering programme.

Profit expected from Epistem

Epistem, the biotechnology and research company based in Manchester, has reported that business has been strong and is in line with expectation. In March Epistem announced a multimillion-pound funding deal with pharmaceutical giant Novartis. The deal included an upfront cash payment of £2.8m and an option to exclusively license drugs in exchange for fees, milestone payments and royalties.

Sales rise as swine flu fears grow

The public concern over swine flu has seen sales of Byotrol's products soar, the manufacturer of anti-bacterial chemicals expects the business will meet market expectations for the financial year.

**For further details please call us on 0161 832 7603 or email [info @yfmgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@yfmgroup.co.uk)
www.yfmprivateequity.co.uk**

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