

NEWS RELEASE

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ELC EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF ADVANCED DIGITAL INSTITUTE

High tech companies, initially in the Yorkshire and Humberside areas but ultimately across the UK, look set to benefit significantly from the opening of the new Advanced Digital Institute (ADI) which promises to provide competitive advantage in international markets

The ADI will assist companies in identifying and developing new high-value products through the provision of specialist electronics technical support and business advice. Funded by a £2M Yorkshire Forward contract, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Airedale Partnership and EU Regional Fund support, the ADI is expected to generate 160 new jobs and create 25 new companies in its first five years alone.

The West Yorkshire location of the ADI was chosen due to the significant and growing number of high-tech companies operating in the surrounding region. It is envisaged however that the institute will increasingly develop a national and international role as a leading centre, providing R&D and academic resources for high technology industries, and attracting talented specialists and high tech companies. The initial location of the ADI is at Cottingley Business Park, Bingley, but plans are already in place to provide a purpose built R&D centre including a central business hub, incubation units, secure labs, seminar/meeting rooms and auditorium facilities. In addition to providing state-of-the-art R&D facilities, the ADI will also make available services to help its users to take their innovative ideas through the development stage and to market in the most effective and efficient way.

As well as employing a permanent, full time staff of specialist electronics R&D engineers, the ADI is working closely with the region's universities to include research students as members of the strategic development teams which will provide its comprehensive range of R&D services. Specialists from industry will also be seconded.

Harry Tee, chairman of the Electronics Leadership Council, today gave his unqualified support to the ADI initiative and praised the foresight and vision of those involved:

“With the vitally important contribution high technology companies make to the UK economy and with the need to increase this significantly if the country is to grow economically in an increasingly technology dependent world, the ADI is exactly the sort of initiative the UK needs. By bringing together all of the elements required for successful innovation and product development, the ADI will give high tech companies a competitive edge, enabling them to exploit opportunities in an expanding international market.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Electronics Leadership Council: The Electronics Leadership Council (ELC) was formed in October 2005 in response to the first recommendation of the Electronics Innovation and Growth Team's (EIGT) report of December 2004. The ELC is charged with taking forward the key recommendations from the EIGT report and providing a strategic view of its overall implementation. It provides focused and high-profile leadership for the electronics sector as it pursues its longer-term objectives such as the implementation of the EKTN announced in this release. The ELC is supported by the DTI, who are providing the secretariat.

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