

NEWS RELEASE

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North West England links up via NEW website

North West organisations, businesses and projects are to be linked together for the first time through a new, innovative regional website – www.regionplus.co.uk.

The free website will provide links to more than 120 regional organisations and partnerships, and offer a one-stop-shop for news, events and information about the region.

Regionplus is the brainchild of Eric Hudson, currently executive vice chairman of Halton Chamber of Commerce and a former North West Regional Assembly deputy chairman.

Eric brings a wealth of business and public sector experience to the new company. He is a former European managing director of a leading corporate clothing company, as well as former chair of the Regional Assembly's Economic and Social Partnership and national chair of the UK-wide group.

He came up with the seed of an idea for a regional network almost a decade ago and has been developing links locally and nationally ever since.

Eric explained: "Regional identity is very strong in the North West. There are many organisations which have a region-wide role rather than just national or local responsibilities. Thousands of people live in one county and work in another. People interact with one another on a regional basis all the time, but until now there has been no one central place where all this valuable information is captured.

"Now with the Regionplus website, anyone who lives and works in the North West or externally wants to do business in the region will have one easy accessible place to search for information."

The website will offer users a wealth of useful, up-to-date information on the North West's leading organisations, news, events, conferences, government initiatives, funding streams, education, travel, industry sectors, annual reports and strategy documents.

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Users will also be able to order documents online and be connected to specialist business support consultancy services. There is even a North West acronym finder to track down organisations with confusing initials.

Regionplus has already signed up many key partners including the Northwest Development Agency, Virgin Trains, North West Universities Association, NW Regional Language Network, the NW Business Leadership Team, ACAS, NW Manufacturing Institute and many more.

Virgin Trains chief executive Tony Collins believes Regionplus will become a major asset to the North West. He said: "Virgin Trains fully supports Regionplus in developing this innovative new web-based information service. We are fully committed to delivering improved services right across the North West and see Regionplus as a key player as we continue our growth and strengthen links within the region."

A major North West celebration event will be held in the summer to launch the company. The website www@regionplus.co.uk will be continuously updated to offer users the latest regional news and information. And a Regionplus e-newsletter will also be issued monthly from the company's headquarters at the Heath Business Park in Runcorn.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Regionplus CEO Eric Hudson, please contact Lynn Pegler on 01928 789042 or 07783 686246.

Issued by Pegler Communications

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