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Creative Launchpad Celebrate a Successful Blast off

Creative Launchpad, a unique project offering enterprise support services to individuals and businesses in the creative industries, is holding a Dissemination and Celebration Event on Monday 29th April 2008 to celebrate the success of the project.

The event will be held at The Voicebox, Foreman Street in Derby from 2.30pm and is inviting people working in or with the creative industries to join them for afternoon tea and cakes. Guests will be officially welcomed by Carla Martinho, programme area manager for Tribal Education's Creative Launchpad, who will give a brief summary of the project's achievements.

Carla Martinho, comments: "Since launching in May 2006, it has been amazing to see the growth of the creative and cultural industries in Derby City and to work with the individuals and small businesses who have contributed to that growth. There's nothing that beats the job satisfaction of seeing a business grow - helping someone to do what they love, and make a living out of it too!"

The Creative Launchpad initiative was co-financed by the European Social Fund, Learning and Skills Council and Derby City Partnership and has recently been granted further funding for the next four months by Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP). So far, the project has helped to establish over 65 new businesses in a variety of creative

areas including graphic design, film, textiles and jewellery. Sonja Smith, business and skills programme manager, comments: "The creative industries not only contribute to the local economy but attract visitors to the area and enhance the quality of life residents. DDEP and East Midlands Development Agency (emda) are pleased to be able to fund Creative Launchpad for a further four months to continue this specialist support service."

Andy Marsh, economic development manager, LSC, said: "This project has supported over 154 individuals working and living in Derby and assisted 64 of them into the creative self employment sector. The LSC fully support projects like this, by delivering essential training, resource and confidence to these individuals and young businesses, it enables them to succeed in this area, and in turn help build the local economy."

Carla concludes: "This is a great opportunity for us to show the innovation and skills of our team and highlight the development of the individuals and companies who worked with Creative Launchpad. We'll be playing a short feature film, 'Small is beautiful' which will provide first-hand success stories from various businesses who have been involved with and benefitted from the project. Our aim is to demonstrate what Creative Lanuchpad can do for people in the area and how Creative Launchpad can help build the creative economy in the region."

End

Notes to Editors: -

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. Visit www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands

Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership

The Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) is one of seven Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) set up by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) in 2003.

Its aim is to stimulate, develop and bring forward a range of sustainable economic opportunities in Derby and Derbyshire and improve the prosperity and overall environment for businesses, communities, individuals and visitors.

DDEP's region covers the City of Derby and the borough and district councils of Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak and South Derbyshire.

East Midlands Development Agency

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is one of nine English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) set up by the Government in 1999 to:

- further economic development and regeneration;
- promote business efficiency and competitiveness;
- promote employment;
- enhance the development and application of skills relevant to employment, and
- contribute to sustainable development.

Each RDA agrees to champion certain aspects of the RDA agenda and is said to have a lead role on that issue. One area which *emda* champions is international activities, and we take a lead role in addressing key issues that affect all the English RDAs and consider ways in which we can advise Government to shape policy to benefit all regions.

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) was set up in 1999 to bring more jobs and skills to the region and to make the East Midlands a better place to live and work. The new Regional Economic Strategy - 'A Flourishing Region', co-ordinated by *emda* and published in July 2006, sets out priorities for the region until 2020. Its publication follows the most comprehensive consultation ever undertaken in the East Midlands where more than 1,400 stakeholders and partners, and thousands of members of the public had their say on the future of the region. The RES highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and is underpinned by ten priorities. The new RES builds on the previous two strategies 'Prosperity Through People' and 'Destination 2010'. For more details visit www.emda.org.uk