

**PRESS INFORMATION
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY, 2014**

HIVE OF CREATIVE INDUSTRY BUZZES INTO SCOTLAND

A NEW EU-funded initiative aimed at helping would-be creative entrepreneurs across the west of Scotland will launch in Fort William next Thursday evening (31 July).

The investment programme, called *Honeycomb – Creative Works*, will be delivered by *ScreenHI*, which specialises in creating opportunities in the creative sectors of screen, broadcast and music across the Highlands & Islands.

Headed up by Roy Bridge-born former BBC drama producer, Amanda Millen, *ScreenHI* won the tender to deliver this unique project in the Highlands of Scotland.

Honeycomb – Creative Works is looking to develop training and networking opportunities for individuals and groups working in film and broadcast, animation, computer games, interactive media and music technologies.

As well as offering practical support, Honeycomb is also launching a brand new seed fund for projects in development called The Honey Pot aimed at individuals, freelancers and creative enterprises.

There is a four-week window, from tomorrow (Thursday 24th July) until Wednesday 27th August, for interested parties to submit their applications for funding

Honeycomb, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, is also working across the six southern border counties of the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

Key areas which *Honeycomb* has within its sights in Scotland include; Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Argyll and Bute, Arran and Cumbrae, North Ayrshire mainland, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, and Dumfries & Galloway.

The inaugural networking event in the Highlands of Scotland event will be held in the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William on Thursday 31st July from 7pm-9pm.

ScreenHI Director Amanda Millen said: "We are very excited to be involved in this innovative new partnership which will build on our extensive network within the creative industries in the Highlands and Islands.

"The *Honeycomb* network will offer access to a ground-breaking programme that will build new skills and knowledge, and spark new connections and business opportunities both within and between digital content makers in Ireland and the western seaboard of Scotland.

"If you have the idea, the drive and the enthusiasm, come and talk to us and we will see where we can take your business. We are keen to talk to everyone who has an interest in developing a career in film and broadcast, animation, game design and development,

interactive media, online content for wireless, mobile and internet and music technologies, with the emphasis on making music.

“Perhaps you are part of an existing company or collaborating in a group. Maybe you have just left school or university and in need of a helping hand? You could be unemployed with the potential to take your idea to market. It doesn’t matter where you are in your life or your career, we’d like to meet you.”

EDITOR’S NOTES

What: Launch event marking start of investment project aimed at boosting creative careers across western seaboard of Scotland

When: 7-9pm on Thursday 31st July

Where: Alexandra Hotel, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6AZ

E-ssential information: www.thehoneycomb.net

More about Honeycomb:

The Honeycomb – Creative Works programme is a collaborative project led by University of Ulster, in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology and Creative Skillset (the Honeycomb Partnership). The Scottish partnership is led by Creative Skillset and comprises of ScreenHI, Creative Scotland, MG Alba, and the University of the West of Scotland.

The programme will prompt the creation and lead to the sustainability of over 160 jobs throughout the western seaboard of Scotland. There will also be additional engagement through a range of programme activities with over 3,000 practitioners in the sector. The legacy of this programme will be evidenced by superior industry clustering and collaboration and a region populated with increased level of investment, new company start-ups and potential for high growth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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