



PRESS NOTICE: 17/02/2010

## 200 BUSINESSES TO ATTEND SELLAFIELD CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES EVENT

MORE than 200 companies are due to attend the North West Supply Chain Project's Meet the Buyer event, which will take place at the Sellafield Centre on Wednesday 24th February 2010.

The North West Supply Chain Project, now in its third year, is holding the latest in a long line of successful events in conjunction with the Sellafield Suppliers Forum held on the previous day. Interest in both days has been high and over 200 companies are due to attend Meet the Buyer with registration now closed.

Meet the Buyer will introduce a range of West Cumbrian and North West businesses to 15 large Sellafield site suppliers which have made themselves available to discuss their sub-contract requirements. These are not just Sellafield site-specific but may extend across other parts of their businesses. These "One-to-One" meetings offer small businesses a unique and important opportunity to their sales "pitch" and have been hugely popular and successful at previous events.

The project is funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and West Cumbria Development Fund and is managed by TWI, in partnership with the event organisers, West Cumbria Development Agency.

**Dog Holden, WCDA's Chief Executive** is grateful for the support of Sellafield Ltd and Britain's Energy Coast™ West Cumbria and also for the commitment from some of our largest contracting companies, particularly given the disruption to the re-scheduling of the event following the devastating floods in the area in November. Dog comments: "it is vital in these challenging economic times for smaller business to work hard to develop and maintain contacts and use opportunities like Meet the Buyer as a platform to do so. "

The event will run for much of the day and includes a keynote address from Sellafield Ltd plus a range of presentations and exhibitions. Much business is conducted outside of the "One to Ones" which are the core of the event.

To date the 3 year North West Supply Chain Project has not only delivered 11 successful events but has individually assisted over 130 companies and created or safeguarded over 300 jobs and £19 million worth of sales in the North West. It has also established the North West Supply Chain Portal which flags up contract opportunities for members.

The current project is nearing completion but WCDA is still keen to hear from local companies selling into the nuclear market or diversifying their offering who feel they may benefit from technical or business development advice on areas such as management development, ISO or marketing. For more information on this or the Portal see [www.nwdsc.com](http://www.nwdsc.com) or contact Deb Lines on 01900 65656.

#### *NOTES TO EDITORS*

North West Supply Chain Project has been funded by Northwest Regional Development Agency, European Regional Development Fund and West Cumbria Development Fund. Other project partners include National Nuclear Laboratory and Cheshire and Warrington Alliance.

Members of the Press are invited to attend but the event is highly subscribed so please contact us as above should you wish to do so.