

Bedfordshire.

novation areas during the com-
orough Council, South Beds
uncil and Luton Borough
ile alert to the job creation
potential of this imaginative breed of
entrepreneurs, have so far confined
themselves to giving funding support to
Business Link Bedfordshire, which is a
champion of promising business ventures.

Looking for a stimulating research environment?

SMALL businesses and start-up ventures looking to develop new products or services will be able to draw on funding and an extensive range of expertise and facilities in a new innovation project funded by the Single Regeneration Budget.

The University of Luton, Business Link, Luton Borough Council and the Luton and Dunstable Partnership are all collaborating in the scheme, for which £320,000 is being released over the next three years.

The project will be known as the Luton and Dunstable Innovation Centre and will be based The Spires, 2 Adelaide Street, Luton.

Head of the Innovation Centre Mike Anstey said it would offer an exciting package which would accommodate businesses within a dynamic and stimulating research environment, with access to the development partners' extensive resources.

He said: "We may even be able to support businesses who don't want accommodation space. They can simply 'hotdesk' and apply for funding to help pay for the package of facilities and services they require.

"Businesses who qualify may be local small companies, spin-offs from established companies, other local organisations, or totally new start-up ventures."

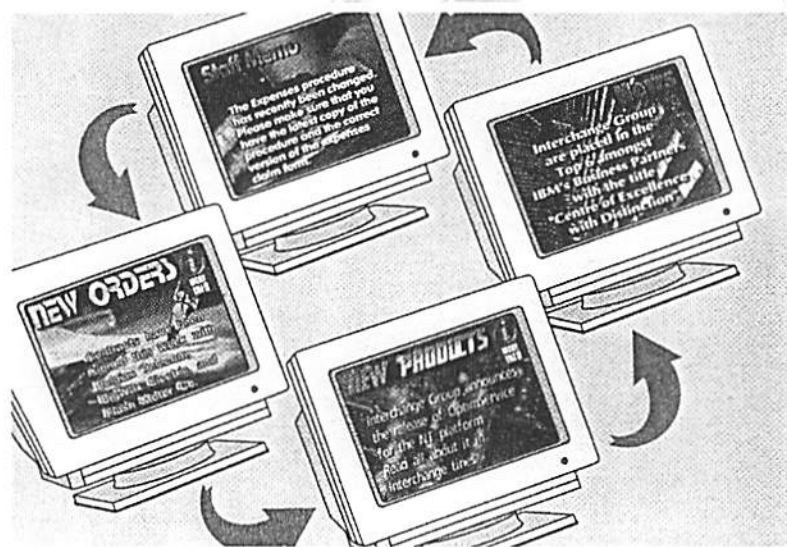
Spin-offs from the University of Luton will certainly figure among the incoming businesses.

Services provided include research and consultancy expertise, technical and computer facilities, administrative and secretarial support, advice on business and financial planning and a programme of events, training and workshops.

Further information from Mike Anstey or Lynette Warren on 01582 743700, or email: innovation.centre@luton.ac.uk

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communications, where it has specialised in delivering business television solutions to blue chip organisations. Interchange Group has offices in several key locations in the UK and

Europe, offering complete design, installation and support services to meet the demands of modern business communication. It enjoys business relationships with Magnox, British Aerospace, Ford, ICL, Sony

and the Post Office, among many others. InStaNet is in use at the Interchange offices at Dickens House in Enterprise Way, Flitwick. More information from 01525 716716.

all that unwanted road digging

Award winner

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as bulky, heavy and costly to install, and, being designed principally to drain major highways, as over-sized. In October last year, however, ACO produced its one piece system, KerbDrain™ with two inlets per 500mm length in a resin concrete which is four times stronger and one fifth the weight of ordinary concrete.

Highly effective, it reduces the need for additional gullies and drainage in the road. With a laying depth of just of 600mm and narrower width it reduces possible impact on other services under both road and pavement during installation. Another advantage is a lower requirement for careful grading and finishing of the road surface to ensure efficient direction of surface water flow to gullies. ACO has designed channels

points are installed where necessary and there is easy connection to existing subsurface systems. Local authority engineers say KerbDrain™ shows excellent potential for small dimensioned, cost-effective kerb drainage in housing developments. It offers less deep excavation, reduced costs and speedy site finishing.

