



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

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Jon Griffin, *Birmingham Post*

Investbx offer free workshops to help firms find fresh finance

Companies seeking to secure funding to finance expansion plans are being offered the chance to attend workshops with leading experts to find out more about options available.

Investbx, the West Midlands virtual business exchange, is hosting the three free workshops as a way of exploring whether firms would be suited to use this vehicle to raise finance.

Launched in July 2007, Investbx has so far admitted three companies, including West Midlands engineering group Key Technologies, who have raised capital as a result of exchanging shares.

The first workshop takes place tomorrow, with Andrew Lester, managing partner of Carr-Michael Business Growth Specialists, talking about how to increase value through growth management. On Thursday June 4, Tom Morris-Jones, corporate finance director of Arden Partners Stockbrokers, will be giving his views on the future of the West Midlands economy and on Tuesday June 30 John Pierce, chief executive of the Quoted Companies Alliance, will speak on corporate governance for public companies.

The events, which take place at the Investbx offices in Colmore Row, are aimed at West Midlands companies who may be seeking to raise between £500,000 and £2 million in exchange for a share in their business.

Sue Summer, chief executive of Investbx, said: "It is understandable if companies are currently being very cautious about their expansion in the economic climate. However, Investbx might well be the right option for them and that is what these workshops are all about, taking the opportunity to find out more about the avenues that companies might seek to explore."

To attend the workshops, email paulinedavey@investbx.com or call 0121 2334903.