



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

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Tom Scotney, *The Birmingham Post*

Free workshops help companies explore funding avenues for expansion

Investbx, the West Midlands virtual business exchange, is hosting three free workshops to explore ways for companies to fund expansion plans.

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 on Thursday, May 7, and features Andrew Lester, the 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 are aimed at West Midlands companies who may be seeking to raise between £500,000 and £2m in exchange for a share in their business.

Sue Summer, the chief executive of Investbx, said: "Everybody is aware of the challenges companies are facing presently in accessing funding to finance growth plans.

"It is understandable if companies are currently being very cautious about their expansion in the current 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 about the avenues companies might explore.

"Since Investbx launched we have admitted three companies which has enabled them to access the investment necessary to go about their expansion plans. Key Technologies recently announced an increase in half-year profits of 51 per cent which is an indication of both the kinds of companies we are able to help and also some of the benefits to using this innovative route.

"Ultimately, it is important for companies to be thinking beyond the current economic challenges and remaining confident about their future plans."

The workshops take place at the Investbx offices in Colmore Row, to attend either e-mail paulinedavey@investbx.com or call 0121 2334903.