**New Entrepreneurs Forum in Sussex**

**Leading wealth manager and regional business hub team up**

**to bring Sussex business leaders together**

London 4 June 2010: Leading UK private bank and wealth manager Kleinwort Benson, in partnership with MD**HUB**, the premier business club for Managing Directors in Sussex, yesterday launched its highly successful Entrepreneurs Forum in Brighton.

Having run a networking and advisory forum for entrepreneurs in London’s Square Mile since 2001, the wealth manager is now bringing together entrepreneurs from across Sussex to discuss issues close to their hearts, including the development of their business, preparing for exit and investing in new enterprises. Working with MD**HUB**, an established networking and resource hub for business owners in the region, guests at the event heard from renowned speaker Osman Kent - the serial technology and media entrepreneur best known as the co-founder and CEO of 3Dlabs - who discussed growth strategies for 2010 and beyond. Jeremy Beckwith, Kleinwort Benson's Chief Investment Officer also shared his outlook for the UK economy, and his views on the likely impacts we can expect to see on markets and on business.

Kleinwort Benson is well versed in advising entrepreneurs on their wealth planning requirements, particularly around business exits and investments, with entrepreneurs accounting for a significant percentage of the Bank’s client base. Having run these specialist forums from its London Head Office for nearly a decade, Kleinwort Benson has now decided to take the show ‘on the road’ to regionally based entrepreneurs, in line with its regional expansion programme. This has seen the Bank open no less than 6 offices across the UK over the last 3 years, allowing its bankers to be much closer to their clients.

Kleinwort Benson is excited to be working with MD**HUB** on this event; the organisation’s dedication to spreading best practice through peer-to-peer contact between like-minded MDs is exactly in line with the idea behind the original Kleinwort Benson Entrepreneurs Forum. Currently operating in Brighton & Hove and Mid-Sussex with two divisions, the 100 and the 250, MD**HUB** is dedicated to the pursuit of best business practice, each catering for MDs with a different length of experience. Reflective of both Kleinwort Benson and MD**HUB**’s shared ethos, these forums aim to provide a challenging but open, honest and trusted environment for pursuing fresh ideas, resolving demanding issues and debating the future of business.

Colin Rowe, Head of Regional Wealth Management at Kleinwort Benson says, “We’re particularly interested in developing activity in Sussex given the high volume of entrepreneurial activity we have observed, across a diverse range of industries and business areas. The business owners and leaders we are meeting and speaking with are looking for specialist advice to meet their very specific wealth management needs.

“Brighton, for example, is very much seen as a hub of media entrepreneurialism and that’s reflected in the background of some of our attendees, as well as the speaker himself. However, we talked to a variety of individuals, developing and leading businesses across a number of sectors from Real Estate to Manufacturing, Publishing to Clean Technology and Energy Solutions. Through events like these we’re thrilled to have the opportunity to listen to client’s different experiences and needs and to be able to talk to them about the ways in which we can advise them and help them to fulfil their goals.”

Over 50 business leaders and entrepreneurs from across Sussex attended the event at the Royal Pavilion yesterday evening.

**- ENDS -**

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About Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson is one of the most historic names in British banking with roots dating back to the 1790s. The Bank provides a range of bespoke wealth management and financial services solutions to private individuals and corporates, offering its clients advice and solutions which are completely tailored to their individual wealth planning needs. With an offering spanning investment management, tax and banking, trust and fiduciary services the Bank provides its clients with a truly holistic service. Operating from the City of London, the Channel Islands and a network of regional offices, and via a range of networks across the globe, Kleinwort Benson is always able to be close to its clients, wherever they are in the world..

Kleinwort Benson was one of the first major banks to establish a presence in the Channel Islands, nearly 50 years ago. Today it is consistently ranked as one of the top ten providers of administration and custodian services, working with fund managers across a wide range of traditional and alternative asset classes.

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About MD**HUB**

The MD**HUB**, previously known as the Hub100, brings together managing directors from its catchment area’s most ambitious and entrepreneurially-minded companies.

Leading a business can be both fulfilling and isolating - which is why the MD**HUB** provides MDs with an unparalleled opportunity to share and learn from the experiences of others who are or have been in similar positions. Members regularly take full advantage of its facilitated business programme by attending monthly topic-based seminars - presented by the area’s most inspirational speakers - along with the dynamic and productive workgroups where, due to its honest and trusted environment, anything can be tabled for advice.

- The MD**HUB**’s members have a combined turnover of £290 million and a workforce of 3,500 employees.

- 22 of its member companies are owned and run by women

- The MD**HUB** is a cross sector organisation with members from the Manufacturing, Construction, Retail, Digital, Creative and Services industries.

- In the last 3 years, three of the MD**HUB**’s member companies have been sold by their founders for in excess of £50 million but remain and continue to grow in Sussex.

The Brighton & Hove division of the MD**HUB** was initially set up with funding from SEEDA and the Brighton & Hove Regeneration Partnership, and was supported by Brighton & Hove City Council along with a wide range of other local agencies, local companies and business leaders.