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BATH & BRISTOL
ENTERPRISE
NETWORK

SCIENCE = BRISTOL
CITY REGION

- Director of BEN (Bath & Bristol Enterprise Network) – ‘the network of the technology business community’
- an activity of Science City Bristol Ltd, a new non-profit company to support science and innovation, owned by 3 universities, further financial support from WEP and SWRDA, involvement of other key organisations

my background

- founded, grew and sold 2 technology businesses in Bristol :



- automatic inspection systems for ceramic tile manufacturers



- software for realistic visualisation of print and packaging

- occasional (and not very effective) use of local support resources
- a typical 'disconnected entrepreneur'

business support in the West of England

- agencies, councils, networks, associations, non-profit companies, institutes, programmes, informal meet ups
- Bristol, Bath, West of England, South West, national, international
- events, networking, workshops, resources, funding, grants, 1-to-1 advice, signposting, mentoring



- it is too hard to find and access relevant support
- many people waste time searching, or investigating/using inappropriate support
- and often just give up



*entrepreneurs
and business
people are
drowning in logo
soup*



the opportunity

- make support more accessible by collaborating
- LEP Bedrock Business Support proposal:
 - voluntary collaboration of WoE support organisations
 - web portal with directory of support organisations and services
 - comprehensive event calendar
 - online discussion fora for:
 1. support organisations only
 2. business people to find the right support
 - low cost

how can support organisations
in the West of England
collaborate to become more
effective and make their
offerings more accessible?