

Yellowfin makes SMART move

Yellowfin Ltd is one of a few companies leading the way in marine technology. With the leisure market alone worth in excess of USD 20 billion, the company was formed to exploit a revolutionary drive system for leisure craft.

With the help of Business Link, Yellowfin obtained a DTI SMART Development Award in December 2001 to develop a pre-production dual-engine version of its VSD (Variable Surface Drive). This enabled the company to develop its new drive and carry out tests with its first engine partner.

The project was successfully completed in August 2002 and since this time the company has developed a larger dual engine drive to cater for drives from 700hp to 1500hp (x2) = 3000hp.

The SMART Award was of immense benefit to the company, both financially and in terms of credibility and was instrumental in enabling Yellowfin to sign up with its first partner.

The region generally has been very successful in obtaining SMART awards and several marine projects were Award winners. For instance, a project to construct prefabricated boats and another concerned with huge, offshore, wave energy systems.

Yellowfin Ltd is now seeking a further R & D Development Grant to develop a highly innovative single engine unit. The technology involved in this is again revolutionary and differs significantly from that used to develop the dual engine unit.

Anne Duncan, CEO at Yellowfin says, "Although the system is now competitive and the Grants may be more difficult to obtain, I would still highly recommend the R & D Grants to any company wishing to exploit "revolutionary or highly innovative" technology".

Information on these SBS grants is available on the Business Link website:

www.businesslinkwessex.co.uk