

PRIME MINISTER “MONITORS” SUCCESS OF DTI’S ELECTRONICS DESIGN SUPPORT CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF GLAMORGAN

On a recent visit to the University of Glamorgan, Prime Minister Tony Blair took the opportunity to view the work of the DTI Electronics Design Support Centre based there.

Established originally under DTI’s “Microelectronics in Business” Programme in 1994, the Support Centre is one of eight located throughout the UK. It helps electronics companies throughout Wales with free and independent consultancy, “hands-on” project design support, training and signposts to UK and European sources of government funding, such as the TCS Programme.

During a tour of the Centre led by its Director, Professor Mo Wahab, Mr. Blair had his blood flow monitored by Greg Baily, Technical Manager of Huntleigh Diagnostics, a Cardiff-based developer and manufacturer of electronic medical diagnostic equipment for the healthcare market. With help from the Support Centre and funding from the European Commission’s FUSE programme, Huntleigh successfully replaced microcontroller and DSP technology with a mixed signal ASIC solution to improve its blood flow diagnostic product range. Today, the company has significantly increased its annual sales revenue of the product to become a world leader in vascular diagnosis.

Mr. Blair also met Geraint Roberts, Engineering Manager of Lion Laboratories, who displayed its new ASIC-based Alcohol Level Measurement (breathalyser) equipment which was also developed with the assistance of the Glamorgan Support Centre and FUSE.

Professor Wahab commented that the Prime Minister’s visit was a tremendous boost for the Support Centre. “I hope it will encourage other companies in Wales to take advantage of the facilities DTI has made possible.”

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Notes to Editors:

1. High resolution versions of these thumbnail photos can be downloaded from: (www.pmc.uk.com/Design.htm)



The Prime Minister investigates Huntleigh's blood flow monitoring equipment, with help from Greg Baily, Huntleigh's Technical Manager.



Professor Mo Wahab, Director of DTI's Glamorgan Support Centre, looks on as the Prime Minister discusses Lion Laboratories' new breathalyser equipment with Geraint Roberts, Lion's Engineering Manager.

2. The DTI's 3 year "Electronics Design" programme was launched in April 1999 and has attracted a growing level of support and participation by UK industry. The £4.2 million campaign aims to help management understand and introduce low-cost design tools and techniques designed to get the right products to market at the right price and at the right time. The programme offers management seminars, and through its UK network of eight Support Centres, provides free and independent consultancy, "hands-on" project design support, training and signposts to UK and European sources of government funding, such as the TCS Programme.