



■ **The United States Ambassador to Spain Visits the ZEC Offices**

On 14 November Eduardo Aguirre, United States Ambassador to Spain, visited the Las Palmas office of the Canary Islands Special Zone, where he was informed about the opportunities Europe's most advantageous tax regime has to offer to United States companies planning to invest in the African continent from the Canary Islands. The President of the ZEC, Juan Romero Pi, highlighted the role that the American Chamber of Commerce will play in the Canary Islands in relation to the arrival of investors from the United States, and explained that the ZEC is the ideal instrument for channelling such investments. ☒



■ **New Incorporations**



In October and November 2006 the following companies registered in the Official ZEC Register (ROEZEC):

■ **Global Digital Prints S.L.**
activity: wholesaling
location: Gran Canaria

■ **Abanico y Montaje S.L.**
activity: manufacture of metal carpentry
location: Gran Canaria

■ **Universal Go in S.L.**
activity: computer consultancy
location: Gran Canaria

■ **Logiprint Internacional S.L.**
activity: wholesaling
location: Tenerife

■ **Uruguay Vehículos Industriales S.L.**
activity: sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories
location: Tenerife

■ **Texco Fateca Confecciones y Textiles Canarias S.L.**
activity: manufacture of textiles
location: Gran Canaria

■ **The Biotechnology Forum Organised by the ZEC Will be Held in One Month's Time**



On 18 and 19 January 2007, the Canary Islands will become a point of reference in the biotechnology debate with the holding of the event **CANARIAS BIOINVEST FORUM 2007**. This is the first time an event of this kind will be held in the Islands.

Organised by the *Canary Islands Special Zone*, the *Canary Islands Government*, the *Spanish Association of Biotech Companies (ASEBIO)* and the *Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)*, **CANARIAS BIOINVEST FORUM 2007** aims to serve as a meeting point for researchers, investors, public administrators and business representatives.

The forum provides a **unique opportunity to bring together biotechnology and investment**, and will include speakers of renown from Spain and abroad. The sessions will be primarily centred on the financing of biotech companies, the presentation of successful cases, information on related activities from other countries and regions of Spain, and the identification of market niches in this field.

The Forum represents a dynamic approach to the main areas of activity in biotechnology by encouraging real possibilities for business within the specific tax regime of the Canary Islands, the most advantageous tax regime in Europe.

Major figures from the world of business and biotechnology have already confirmed their active participation in the Forum. Further information is available by downloading the programme from the event web page: www.canariasmioinvestforum.com, where you may also register for the event.

■ **Access for SMEs to Grants for Technological Innovation**

The Consortium is participating in two initiatives to allow small and medium sized enterprises to access grants that will allow them to apply aspects of technological innovation to their activities:

1.- In conjunction with the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade: the **SME Support Unit for participation in the "Integral Actions" of the FORINTEL (UNAI) Telecommunications Training Programme**. This operational unit is directed by the company CARSA as an independent technology consultant. The **UNAI** initiative will enable **500 SMEs** from five Spanish Autonomous Communities, including the **Canary Islands**, to incorporate ICT tools which will encourage them to digitalise their activities and which will provide assistance in this process. For this purpose, until the end of year and at no cost, the **UNAI** interdisciplinary team will carry out a technological diagnosis and **prepare a technical and administrative report** which will enable each of the participating SMEs to gain access to the "Integral Actions" of the FORINTEL programme, which offers **grants of up to 70%** for the process of installing computer facilities and



Total number of companies registered up to 30/11/2006: 215.



The following companies have obtained authorisation for their business projects from the Consortium Board:

- Instituto Canario de Formación S.L.
- Advanced Telecom S.L.
- Puertas Automáticas Alcalá S.L.
- Solución Presentación Seguridad S.L.
- Reciclajes Pérez y Garnier S.L.
- Norsk Opplag S.L.
- Mallas Canarias S.L.
- Laboratorio Farmacéutico ZEC Canarias S.L.
- Unitor Servicios Navales Canarias S.A.
- Constante Solar S.L.
- I.D.E.A. S.L.
- Hostloco Spain S.L.
- Big Rock Press Distribution S.L.

Total number of companies authorised up to 30/11/06: 380.

■ About Our Companies

The ZEC company **Edosoft Factory**, which works in the development of state-of-the-art software and software-hardware, is currently taking an active part in a pioneering high technology R&D project under the auspices of the EU. The project "Solving Major Problems in Microsensorial Wireless Networks (usWN)" includes the participation of companies from France, Greece, Spain and Lithuania. The project aims to test the validity of microsensors in the control of environmental conditions, both indoor and outdoor. This field has a wide range of practical applications in areas such as renewable energies, health, security and construction.

■ The ZEC at Other Forums

- ★ We attended the **5th Latin American Tax Forum**, organised by Landwell PWC in Madrid, on 14/11/06.
- ★ The ZEC Employment Office (GEZEC) had a stand at the **4th University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Employment Forum**, on 15/11/06.
- ★ We took part in the **1st Spanish Bioregions Forum**, held in the offices of Garrigues in Madrid, on 16-17/11/06.
- ★ We attended **Inicia Negocios 2006 – Business Initiatives Fair**, with a stand in conjunction with Canary Islands Export Promotions (PROEXCA), from 22-24/11/06.
- ★ We participated in the forum **Business Opportunities and Financing for New Companies**, organised by the Canary Islands Business Confederation as part of the 2006 SIE Plan (Integral Services for Promoting Employment and the Creation of Companies), held in Gran Canaria on 24/11/06.
- ★ We were visited by the participants in the **Foreign Trade Training Programme** for Canary Islands university graduates, organised by PROEXCA, on 27/11/06.

providing training.

2.- In conjunction with the Development Society of the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Town Hall: the establishment of a **free advisory service, both on-going and personalised**, to improve knowledge, skills and experience in handling and using new technologies and applying them in companies, and to improve skills in relation to installing and managing new technologies and RDI activities.

■ Panel of Experts in Biotechnology

The **Panel of Experts for the Strategic Study of the Biotechnology Sector in the Canary Islands** met in Gran Canaria on 24 November. The event, organised by the ZEC in conjunction with the Monitoring Centre for Industrial Technology Forecasting (OPTI) and Genoma Spain, comes under the actions the Consortium is carrying out in order to establish the bases of the future strategic plan for Canary Islands Biotechnology in the period 2007-2010. The aim of the meeting was to set about analysing the tools required and the steps to be taken in order to promote the development of the future of biotechnology in the Canary Islands Autonomous Community.





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