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COMMUNICATIONS

Invest in technology, says expert

A LEADING local IT expert is urging Island businesses to keep investing in the latest technology to ensure Jersey remains competitive in world markets.

The head of the C5 Alliance, Mark Loane, said that businesses looking to increase productivity needed to make the most of resources they already had by investing in technology to drive further efficiencies.

Mr Loane, who is managing director of C5, said: 'It is imperative that local businesses continue to invest in technology to realise benefits in the long term.'

Collaboration

Mr Loane, who has worked in IT in Jersey all his life since leaving Hautlieu School in the 1960s, was speaking earlier this week ahead of the launch of the new Microsoft SharePoint 2010 business collaboration product.

C5 Alliance is only one of 20 firms invited to the UK SharePoint Architects forum held quarterly at Mi-

By Harry McRandle

hmcra@jerseyeveningpost.com

crosoft, where Mr Loane's team outline developments in the offshore sector.

Mr Loane's firm has also recently completed the first year of a three year project to completely revamp the States-owned www.gov.je website.

That project came in at just under £1 million in year one and is likely to cost a similar amount for the three year duration.

The IT expert said that it was encouraging that Jersey and Guernsey were driving economic recovery by developing new expertise and skills in all sectors of industry.

He recognised that companies were keeping an eye on cutting unnecessary costs. But he contended that was not a sufficient reason to put investment in new infrastructure on hold.

He said the increasing trend towards trade globalisation meant that now, more than ever, business lead-



Mark Loane, head of C5 Alliance Picture: PETER MOURANT (00896896)

ers needed to embrace technology.

Mr Loane said it was particularly important to use technology that en-

abled employees to connect with each other and share data seamlessly while respecting security boundaries.

Mr Loane said that many firms these days often had employees in more than one jurisdiction.

He said the adoption of technological developments such as Microsoft's SharePoint 2010 was a prime example, as the platform enabled employees to work together more efficiently.

'It allows colleagues to share and collaborate remotely without losing productivity. In turn it can save money on unnecessary costs such as the time it takes to travel to and from meetings,' he said.

Customised

Mr Loane said tools like SharePoint 2010 would give businesses the opportunity to respond to changing needs and provide customised solutions swiftly and securely.

He added that investment in such technology made it possible to reduce training and maintenance expenses while increasing IT productivity within a governable and compliant platform.

