

ContractorCalculator: Contracting news in brief

Space... contractors' future frontier

Contractors from nearly every discipline stand to benefit from projected growth in the UK's space industry, according to the new [Space Innovation and Growth Strategy](#). The sector is forecast to be worth £40 billion by 2030 and employing 100,000 workers. Minister for Science and Innovation [Lord Drayson](#) commented: "I want to see space as a leading sector of UK industry and a mainstay of our economy – built on science, employing talent, manufacturing [and] cutting-edge technologies." That sounds like good news for contractors! [More...](#)

IT contractors have more contracts to choose from....

Despite a seasonal slump in December, the latest [Computer Weekly/SSL/JobAdsWatch](#) survey shows that, compared to the second quarter of 2009, IT contract vacancies are up by 18%. The data also reports that software houses make up 42.9% of demand for IT contractors and confirms the importance of financial services, which make up 31.9% of demand. [More...](#)

...but 44% of IT companies are planning to outsource jobs abroad

Recovery in IT and other contracting sectors could be fragile according to the [CIPD/KPMG](#) Labour Market Outlook survey. It shows that 44% of IT companies and 17% of manufacturers are set to outsource abroad. All this is against a backdrop of skills shortages, as CIPD's public policy adviser Gerwyn Davies explains: "Despite rising unemployment, employers are still struggling to recruit the people they need and we are turning abroad to plug the gap." [More...](#)

City IT contractors have long road ahead

IT contractors with financial services clients have seen increased confidence and demand, but the latest [CBI](#) PricewaterhouseCoopers financial services survey suggests short-term prospects for the sector are weak, with cost reduction contributing to a slow recovery. The report says headcount levels have stabilised and product development – typically a good source of contracts – is 'attracting more attention than at any time in the past year. [More...](#)

HMRC fires warning shot across expat-contractors' bows

Expat contractors could find their travelling habits under the microscope following a recent HMRC tax case victory. Despite moving to the Seychelles in 1974, entrepreneur Robert Gaines-Cooper lost his appeal when the Court of Appeal decided that HMRC had correctly interpreted UK non-residency rules in IR20. Gaines-Cooper is facing an estimated tax bill backdated to 1993 of £30m. [More...](#)

Contractors - get your free website here!

Contractors who don't have an online presence can create a website for free by visiting [Getting British Business Online](#). BT, [e-skills UK](#), Enterprise K, Google, The IoD and [PayPal](#) are behind this initiative to get 100,000 businesses online by the end of 2010. According to [e-skills UK](#), although the UK has 40m internet users, over 1.5m businesses still don't have a website. [More...](#)

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