

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2013

### **Job opportunities for local firms**

Local businesses will get the chance to express an interest in contracts in Yorkshire with SSE, one of the largest utilities companies in the UK.

SSE has launched a new Open4Business web portal which gives local firms details of contract opportunities available, similar to a scheme used at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

A free event is being held in Rotherham on October 15th for local firms to learn more about how the portal works and the contract opportunities that are available with SSE and local authorities.

The energy giant spends around £200m each year in the North of England and is committed to helping small to medium enterprises in the areas in which it operates. SSE projects in Yorkshire include the new waste treatment facility being built at Manvers for the BDR Waste Partnership with Shanks, and Ferrybridge Multifuel Power Station, in partnership with Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

The free event on 15<sup>th</sup> October is being hosted by Rotherham Investment & Development Office (RiDO) – the investment wing of Rotherham Borough Council – through the European Regional Development Fund, and the BDR Waste Partnership are delighted to be able to support this. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Express at Manvers, and businesses wishing to attend should register as soon as possible on the RiDO website at [www.rido.org.uk/events/sse-o4b-event](http://www.rido.org.uk/events/sse-o4b-event).

SSE Chief Executive, Alistair Phillips-Davies, said: “SSE is investing around £4m a day in new energy infrastructure throughout the UK and we want to see real economic and social benefits flow to local businesses and communities as a result.”

RiDO Business Development Manager, Tim O’Connell, added: “We have a number of high quality companies in the Rotherham area, and through this event we’re pleased to be able to help them find potential future business opportunities.”

For more information see [www.rido.org.uk](http://www.rido.org.uk) or contact Andrew Klinkenberg at RiDO on 01709 254444.

**Note to editors:** RiDO provides a professional and completely free service, for business start ups, existing Rotherham businesses looking to expand, or inward investors considering an operation in Rotherham. RiDO can help with everything from finding the right sites and premises, finding and training recruits to locating new customers and suppliers.

The event has been funded through the South Yorkshire Sector Growth Enhancement Programme (SYSGEP), which is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund

through the Yorkshire and The Humber ERDF 2007-13 Programme. The project aims to support both inward investors and expanding indigenous businesses to accelerate private sector expansion and increase the competitiveness of the region's business base.

The BDR Waste Partnership secured £77.4m of Private Finance Initiative funding towards a waste treatment facility at Manvers to deal with leftover waste from Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham over 25 years. It is due to open in 2015. More information at [www.bdronline.co.uk](http://www.bdronline.co.uk)