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BSI Management Systems announces free Brighton Business Forum to help businesses grow and prosper during the economic downturn

England's 'most successful' cities, such as Brighton, could lose a combined five per cent of their jobs over the next three years which equates to 56,000 jobs¹. No city is immune from the recession and with this in mind BSI Management Systems has unveiled its first in a new national series of free Regional Business Forums for 2009 to help businesses prepare themselves for the tough year ahead.

The Brighton event is being held on 11th March at the Hilton Metropole. The forums are designed to educate businesses on how achieving certification to the latest standards can help address the complexities and challenges involved in developing and growing a lucrative business, even during uncertain financial times.

Andrew Morris, Business Development Director at BSI Management Systems, says, "Over the course of 2008 the UK has been exposed to climate changes, financial instability, data loss incidents and an increasing amount of economic upheaval. These uncertainties create risks for the proper functioning of organisations. The ultimate commercial consequence of these phenomena can be business failure."

With worries of business cut backs and closures in the forefront for many organisations, managing business risk is at the top of the boardroom agenda. At the forum a session will be held to give an understanding of how BS 25999 provides an all-encompassing business framework to help build a robust risk management strategy.

The forum will also look at the importance of the quality management system, ISO 9001, leaving attendees with a framework for maintaining employee and stakeholder confidence in a changing environment, from mergers and acquisition through to headcount and budget cuts.

The event is designed to reflect the size of the organisation, providing informative and relevant guidance whether it is for a large, medium or small enterprise. Each session during the forum will provide an understanding of how regulatory compliance, litigation avoidance and winning new business can be achieved.

Morris explains, “The Regional Business Forums provide a great opportunity for businesses looking to improve and implement more robust plans in order to deal with economic challenges. Whether they are already experienced in maintaining certified management systems, or simply learning, we are confident they will leave with some useful knowledge on how to move forward. Previous forums have been extremely successful and we expect a large turnout on 11th March.”

To register for this free event, simply visit www.bsi-uk.com/forums09 where you can sign up to any, or all of the sessions.

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About BSI Management Systems

BSI Management Systems is one of the world’s largest certification bodies, with over 60,000 certified locations and clients in more than 100 countries. Operating through a global network, BSI Management Systems provides assessment, certification and training services in all critical areas of management disciplines including:

- Business continuity
- Environment
- Food safety
- Health & safety
- Information security
- Integrated management
- Quality
- Social accountability
- Sustainable development
- IT service management

BSI Management Systems is part of **BSI group**, a global independent business services organisation that inspires confidence and delivers assurance to customers with standards-based solutions. Originating as the world's first national standards body, the group has over 2,250 staff in more than 50 global offices. The group's key offerings are:

- Development and sale of private, national and international standards and supporting information
- Second and third-party management systems assessment and certification
- Product testing and certification of services and products
- Performance management software solutions
- Training services in support of standards implementation and business best practice

For further information please visit: www.bsigroup.com

ⁱ Centre for Cities Study – January 2009 (*The report said that if the recession was mild and the national economy shrunk by 1.1 per cent in 2009, Leeds, Brighton and Bristol would be likely to lose 21,000 jobs (2 per cent) but if the more likely 2.5 per cent contraction takes place, 56,000 jobs (5 per cent) could go across the three cities by 2011.*)