

IN THE NEWS

www.hie.co.uk/latest-news

13 Oct: **Cairngorm funicular works set to continue into November**

Engineering works to address technical issues on the Cairngorm Funicular Railways will continue into November, Cairngorm Estate owner Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has announced.

17 Oct: **Community groups benefit from SLF awards**

Nine community projects in the Highlands and Islands are among eleven in Scotland to benefit from the latest round of Scottish Land Fund (SLF) approvals.

DID YOU SEE?

- **Have your say about building a better future for rural Scotland**

The James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen are conducting surveys to understand the challenges and opportunities facing Scotland's vast rural areas.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

X

Follow us

19 Oct: Rachel Eunson set up Feverfew and after an in-person IMPACT30 event in #Inverness she felt inspired and motivated to keep growing her business.

LINKEDIN

Connect with us

14 Oct: 🗨️ New Start Highland Graduate Opportunities!

FACEBOOK

Follow us

16 Oct: We are looking for an experienced administrator to support staff within our Strategy and Regional Economy Directorate.

#FRIDAYFACT FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20 Oct: Next week HIE colleagues are joining the #TeamScotland stand at the 10th anniversary

@OceanEnergyEU #OEE2023 conference in The Hague.

EVENTS AND WEBINARS COMING UP

Tues 24 Oct:

Green Freeport community update webinar

Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport

6-7pm

Online

This webinar will explain the process and provide detail on work being done behind the scenes.

Find out about progress, next steps, plans and future benefits as the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport starts to take shape.

[Book](#)

Wed 25 Oct:

Unlocking Growth: Debt finance roadshow

HIE, Highland Council and Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

10am – 2 pm

Inverness Town House

Castle Wynd Inverness IV2 3BJ

If you're an SME looking for working capital or growth funding, then this event is for you. It'll help you better understand the options, and it's a rare opportunity to meet directly with alternative debt lenders.

[Book](#)

<p>Wed 25 Oct: Journey to prosperity: Investing for a wellbeing economy SCDI (Scottish Council for Development and Industry) 9-11am PWC Offices 141 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7EQ</p>	<p>Join BBC Scotland business editor Douglas Fraser and Mairi Spowage, director at Fraser of Allander Institute, for perspectives on what to expect in the autumn budget from both governments. They'll explore measures that could stimulate business activity, investment and growth, and what they mean for the Scottish Government's ambitions for a wellbeing economy.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 25 Oct: Deep dive into the EOT (Employee Ownership Trust) Co-operative Development Scotland 10-11am Online</p>	<p>Second of three webinars aimed at business owners looking at succession planning, and professional advisers in the legal, accounting or banking sector. We'll cover benefits and drawbacks of employee ownership, financial aspects, legal conditions, protections, warranties and controls.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 26 Oct: Analytics, AI and you The Data Lab 6-9pm Scotland House 58 Victoria Embankment London EC4Y 0DS</p>	<p>Explore the current landscape of communication privacy, encryption, and what this means for you.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Fri 27 Oct: Digital audit workshop HIE/XpoNorth Digital 2-3.30pm Online</p>	<p>Join Tim Wright, XpoNorth Digital Sector Specialist to gain the tools you need to analyse your organisations use of digital technologies and develop better strategies for their effective use.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Tues 31 Oct: Investment fund for Scotland roadshow British Business Bank (BBB) 10.30am-1.30pm Kingsmills Hotel Culcabock Road, Inverness, IV2 3LP</p>	<p>Launched on 5 October, the Investment Fund for Scotland offers smaller loans from £25k to £100k, debt finance from £100k to £2m and equity investment up to £5m.</p> <p>These events are aimed at business advisors, accountants, bankers, lawyers, the wider small business support ecosystem and public sector representatives. They'll help you understand the options available through the fund and meet fund managers and the BBB's Nations and Regions Investment Funds team.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 1 Nov: Investment Fund for Scotland roadshow British Business Bank (BBB) 9.30am-12 noon EICC, Edinburgh</p>	<p>Launched on 5 October, the Investment Fund for Scotland offers smaller loans from £25k to £100k, debt finance from £100k to £2m and equity investment up to £5m.</p> <p>These events are aimed at business advisors, accountants, bankers, lawyers, the wider small business support ecosystem and public sector</p>

	<p>representatives. They'll help you understand the options available through the fund and meet fund managers and the BBB's Nations and Regions Investment Funds team.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 1 Nov: Selling through online platforms HIE/XpoNorth Digital 11-12pm Online</p>	<p>Online marketplaces and social media platforms offer designer makers based in the Highlands, Islands and Moray the opportunity to establish a digital presence in a global space.</p> <p>With changes in consumer shopping trends, there are a growing number of selling platforms both direct to consumers and to wholesale businesses that can be run from your studio, without the need to travel.</p> <p>This session talks with experienced sellers who have found newfound exposure that has led to collaborations, partnerships, and increased sales.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 2 Nov: CENSIS Technology Summit CENSIS 9am-5pm In-person event Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow G2 3NY</p>	<p>Join Scotland's leading event for the sensing, imaging and Internet of Things ecosystem. It will be a day of speakers, exhibitors, debates and networking. This is an in-person event and will not be streamed live.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 2 Nov: The future of AI in healthcare for the North of Scotland The Data Lab 1.30-4.30pm Life Science Innovation Centre, Inverness Campus, IV2 5NA</p>	<p>AI is changing every industry it touches, perhaps none more so than healthcare. Join The Data Lab for an event that combines a live stream from the Data Summit Conference in Edinburgh with an in-person presentation and networking in Inverness.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Mon 6 Nov: Making sense of start-up funding: Where do I start? British Business Bank 12.30-1.30pm Online</p>	<p>As part of British Finance Week 2023</p> <p>From business loans and grants to angel investment and pre-seed funding, there's a whole ecosystem of support available but choosing the right product can be a challenge.</p> <p>Listen to leading experts and start-up businesses who have begun their own finance journeys and hear more about the opportunities Start Up Loans can offer to your business.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Mon 6 -Fri 10 November International Trade Week Dept for business and trade Online</p>	<p>Choose from a wide range of online events designed to help businesses of all sizes maximise their global potential.</p> <p>Book</p>

<p>Tues 7 Nov: Growing your business: An interview with a founder British Business Bank 12.30-1pm Online</p>	<p>As part of British Finance Week 2023 Access to finance is essential for any business looking to scale up and stay ahead of the competition. But too often, smaller businesses struggle to secure the right type of financing they need. Listen to Thom Elliot, Founder of Pizza Pilgrims being interviewed British Business Bank about their business journey. Book</p>
<p>Tues 7 Nov: Welcome to the Investment Fund for Scotland British Business Bank 3-4pm Online</p>	<p>Find out all about the newly launched Investment Fund for Scotland. This webinar is aimed at smaller businesses in Scotland looking for finance as well as business advisors, accountants, bankers, lawyers and the wider small business support ecosystem. It will help you to understand the different funding options available through the fund and will be an opportunity for you to ask our appointed fund managers DSL Business Finance Ltd, The FSE Group and Maven Capital Partners any questions in the closing Q&A session. Book</p>
<p>Wed 8 Nov: Targeting the US and Australia with your own website Masterclass Scottish Development International (SDI) 10-1.30pm Online</p>	<p>This masterclass will delve into the opportunities and techniques to sell in America and Australia via your own website. This will include the most efficient channels for customer acquisition; user-experience considerations to maximise the conversion rate; fulfilment channels and administrative considerations. Book</p>
<p>Wed 8 Nov: Data stories from the Highlands and Islands The Data Lab 12-1pm Online</p>	<p>Join The Data Lab to hear about some of the fascinating data projects that they have supported in the Highlands and Islands. The session will look at the ways data science and AI can support a diverse range of projects resulting in benefits to society, the economy and the environment. Book</p>
<p>Wed 8 Nov: Prepare your business for external finance British Business Bank 12.30-1.20pm Online</p>	<p>As part of British Finance Week 2023 Join this webinar to improve your understanding of the wider business finance products which may be available to you. You'll also hear helpful tips and guidance about the things you need to consider when applying for external finance to help make your application a success. Book</p>

<p>Wed 8 Nov: The future of content creation HIE/XpoNorth Digital 1-2pm Online</p>	<p>Join Noah Reich, development executive at Range Entertainment and Naysun Alae-Carew, Managing Director of Blazing Griffin, for a candid conversation about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current media landscape • what makes a good story • the art of commissioning • the future of content creation. <p>The session will include a live Q&A. Book</p>
<p>Thurs 9 Nov: Growing your business: An interview with a founder British Business Bank 12.30-1pm Online</p>	<p>As part of British Finance Week 2023 Innovation is the key to unlocking the full potential of your business and building the business of tomorrow. Whether you're a cutting-edge start-up bringing the latest product to market or a business simply looking to stay competitive and meet the needs of your customers, using finance to stay ahead of the curve is vital. Listen to Robert Harwood, CEO of Slingshot Simulations being interviewed by British Business Bank to discuss his own business journey. Book</p>
<p>Thurs 9 Nov: Circular economy opportunities in food & drink and agriculture sectors HIE/Food and Drink TechHUB 4-5pm Online</p>	<p>One hour Food and Drink TechHUB webinar offering practical insights on Circular Economy and how food & drink/agriculture businesses can reduce and reuse waste. Book</p>
<p>Fri 10 Nov: Highlands & Islands Thistle Awards - Climate Seminar Royal Bank of Scotland 12-2pm Macdonald Drumossie Hotel Old Perth Road, Inverness IV2 5BE</p>	<p>Royal Bank of Scotland are headline partners of the Highlands & Islands Thistle Awards, and category sponsors of the Climate Action award. As part of their commitment to leading the climate change discussion, they will host a seminar to support customers, businesses, and stakeholders in the tourism and leisure sector on their transition to Net Zero. Book</p>
<p>Fri 10 Nov: What next? Finance as a journey British Business Bank 12.30-1.30pm Online</p>	<p>As part of British Finance Week 2023 Business finance is just the start. Financing can be a powerful tool for smaller businesses, enabling them to fund growth, invest in new equipment, or take advantage of unexpected opportunities. By accessing finance multiple times throughout the lifetime of your business, you can unlock its full potential and achieve greater success than ever before.</p>

	<p>Join to hear from a range of businesses that have done just that.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 16 Nov: Wave Energy Scotland Conference 9.30am – 7pm National Museum of Scotland Edinburgh</p>	<p>Registration is open now to join this year’s event exploring the wave sector in Scotland and globally. There’s a packed agenda of inspiring keynote speakers, panel discussions and networking opportunities.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 16 Nov: Selling your business masterclass Scottish Enterprise / Co-operative Development Scotland 10am-12 noon Online</p>	<p>Have you considered a succession plan for your business? It’s never too early to think about your options. Employee ownership is fast becoming the preferred exit route for business owners.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 22 Nov: Recognition and reward-share schemes within the EOT (Employee Ownership Trust) business Co-operative Development Scotland 10-11am Online</p>	<p>Third of three webinars aimed at business owners looking at succession planning, and professional advisers in the legal, accounting or banking sector. We’ll cover incentives, share incentives vs bonuses, choosing a share plan, share plan admin and communication.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 22 Nov: In Focus: A guide to HIE’s Innovation services for the creative and heritage sectors HIE/XpoNorth Digital 1-2pm Online</p>	<p>HIE senior development manager for innovation John Mackenzie will break down the range of innovation services, how to access them, and the dynamic opportunities they offer the creative and heritage sectors.</p> <p>Questions will be taken on the day, but you also submit a question in advance. Please email info@xponorth.co.uk with Innovation Workshop Question in the subject line.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 6 Dec: Build a customer focused business Business Gateway 10am-12 noon Online</p>	<p>This webinar will help you build an effective strategy to deliver great customer service. It will cover the key considerations when thinking about how your business interacts with its customers.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 14 Dec: How to protect and manage your intellectual property Business Gateway 10am-12 noon Online</p>	<p>Learn how to identify, protect, and exploit your intellectual property and assets.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 14 Dec: Learn how to light your business for less Business Energy Scotland 3.45-4.30pm</p>	<p>If you’re looking to save energy, cut bills and reduce your carbon footprint, lighting is a great</p>

<p>Online</p>	<p>place to start. Upgrading to energy efficient lighting, such as LEDs can make big savings.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's SME Loan Scheme is offering SMEs, including charities, interest free loans from £1,000 to £100,000 with cashback grants of up to £20,000 to upgrade.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>2024</p>	
<p>Tues 16 Jan: Lunch & learn networking event - reels and TikTok for business growth Business Gateway 2-4pm MG Alba - Boardroom 56 Seaforth Road Eilean Siar Stornoway HS1 2S</p>	<p>Join this free networking event to meet other local businesses and entrepreneurs. Lunch will be provided and there will be an opportunity to learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the power of Instagram Reels and TikTok to gain confidence in using all the platform developing your business and reach your target audience effectively <p>Book</p>
<p>Thurs 18 Jan: Selling your business masterclass Scottish Enterprise / Co-operative Development Scotland 10am-12 noon Online</p>	<p>Aimed at business owners considering an exit, this is an opportunity to hear IT solutions company Microtech Group and building supply merchants Caley Timber explain what they considered in choosing employee ownership and how things have worked out.</p> <p>Book</p>
<p>Wed 24 January: Unlock Your Business Potential! Thrive and Transform HIE, Argyll and Bute Council, Business Gateway 9-10am Online</p>	<p>Places are limited. Don't miss this opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover the grants, advice, and support available to you Connect with us and like-minded businesses Gain insights from industry experts <p>Book</p>
<p>13-14 Mar: IBioIC annual conference Technology and Innovation Centre George St, Glasgow</p>	<p>This 2-day event will celebrate the growth of the biotechnology sector in Scotland and beyond over the past 10 years. It brings together world-leading researchers, industry, and policymakers working in the bioeconomy.</p> <p>Registration opens in November.</p> <p>More</p>