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Funding coup for centre in the fight against e-crime

THE Yorkshire-based Business Crime Reduction Centre has won £47,000 of funding to battle e-crime. The centre said that SMEs, sole traders, home workers, non-technical advisers and technical consultants across the UK will benefit after its successful entry in the funding competition, organised by the Cyber Security Knowledge Transfer Network, funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR).

David Stockdale, the Sheffield centre's head of unit, said that the funding would enable them to write three guides on e-crime prevention for SMEs.

"Also included in the project will be a series of focus groups and case studies on the impact of e-crime on SMEs. It's a coup for us, so soon after our launch, and will enhance our standing nationally."

The Cyber Security Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) is the focal point for UK expertise in cyber security issues and technologies.

The aim of the network is to connect cyber security experts in government, industry and academia to solve problems and support the growth of UK expertise. It is run by QinetiQ on behalf of the Government's technology strategy board.

Chief Inspector Dave Fortune, police adviser to Yorkshire Forward, said: "Crime against business is one of the fastest growing types of crime. This additional funding will enable BCRC to help South Yorkshire's SMEs to reduce risk to their company by raising awareness of the steps they need to take to protect it."

The centre and two other category winners will complete their projects, which will form a significant part of a Government White Paper on e-crime, by mid-November.

The final work will be presented in December, at Bletchley Park, where British Intelligence cracked the Enigma Code during the Second World War.

The Sheffield centre is jointly funded by Yorkshire Forward and Objective 1 under People United Against Crime, working in partnership with South Yorkshire Police.

About the Cyber Security KTN

The Cyber Security Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) is the focal point for UK expertise in cyber security issues and technologies. The KTN is an independent, business-focused network, funded by government as an advisory body for issues related to e-crime and information security. The KTN is tasked with connecting cyber security experts in government, industry and academia to encourage collaboration as a way to solve problems, develop innovative ideas and support the growth of UK expertise and leadership in the cyber security market. The Cyber Security KTN is run by QinetiQ on behalf of the government's Technology Strategy Board.

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