

eOffice is leading an office revolution by providing mobile workers and start-ups with the opportunity to "plug in and work" seamlessly

Innovation winner

Regional winner: Small projects

North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

eOffice



New IT techniques, quality casual furniture and attention to detail give the feel of a luxury hotel rather than an office setting

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An office revolution is being driven by demand for new ways of occupying offices, particularly from start-ups and occupiers who can work from portable computers almost anywhere.

eOffice is a striking example of the potential, offering space geared to the vibrant start-up and footloose "road warrior". Breaking from the conventional, it offers predominantly open-plan, shared space, compared with "boxes to rent".

New technology is at the heart of the concept. Techniques cherry picked from the hotel industry enable anyone to "plug in and work" seamlessly.

Mobile executives can drop in or start a business from a desk rented by the hour, day or forever with the swipe of a card. An integrated "working wall"

allows them to collect mail, store belongings, hang a coat or grab a coffee.

High-quality furniture with a range of configurations and services have made good use of a base building on a busy city centre corner. This is more an office club than a workshop – in the words of the operator, a "mini business district under one roof".

There are cellular offices, meeting rooms, touchdown benches and private areas, plus conference space for up to 100, but openness and integration is the overriding concept. The aim is to promote the cross-fertilisation of ideas and networking vital to start-ups and mobile workers.

Design and attention to detail is part of the secret. Ferrari-red casual furniture

and record covers on the walls create a dynamic character from a limited budget and tight space. eOffice collaborated with IT, furniture and design specialists to create a stimulating and sociable environment that matches its view of the future of office work. The reception area is more like a hotel than an office and the decor incorporates Manchester themes to give a sense of place.

A similar approach is planned for other proposed centres. eOffice currently has two outlets, one in London and the other in Manchester, but points the way to how all office work may evolve.

The judges felt the concept will certainly give more established business centre operators something to think about.

Address
1 Portland Street,
Manchester M1 3BE
Project client
eOffice
Owner
Bruntwood
Project manager
Workspace
Interior designer
Assemblyroom
M&E engineer
Workspace
Contractor
Workspace



List of winners

President's award

Paul Morrell

Best of the best

ISG Headquarters,
Aldgate House, London

Innovation award

eOffice
1 Portland Street, Manchester

Fit-out of workplace

National
Regional London
ISG Headquarters,
Aldgate House, London

Regional Midlands and East Anglia

Reed + Willow House,
Broadland Business Park, Norwich

Regional North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

Provident International,
No. 3 Leeds City Office Park, Leeds

Regional South of England and South Wales

Roche Diagnostics
Charles Avenue, Burgess Hill

Corporate workplace

National
Regional Scotland
Great Glen House, Inverness

Regional Midlands and East Anglia

Ipswich Borough Council Headquarters,
Grafton House, Ipswich

Regional South of England and South Wales

Chelsea Building Society,
Charlton Kings Business Park, Cheltenham

Regional North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

1 St Paul's Place, Sheffield

Commercial workplace

National
Regional London
The Asticus Building,
21 Palmer Street, London

Regional North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

301/302 Bridgewater Place,
Birchwood Park, Warrington

Regional Scotland

Aurora, 120 Bothwell Street,
Glasgow

Regional South of England and South Wales

200, 250 Fowler Avenue,
Farnborough Business Park

Refurbished/recycled workplace

National
Regional South of England and South Wales
The Hub,
Farnborough Business Park

Regional London

38 Finsbury Square,
London

Regional Midlands and East Anglia

Baskerville House, Birmingham

Regional Scotland

HBOS Headquarters,
2 The Mound, Edinburgh

Regional North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

freetrade exchange,
Manchester

Small projects

National
Regional South of England and South Wales
The Lemsford Mill Estate,
Nr Welwyn Garden City

Regional Scotland

1 Pennyburn Road, Kilwinning

Regional Midlands and East Anglia

19 George Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham

Regional London

Cinven, Paternoster House, London

Regional North of England, North Wales and Northern Ireland

eOffices
1 Portland Street, Manchester



SpeechlyBircham

