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PRESS RELEASE – with immediate effect

Surat Textile Delegation Visits the City

A textile delegation of 14 businesses from the city of Surat in South Gujarat India will be visiting Leicester between 22nd September and 26th September 2008; the visit is reciprocal to the Lord Mayor of Leicester's visit to Surat in April 2008 and is led by the President of the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Chetan Shah.

For a number of years Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP) has been developing and building trade and investment links with the South Gujarat region. Leicester already has existing civic links with Gujarat and a significant Asian population of Leicester comes from the region; many of whom own successful businesses in the Textile industry employing a large number of people in Leicester. LSEP's efforts have been focused around developing business links.

India is emerging to be a Global Economy with an annual GDP growth exceeding 8% for a number of years now. Within India, Gujarat has an even higher growth rate.

The delegation will be meeting a number of prominent textile businesses in the city and will be looking at opportunities for joint ventures, partnerships, technology transfer as well as trading opportunities. They will also be visiting De Montfort University to look at their SMARTEX unit and learn about technical textile research and development.

The East Midlands India Business Bureau, an *emda* funded project, has organised a Business to Business meeting on Monday 22nd September 2008 at 7.30pm at Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Leicester, providing an opportunity for Textile Businesses in the East Midlands to meet with the delegation to discuss opportunities.



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India is already emerging as one of the key markets for the delegation will allow opportunities to be explored for the region of Surat and Leicester. On my recent visit with the Lord Mayor, I was impressed by the growth of the Indian economy, and it was clear that the economy of Surat and Leicester had a number of similarities with the textiles sector probably providing the best opportunities for co-operation”

For further information contact Kishor Tailor, Chief Executive, Leicester Shire Economic Partnership at kisort@lsep.co.uk or Mahendra Mistry, East Midlands India Business Bureau at mahendramistry@emd.org.uk

About Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP):

LSEP is the sub-regional strategic partnership for Leicester and Leicestershire and invests £10 million annually to regenerate the economy of Leicester Shire. This funding is provided by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda), which is working towards ensuring the East Midlands becomes a top 20 region in Europe by 2010. LSEP has a programme of around 100 projects each year and one of its aims is to create new employment opportunities and safeguard existing jobs. www.lsep.co.uk

About emda:

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, set up in 1999 to bring a regional focus to economic development.

Working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations the aim is to deliver the 2006 Regional Economic Strategy (RES) ‘A Flourishing Region’, which sets out regional priorities until 2020.

The RES, coordinated by *emda*, highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and builds on the previous two strategies; ‘Prosperity Through People’ and ‘Destination 2010’.

In early 2007 the National Audit Office announced *emda* had received the highest possible grade of 'performing strongly' in an independent assessment of our work - scoring 22 out of 24.

For more details visit www.emda.org.uk