

£155 Million Big Lottery Funding means Play is a very serious Business at IOG Saltex

With the news that the Big Lottery Fund and the Children's Play Council have announced £155 million grant funding for the local authority Play England Project, it's no surprise that play equipment suppliers will be out in force at IOG SALTEX (Windsor Racecourse, 5-7 September 2006), Europe's annual flagship event for the open space management industry.

Local government professionals represent around a quarter of the visitors to IOG SALTEX (which last year attracted over 15,000 visitors), and with £124 million of the project funding being made available to local authorities between autumn 2006 and September 2007 - to help to create, improve and develop local play spaces, particularly in deprived areas of the country - suppliers have immediately recognised the potential additional spending from this sector of the show's audience.

* These play equipment specialists have so far booked stand space at IOG SALTEX :

Active Leisure Contracts Park Leisure
ADH Baseline Playground Supplies
Bigfoot Play Systems Proludic
Blisster Record Playground Equipment BRIDGE (International Solutions) RSS
Playmakers
Childscape Saturnus UK
Dales Sports Surfaces SMP (Playgrounds)
Flights of Fantasy Sports Courts UK
G L Jones Playgrounds Tangorail
HAGS Play Technix Rubber & Plastics
Honey Brothers The Children's Playground Co
Husson UK Wicksteed Leisure
Maple Leaf Designs

Commenting on the opportunities offered at IOG SALTEX, HAGS Play said: "The Play England Project is a fantastic opportunity for local authorities to put outdoor play back into the heart of their communities. At the show, HAGS will be showcasing a range of equipment to demonstrate how the funding can be used imaginatively and creatively, illustrating our solutions for re-vitalising play spaces and maximising play value for children of all ages."

SMP (Playgrounds), which this year returns to IOG SALTEX, continues the enthusiastic theme: "We all hope that this long awaited funding injection will

provide a much needed kick start for new and improved play facilities across the UK. IOG SALTEX is the best place to show off new and exciting products and ideas to a large cross section of buyers and, of course, it is a great opportunity for specifiers and buyers to try things out. We're sure that this will be a record year for visitor numbers joining us on our stand."

And longstanding IOG SALTEX supporter, Wicksteed Leisure, feels that the Big Lottery Fund announcement will ensure this year's show is etched in the minds of local authorities and other playground providers.

"The much needed programme will provide enormous opportunities for local authorities, in partnership with other community and voluntary sectors, to enhance their local facilities for children," said the company. "IOG SALTEX will be the ideal shop window for local authorities to view and test the new initiatives in playground equipment development." Geoff Webb, chief executive of show organisers the Institute of Groundsmanship, commented: "IOG SALTEX will be the only place this year that local authorities will be able to view the widest range of play equipment options in one place at the same time, and suppliers have understandably recognised this fact."

"It goes without saying that the show will be doing everything possible to attract even more decision-makers from the local authority sector – including special seminar presentations concerning the Play England Project and other play sector-specific subjects - to add even more value to the time they spend at Windsor."

- Following its 67-year tradition, IOG SALTEX 2006 will again embrace fine turf and sports surfaces, turf maintenance equipment, children's outdoor play and safety surfacing, landscaping, contractors, commercial vehicles, outdoor leisure and facilities management, as well as software and security equipment. The show is attended by open space management professionals and contractors – from groundsmen and greenkeepers through to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors as well as local authority and outdoor leisure facility managers.

Log onto www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call 020 8232 1600 for more information.