

BUSINESS RECOVERY PROVIDES KEY TO SUCCESS IN A CRISIS



North east business leaders heard about ways to bounce back from major business disruption at a conference held on Teesside recently.

Sembcorp UK's Protection Group organised the seminar, aimed at encouraging more organisations to think about business recovery and ways to manage the risks that exist in modern business. These can include everything from business IT failures and operational problems through to international market collapses.

Entitled "Risky Business? Business Continuity as a Survival Tool" the seminar, at Wynyard Park, near Billingham, attracted more than 50 delegates from companies from Newcastle to Hull.

Speakers included Amanda Seymour, Business Development Manager from the UK's largest certification body BSI, responsible for determining and maintaining best practice standards in all

sectors and raising management system standards worldwide. Bill Simpson, of Sembcorp UK's Protection Group spoke about integrating the business continuity concept into an organisation. Finally, Tim Hill, a partner in the regulatory group of the international law firm Eversheds, took delegates through the legal implications of failure to act on corporate governance and health and safety matters.

Currently only around 50 organisations in the world have achieved certification to the new BSI Management Systems BS25999 standard, of which Sembcorp UK is one. The award, gained last year, followed a detailed BSI audit and testing of systems in dealing with a wide range of emergency situations at the Wilton-based industrial utilities and services business.

Mr Simpson, Business Continuity specialist at Sembcorp, said: "Many companies can see the various threats to their business, but without an effective system in place to deal with those threats, they feel powerless to do anything about them. Business continuity gives them that tool and by attaining the BS25999 standard they are forced to analyse their entire business and understand their various business interdependencies.

"Swine Flu and the global banking crisis are recent major global issues which focus the mind, but the reality for most businesses is that it is the things that go wrong on a much smaller scale that cause most disruption."

The picture above shows Mr Simpson (centre) with Mr Hill and Ms Seymour at the conference. The picture below shows delegates networking during the break.



To find out more about how Sembcorp can help you develop a business continuity plan contact Bill Simpson on 01642 212236 or email him at bill.simpson@sembcorp.com.