

## **NEWS FROM PARTNER-UP 17 NOVEMBER 2011**

**\*\*PRESS CALL\*\*  
THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER**

**STORY:** Partner-Up was launched last night with Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, as a new marketplace to promote mergers and collaboration for the sector.

**EASTSIDE CONSULTING  
49-51 EAST ROAD  
LONDON  
N1 6AH**

### **PARTNER-UP LAUNCHES ONLINE MARKETPLACE FOR MERGERS & COLLABORATION**

Partner-Up, a marketplace for mergers and collaboration, was launched last night (Wed 16 Nov) by Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd.

Partner-Up is an independent marketplace where charities, social enterprises and housing associations can explore partnership options safely and receive support in making decisions around how and with which organisations to speak with. Organisations can discuss, in confidence, strategic partnerships including merger, sharing back-office, co-bidding and joint ventures.

Professional support is provided through a network of partners – BWB, PrimeTimers, Eversheds, 3SC and Social Enterprise UK. This extensive network and expertise provides a 'one stop shop' for effective collaboration.

It is a new initiative from Eastside, a social enterprise providing business support services for civil society. Since its inception Eastside has provided support to over 300 organisations in the social sector. It recently led on the development of 3SC a national initiative to enable charities and social enterprises to bid for and deliver public sector contracts.

Partner-Up is open to organisations to register their interest for free at [www.partner-up.org](http://www.partner-up.org). In the past 12 months 200 organisations have been contacted about strategic partnership work and there are currently over 30 live ongoing merger opportunities.

Nick Hurd said 'Better connections between organisations are more important than ever in a fast-changing environment. I welcome Partner-Up and hope it will allow many more social enterprises to merge, collaborate and make the most of new opportunities – particularly in social finance and public service delivery'

**ENDS**

For more information, interviews or photos call Alex Scott-Tonge or  
Carey-Anne Gibson King on 0208 250 8440.