

Makespace – Premises secured

Press release

Issued Cambridge, 12th September 2012

Makespace Cambridge Limited today completed on a lease for Mill Lane premises in Cambridge city centre. The lease from the University of Cambridge provides Makespace with around 350m² of workshop, social, training and back office space. The founding members of Makespace will be active in the coming weeks, planning the space and fit out in more detail.

Makespace is very grateful to its supporters, including Ideaspace (which has funded Makespace through the Enterprise Accelerator Programme) and the Institute for Manufacturing, as well as everyone in the community. Securing the workshop space has taken a long time but the premises, the former site of the Institute for Manufacturing robotics lab, are ideal.

Dr Laura James, Co-founder and Director of Makespace Cambridge Limited, says “Makespace is extremely grateful for the patience of our advisors and our enthusiastic future members, without whom we couldn’t have got this far. Many thanks are also due to the University of Cambridge for supporting us with the lease of such a perfect workshop space for a peppercorn rent. We can’t wait to fit the workshop out, build our community and start making things!”

With the completion of the lease, Makespace is about to enter a bootstrap phase, setting up the facilities, securing further sponsorship and community engagement.

Background on Makespace

Makespace is a place in Cambridge, UK, where you can come to meet, learn and build (almost) anything, and a place for anyone who needs space or kit for their projects or activities. *We call it the community’s inventing shed.*

When fully operational, Makespace will contain:

- A FabLab including a 2D laser cutter, 3D printer, CNC Router, Soldering stations, etc
- A meeting and training area
- The surroundings to meet, work, build, socialise and do amazing things

As a community resource, Makespace will bring together a network of enthusiasts and innovators, the prototyping industry, consultants, businesses and educational communities in a mutually beneficial way. It aims to reach people from all across the East of England, using Cambridge as the initial hub, enabling skills sharing and all kinds of individual and group projects, supporting creation and development of businesses, and spreading awareness of engineering and manufacturing.

Makespace is two things – a company (Makespace Cambridge Limited, a non-profit), and a community formed of Members, who pay a monthly subscription and take a

training induction before receiving 24/7 access to the space and facilities. The company is responsible for ensuring a space is available and handles legal issues, health and safety, finance, and so forth, such that a suitable space and infrastructure can be provided. The community will run events, choose the kit for the space, and run the space day to day, within any constraints the company needs to impose for legal/safety reasons.

Contact:

Dr Laura James, laura.james@makespace.org

Further information:

<http://makespace.org>

Social media:

<http://www.facebook.com/MakespaceCambridge>

<http://twitter.com/#!/cammakespace>

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/115313857494812336325/posts>

Map and photos and space walkthrough video:

<http://makespace.org/index.php/space/>