

TheForester business

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MINE CLEARANCE: Exploration staff at work.

Growth spurt for firm

by Janet Hughes

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A MITCHELDEAN firm which works in danger spots across the world looks set to grow even bigger in 2011 after finding a new partner.

Exploration Logistics already employs 100 people at Vantage Point Business Park and has offices in Washington DC, Canada and Dubai.

It has enjoyed rapid expansion over the past five years and was named as one of the UK's leading exporters in the *Sunday Times* International Track 100.

Now capital investment company MML Capital Partners has taken a minority interest in the Group which has deployed 1,200 specialists in hot spots across the globe.

Frontier Medical provides civilian medics to help the MOD in Afghanistan and MineTech International staff are removing mines from Sudan and Chad on behalf of United Nations.

The company says the investment means it can develop and expand the firm which was started 25 years ago by an adventurer and mountaineer who saw a gap in the market for professional advice and support for those operating in hostile, remote environments.

Its divisions, Frontier Medical, Exlogs Safety, MineTech International, Exlogs Canine Services and Medekit, work with commercial organisations, governments, institutions and major humanitarian initiatives.

It has also been instrumental in developing safety standards and improving efficiency for the gas and oil industry.

MML Capital Partners is a leading private equity firm and says it is backing the Mitcheldean management team.

Chief executive Tim Mitchell, who joined Exploration in 2008, will implement the growth strategy.

He said: "This move provides a significant injection of new equity to facilitate future acquisition and investment."



ACCOLADE: Brian Harford, right, receives the award from Clive Johnson of the International Association of Bookkeeping exams council.

Brian's lifetime achievement

ACCOUNTANT Brian Harford has been given a special award for producing top notch students.

The financial expert set up Woodgrove Tutorials from his home in Newent over a decade ago.

Since then thousands of students have successfully completed his online courses and gone on to set up their own book-keeping businesses.

Over the years eight have gone on to be named the top student in the International Association of Bookkeeping exams.

He and his wife Caroline travelled to London for the award which was presented by Clive Johnson, chairman of the association's council. "It's a special award for student excellence," said Brian aged 63.

"I suppose it's a bit like a lifetime achievement award."

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