

# Connected

## newsletter

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# Connected 3 launch

FULL STORY 6 & 7

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# Welcome



Mike Patterson Ulster University, Lynn Connaughton Connected, Tom Edgar Queen's University

**This newsletter provides a snapshot of what the first six months of the new round of Connected funding has involved. It has certainly been a busy period. This is not just evident in the level of ground work covered by project staff but also in the number of knowledge transfer projects completed with companies across both Queen's University, Ulster University and our six further education colleges. The delivery of these projects has helped businesses succeed in new product development, product improvements and or process improvement, all of which have had a positive impact on the competitiveness of those companies involved.**

Minister Farry launched the Connected 3 programme in October this year. In his speech the Minister acknowledged the support given to Northern Ireland businesses under the previous project, highlighting that over 44% of companies supported had no or limited knowledge transfer experience. If there is anything we can take from this, it is that Connected is making a vital contribution to simplifying the innovation support landscape in Northern Ireland, making it easier for businesses to translate and access the knowledge base available to them.

Innovation is at the heart of successful business. No matter what the size or scope of the company, innovation plays a vital role in making businesses more productive, more efficient and more competitive. Under Connected 3 the project team will work in closer partnership with our colleagues in The Open University, CAFRE and AFBI, to ensure that businesses are aware of the range of support that is available to them. We have recently launched and ran the first call for the Connected Competitive Fund. This new element being introduced under Connected 3 has already successfully funded four innovation projects. All four projects involve the support of both a university and college working collaboratively to support SMEs in driving forward innovation across new product development and or processes. Those SMEs involved have had no or limited knowledge transfer experience and the projects supported have demonstrated high potential to move onto further R&D work.

Going forward under Connected 3 our message still remains the same: our universities and colleges are open for business. We will continue to support businesses across Northern Ireland, stimulating engagement and facilitating access to the cutting-edge knowledge and expertise throughout our HE and FE sector.

# NI BIM Technology & Design Showcase



Eóin O'Shea SWC and Roofscape KTP Associate, Martin Reddington Dedicated CAD Systems



Stephen Moss SWC and Pentagon Solutions Team

**South West College and Ulster University in partnership with NI BIM Hub collaborated to deliver two very successful and informative Building Information Modelling (BIM) Showcase events on 18th and 19th November. The events were supported by Connected and sponsored by Autodesk, Grapisoft, Bentley and Causeway.**

Engineering and Construction professionals and Facility Management personnel, from both public and private sector, attended each event to access up-to-date information on equipment and training from leading experts.

The central messages that delegates took away were:

- BIM's here to stay – get ready!
- More and more clients are going to demand projects delivered using BIM process.
- It's a new process, so follow the standards and take one step at a time.
- Open BIM and collaboration is the way forward.
- Industry stakeholders and supply chain must engage BIM procurement guidance.
- Collaborative and integrated approach to procurement required – consistent message.
- Energy analysis needed through BIM to help tackle global warming.
- Costs/ease of scan-to-BIM for retrofit projects are improving year on year.
- Targeted cost savings are over the asset's life cycle.
- BIM training and education is being embedded in South West College's and Ulster University's courses – bespoke training needs can also be delivered.
- Knowledge transfer partnerships/innovation vouchers etc. are mechanisms for industry to engage with colleges and universities.



David Jellings [Managing Director Solibri UK Ltd], Stephen Moss [SWC], Michael McAlister [Deputy Director SWC], Fiona Brazill [SWC], Tom Oulton [BIM Manager for East Riding of Yorkshire Council], (BEHIND) James Harty [Lecturer KEA Copenhagen], Michael McLornan [Central Procurement Directorate], Eóin O'Shea [SWC and Roofscape KTP Associate]

Stephen Moss and Eóin O'Shea (South West College) and Mark McKane (Ulster University), organisers of the events, were delighted with the attendance and feedback following the event.

More specific BIM related workshops are planned for 2015.

BIM has a leading part to play in the resurgence of the construction industry across Ireland and the UK. BIM will reduce construction time, costs and claims. This will be achieved through better collaboration, using BIM, at every stage of a construction project through open shareable information management. Building Information Modelling and Management is used to illustrate an entire building's/built asset's life-cycle through inception, design, construction management, use and facility management, to demolition and reuse of materials.



Fiona Brazill, SWC and Bogdan Wasylkiw, Bentley Systems

The events featured Interactive Software Demonstrations, talks on BIM from the client's perspective, advice from early adopter organisations and the opportunity for Q & As on a variety of technology and design queries.

The events were attended by over 100 delegates at both South West College and Ulster University. Representatives from Architectural,

## Transferring knowledge to businesses and the wider community through our colleges and universities

### CARAVAN WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM DECREASES MICROBIAL COUNTS BY 99.9%

APT Innovations participated in the Lisburn Innovations Network programme, a joint innovation support programme delivered by Ulster University and South Eastern Regional College. Through the programme APT Innovations was supported with specialist expertise in the development of a new unique water pump product. The company subsequently went on to undertake an Invest NI innovation voucher project to measure the scientific benefits of the product in reducing bacteria.

APT Innovations approached Ulster University to investigate the water quality issues in touring caravans and motorhomes and measure how their water drainage product, Floe, could help combat these issues.

Funded by an Invest NI innovation voucher, APT Innovations wanted Ulster's biomedical team to investigate the reasons why the water from the taps inside these vehicles (which had not been used for a period of time) often tasted unpleasant, looked discoloured and contained suspended particles.

Professor Ibrahim Barat from the School of Biomedical Science investigated a series of water samples and found significant microbial counts in the water systems of caravans and motorhomes that had not been active for some time. As well as potential health hazards, increased microbial counts could contribute to the bad taste or scent in the water, water discoloration and presence of suspended matter. However, the application of a complete purging plan using the Floe system removed stagnant water, debris and decreased microbial counts >99.9%, which could be of great benefit to users.

Jason Paul, Owner of APT Innovations says: "I am delighted with the results of this project and the work that the team at Ulster have done. This research is very important for two reasons. Firstly, we knew our Floe product was effective, but this research means we are able to measure and add scientific value to demonstrate how effective our Floe product is.



*"Secondly, the product was seasonally based, it provided a solution to draindown the vehicle during winter to help protect against burst pipes and stagnant water. This research means that Floe has considerably more value, improving the water quality, and this now moves it from a seasonal product to an all year round solution. This is a real game changer. We are now selling our Floe product in 12 countries and are making significant inroads to selling it throughout the US and also Canada."*

*Professor Banat adds: "We are always pleased to be able to provide practical scientific support to industry both locally and nationally and seeing a significant benefit in the short term for small industries is always gratifying."*

### NEW COLLABORATION FOR NI BIOGAS INDUSTRY



Biogas testing and analysis equipment at South West College

A new partnership has been agreed between South West College, the QUESTOR Centre at Queen's University Belfast and three industry partners. The two academic partners have combined their services to better cater for the needs of the Northern Ireland biogas industry. Having worked with industry to identify specific areas of need, the partnership received funding from the Department for Employment and Learning's Connected fund through Colleges NI. The academic partnership has begun developing and delivering technical services for the three industry partners on the project, two of which are plant operators and the third being involved in plant design, construction and operation.

The industry/academia partnership sees the development of this type of service for the first time in Northern Ireland with the aim of addressing technical issues impacting on the operation of each of the partner's businesses. To do this, the joint research capabilities offered by the academic partners are being applied to specific issues identified by the industry partners. The projects being undertaken cover operational issues such as the identification of site specific factors inhibiting gas production, technical compliance and analysis of feedstock characteristics influencing plant design.

Speaking about the development of the programme, Aaron Black from the lead partner South West College said:

*"This is a project we have been working on developing with our partners and it is good to see our plans coming to reality. The industry partners on the project each have technical issues needing addressed which can be investigated using the joint facilities of the academic partners. This partnership will see real solutions to real problems and will help the biogas industry in Northern Ireland continue to develop."*

The first phase of the programme commenced in October 2014 and will run until March 2015. To become involved in future activities please contact the South West College InnoTech Centre: [www.theinnotechcentre.com](http://www.theinnotechcentre.com)

## ADOPTING NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGH CAFRE



Farmers assess soil structure with CAFRE Beef and Sheep Development Adviser Brian Hanthorn

**The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) through a diverse range of projects encourages the industry to adopt world-class, leading-edge technology. In particular, CAFRE Development Service Technologists and Advisers assist those within the industry to deal with specific issues of adopting these technologies within their own business environment.**

Depending on the specific technology, economic, environmental, greenhouse gas reduction, health and safety or animal welfare benefits will accrue to the agri-food industry. Structures have been established which bring together CAFRE, other branches within SDG, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and DARD Policy to ensure cohesive and comprehensive delivery of the technology transfer/adoption programme.

Technology staff within Development Service are currently located at Greenmount Campus, where they have a lead role in investigating new technologies, initiating projects and demonstrating new and

emerging technologies/systems to the industry. Development Advisers working with the industry encourage the adoption of these technologies/systems.

For example, recent research at AFBI, Hillsborough has demonstrated that spreading slurry using a Trailing Shoe slurry tanker increases the utilisation of slurry nitrogen by up to 26% compared to conventional splash plate application systems. The resultant saving in nitrogen fertiliser costs is worth up to £25 per hectare (£10/acre) for each crop of grass silage.

CAFRE has delivered a series of information workshops and demonstration events held throughout Northern Ireland to encourage farmers to adopt this technology.

If you are interested in adopting new technology within your business please contact Development Service Administration at CAFRE on (028) 9442 6770.

## GETTING CONNECTED WITH THE OPEN UNIVERSITY



Minister Farry MLA launching The Open University's Postgraduate Science Student Support, which is based in Belfast. Pictured are Heather Laird, Assistant Director, Dr Stephen Farry MLA and John D'Arcy, National Director, The Open University in Northern Ireland.

**Like Queen's and Ulster, The Open University was ranked in the top third of universities in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and is currently expectantly waiting for the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework 2014.**

While some of our research is high profile and headline-grabbing, like the recent Rosetta probe landing, The Open University also has a strong track record of working with businesses and organisations across the locations in which we are based. Research by The Open University has been influencing business practices for over seven years and these collaborations have resulted in some significant benefits for public, private and third sector businesses.

Among our Knowledge Transfer Partnership successes is a collaboration with the Hallé Concerts Society, which resulted in new income streams for the Hallé through introducing new media technologies. Through the embedding of these technologies, the Hallé generated new income streams and engaged more effectively with audiences.

The Booktrust has also benefited from The Open University's expertise. A KTP associate worked with Booktrust to help them develop a digital strategy to change the shape of the organisation. Our experience of using digital technologies for delivery and pedagogy was vital for the project, enabling Booktrust to inform and influence practitioners and publishers.

The Open University's 30 years' experience of silicon chemistry has also benefited Hichrom Ltd, suppliers of high performance liquid chromatology columns. As a result of the KTP, Hichrom gained new knowledge on silanes and bonding, making them better able to meet customers' needs. It also benefited from agile product development techniques, improving product quality and speeding up the development and commercialisation process.

Another interesting development is 'Stress Map'. The Open University's measurement services business unit, which is one of only two facilities worldwide that offers The Contour Method residual stress measurement services. Stress Map draws on the capability and expertise of the Materials Engineering Group and is effective in identifying stresses that may cause premature failures particularly in the transport and utilities industries.

For more information on our research profile, visit [www.open.ac.uk/](http://www.open.ac.uk/) research and for more information on how this research expertise can be applied to businesses in Northern Ireland, contact John D'Arcy on [john.darcy@open.ac.uk](mailto:john.darcy@open.ac.uk)

## New Connected £4.5million programme launched by Minister Farry



Mike Patterson Ulster University, Gerry Campbell Colleges NI, Tim Brundle Ulster University, Paul Beany Ulster University, Lynn Conaughton Connected, Ton Edgar Queen's University

**Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, launched the third phase of Connected on Wednesday 15th October 2014. The event was well attended with representatives from higher education, further education, government and industry.**

Minister Farry said: "My decision to approve a third round of Connected to run for the next four years represents a total investment of over £4.5 million and is testament to the excellent work carried out in the past four years. Since its launch as a pilot programme in 2007, Connected has enabled companies to gain access to world-class expertise, technology and research from Northern Ireland's universities and colleges, assisting them to boost their competitiveness, develop new products and increase market opportunities.

"Connected 3 will continue to develop a broad and growing portfolio of industrial support networks spanning Queen's, Ulster University and all six further education colleges, further developing the programme's existing links with both the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and with the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, whilst also now seeking to build an entirely new relationship with The Open University in Northern Ireland.

"Businesses will now have coordinated access to the full portfolio of expertise represented by all of Northern Ireland's regional colleges, universities and agricultural institutes in terms of research, product development, knowledge transfer, innovation, skills and training.

"Connected 3 will make a key contribution to the economy over the next four years and deliver an even greater benefit to individual businesses, particularly small companies with little or no previous experience of working with universities and colleges."

Welcoming the Minister's announcement, Gerard Campbell, Chief Executive of Colleges NI, said: "Through Connected our six FE

colleges and two universities are working together in knowledge transfer to share and scale expertise. Innovation in process, product or know-how improves business competitiveness and can bring real and measurable benefits to a company's bottom line. We all know that knowledge is vital to business and industry success. Through projects, such as Connected, we are facilitating business engagement with our colleges and universities - bringing that knowledge and know-how to a business can often be the first step needed to put them on the road to innovation."



Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning



Paul Beany Ulster University, Gerry Campbell Colleges NI, Dr Stephen Farry Minister for Employment and Learning, Tim Brundle Ulster University

Speaking at the launch Tim Brundle, Director of Innovation at the Ulster University:

*"Throughout the history of further and higher education there has always been a dependency on skills to fuel economic growth, but lately we've become more appreciative and sophisticated in the ways we can help business as academic institutions. Connected helps sharpen the gaze of academia on the opportunities that business see and the problems they need to solve."*

*Scott Rutherford, Director of Research and Enterprise at Queen's University agrees, stating at the launch: "At its core Connected is about unlocking the research of academia and getting it out into companies. From a university perspective our external focus in making sure our research has an impact and those who need it can access it easily and make as much of it as they possibly can. The heart of the Connected programme is about recognising there is real expertise in our universities and further education colleges, which businesses need and can access. It's about joining it all up in a practical and coordinated way."*



Noel McQuaid Technical Director from James Leckey Design

### CONNECTED 2 RESULTS ACHIEVED INCLUDED:

- 607 fully completed knowledge transfer projects. Of these 44% were with SMEs who had no or limited knowledge transfer experience. Collectively, these 607 projects generated over £1.6 million into our HE and FE sectors. Of equal importance to the work with SMEs is the support offered to HE and FE staff via Connected in gaining essential skills, know-how and best practice both locally, nationally and internationally.
- Connected 2 supported HE and FE staff in over 260 training and development engagements and 132 staff exchange visits. This helped staff to extend the range and depth of collaboration between the two sectors and furthermore, ensured that staff were up-to-date in new and emerging technologies.



Nicola Rowles NRC, Claire O'Neill NRC, Rosin Horner NRC, Dorothy McElwee

## Exploring Estonia and focusing on Finland



AALTO Design Garage

David Rosenberg's book "Cloning Silicon Valley" has identified a number of wonderful innovation hotspots in Europe. London, Berlin, Tallinn and Helsinki rank as the top four. Surely there is much that we can learn from these hotspots, much that we can copy, clone, combine and contribute to our own students and companies. With this in mind, a team of academics travelled to Finland and Estonia to explore just that.

Paul Hermon from Queen's University and Paul Clarke from Ulster University accompanied by Alistair Fee from the European Business School, met with a team from Aalto University in Finland and with a number of senior academics from Tallinn University of Technology and Estonia Business School.

### Why Estonia and Finland

Estonia is the fastest growing economy in the European Union. The education system there, blended with industrial innovation and government vision have created a number of exciting spaces. These include: Technopol, Mecktory, Kultuuri Katel and a Fab Lab.

Some of these spaces focus on engineering of all sorts, while at the same time including design thinking. Others take cross pollination of design possibilities to new levels and include textiles, websites, computers, art and music, and much more. Cross pollination of ideas has had many benefits including the creation of dynamic and diverse teams and small companies that are able to come up with more ideas than traditional ones.

The economy of Finland has exactly the same economic challenges that every other European country has. However, they have a firm design foundation at Aalto University. Originally built on the success of Nokia, this led to Skype as well as the globally popular game Angry Birds. University has combined engineering, architecture, arts, media and design into a series of Design Garages, and other spaces that use



AALTO Design Garage

boot camps, summer camps, weekend workshops, creative courses along with non-stop collaboration with industry.

One interesting Finnish trait is that in every think tank, design lab or incubator there is always a kitchen surrounded by unusual seating and space, allowing people time and space to think differently while lots of coffee is consumed. The Finns have a word for this space. They use the word COFFICE, and they claim that 80% of all ideas, business deals and outcomes occur in the relaxed ambience of the kitchen. These unusual spaces encourage and expand education. They are an ideas collider in which concepts evolve, fragment, and are re-constructed.

The idea that two heads are better than one continues to stand the test of time, in fact five or six heads chatting over a coffee-stained table accompanied by Post-it notes, felt tip pens and diverse experiences can often get to an enriched answer fairly quickly.

Finland is trying to accelerate young minds, new ideas and new business models, in an attempt to make the economy thrive. It seems to be working.

The Northern Ireland team encountered masses of Finnish enthusiasm. They observed the large number of new ideas and new start-up companies that are being spawned in Helsinki.

Commenting on his finding, Alistair Fee said:

*"Finnish enthusiasm happens because the loose, relaxed set up allows for free flow of ideas. Industry, research groups, postgraduates and undergraduates are able to work together at different levels and this multiplexing approach, in which there are very few boundaries, leads to rapid prototyping, quick customer testing, and it has created a way of bringing new ideas to market quickly. World education is trying to meet the needs of new technologies and trying to vigorously commercialise them."*

*"The words innovation and creativity are often used out of context. In Finland and Estonia governments and educators have combined to do something powerful and effective. In Northern Ireland there is a tendency for education to remain separate from industrial development and design. We tend to educate in a traditional manner. I'm not sure why this is the case. Some think it is so that every student can be measured, ranked and assessed. It is difficult, nay impossible, to measure creativity, design thinking and ideation. So these subjects tend to be ignored by the education system. If taught, they are taught to a pattern and the pattern restrains real design thinking. The fastest-growing economy in Europe, Estonia, has embraced unusual models, different ways of doing things, because the usual ways no longer work properly."*

Going forward a roundtable discussion will take place in Estonia in 2015. With the support of a number of innovative thinkers from Finland, Estonia and Northern Ireland committed to reviewing our education system and encouraging agile thinking, networking across Europe with multinationals and benefiting from the hotspot approach. If we can do more of this, then new start-up companies will emerge and more innovation will happen in established ones.

## Out & About

### NICHE 2014



From left to right – Fiona McElroy, Ulster University; Dr Alan Hook, Lecturer in Interactive Media Arts (Reality Gaming), Ulster University; Matt Johnston, Digital Circle; Carol Viney, Deputy Head of Technology, South West College; Paul McGovern, Lecturer in Games Design, South West College; Malachy McAleer, Director, South West College; and, seated at front, Mr Tim Brundle, Director of Innovation, Ulster University

**Northern Ireland Creative Hitech Expo (NICHE) took place on Friday 9th May and Saturday 10th May this year in South West College, Enniskillen Campus.**

The hugely successful Expo was a celebration of digital creativity and brought together experts in the field of game design, animation, comic art and filming. Over 200 attendees took part in a series of workshops, panel discussions and keynote addresses to inspire a generation of animators, games developers, musicians and digital storytellers to realise their creative talent. South West College Creative Technologies department, in conjunction with Connected, sought to attract inspirational presenters to deliver a stimulating

programme to our participants aligned with our four tracks of 2D and 3D animation, gaming, music technology and digital storytelling.

NICHE was founded in the concepts of collaboration and knowledge transfer within the digital creative spectrum. Given its success, South West College perceives it as a sustainable event. The audience consisted of industry practitioners, students, interested enthusiasts, indie developers and established creative individuals seeking to expand their skill set for their own business and for the creative industry as a whole.



Part Time Lecturer for Belfast Met College Roger Priestly

### CLOUD IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**Part Time Lecturer for Belfast Met College, Roger Priestly was asked by the Construction Industry Training Board to speak at the annual conference for Master Builders in Ballymena on Friday 5th December.**

Roger gave a 40 minute presentation and subsequent discussion as to how the Construction Industry can avail of many Cloud technologies and applications to make their business easier, safer and more efficient.

The conference heard how back up technologies to the Cloud mean that devices on site are protected all the time and indeed how new Cloud security products can help retrieve lost or stolen devices, both key concerns in the world of construction. The delegates also heard how Cloud makes it substantially easier to raise awareness of their trade through social media advertising and promotion. Roger also demonstrated how some of the most successful construction organisations are using Cloud technology but that the same applications were relevant to tradespeople large and small. Roger has already been asked to return and speak again to a larger group in the new year.

## Out & About

### ULSTER MEDIA SHOW



From left to right – Sarah Travers, Professor Jan Jedrzejewski (Dean of the Faculty of Arts, UU), Conall Melarkey (HND Moving Image, NWRC), Michael Wilson (Managing Director, UTV Ireland)

**The Ulster Media Show is an annual showcase and award ceremony celebrating the best work by creative and digital media students from the Northern Ireland Media Academy.**

In previous years the event has taken place at the NWRC Foyle Theatre and the BMC Millfield Campus and in 2014 it was held at the Conor Lecture Theatre, Ulster University, Belfast Campus, with a Keynote address by Michael Wilson (Managing Director of UTV Ireland) and hosted by Sarah Travers.

The NI Media Academy is a collaborative project between the Ulster University, Belfast Metropolitan College and North West Regional College, focusing on Creative Skillset approved courses in the creative and digital media sector. The Academy supports the development of a new wave of talent, enabling them to design and deliver the style concepts and media content of the future and the Ulster Media Show acts as the focus for their work each year.

Students on media courses at UU, NWRC and BMC submit work in a range of categories including Moving Image (fiction and non-fiction), Interactive Content and Photography and this work is put before a judging panel organised by Ian Kennedy at Creative

Skillset. Panel members include Andrew Reid (Head of Production, NI Screen), Dermot Lavery (MD of Doubleband Films), Paula McBrien (Talent Development Manager, BBC NI), Anne Stirling (MD of Stirling Productions) and Justin Binding (Commissioning Executive, BBC NI). The winners in each of the categories is then announced at the Ulster Media Show, where they collect their trophies (and cheques!) and have a chance to showcase their productions and network with a who's-who of leading professionals from the media industry.

*"Year upon year the standard of entries for the Ulster Media Show gets better and better. In fact, the judges were all agreed that the 2014 competition was probably the best yet with some outstanding work which displayed real creativity, imagination, innovation and growing technical and craft skills. The quality of work witnessed in this and recent years augurs well for the future of our industry."*

**Ian Kennedy, Head of Stakeholder Partnerships NI, Creative Skillset**



Professor Yoshiharu at Queen's University Belfast

### NAGAOKA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY VISITS QUEENS UNIVERSITY

Professor Yoshiharu Mutoh, Vice President of Nagaoka University of Technology, recently paid a visit to Queen's University Belfast. Professor Mutoh was welcomed to Queen's by Professor Christopher Hardacre, Head of School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Nagaoka University is quite a young university, opening in 1976, and is today one of the best technology universities in Japan. Links between both universities continue to grow and develop and will be further strengthened and supported across the Connected 3 programme.

### JONATHAN KEEP MASTERCLASS

**On 13th November, NWRC, supported by Connected (and in collaboration with the Belfast School of Art, Applied Arts Ulster and the Ulster Museum), hosted the internationally acclaimed artist potter Jonathan Keep, who gave a genuinely illuminating lecture on the uses for new technology in the traditional applied arts.**

Jonathan's work encompasses everything from domestic ware to sculptural pots and architectural pieces but he recently successfully pioneered the use of a studio-based 3D printer adapted to print in clay. Jonathan now divides his time between creating his hugely original pieces in his studio and visiting studios and educational institutions, advising them on how to install and operate the ceramic 3D printer, the design specifications for which he has made available for free online. Jonathan's work in 2014 includes projects with the Royal Danish Academy of the Arts (Copenhagen), Unfold Design Studio (Antwerp), the Matadero Contemporary Art Centre (Madrid), the Yingge Ceramics Museum (Taipei) and the Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, USA).

The event was attended by local applied arts businesses, practitioners working the applied arts, educators working in this field and, of course, students.



Erine Cusack (local artist and designer), Tony Talbot (NWRC), Jonathan Keep, Basil Dalton (NWRC) and Clive Fiddis (UU)

### NUALA KILMARTIN BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE

**Belfast Met Connected representatives Nuala Kilmartin and Roger Priestly recently attended the InnovateUK Conference to develop collaborative networks with industry and knowledge transfer partners.**

The InnovateUK Conference brings more than 2,000 attendees each day and is the largest multi-sector showcase of UK innovation. This unique event provides opportunities to make valuable connections and access the support that helps drive business growth. InnovateUK had over 150 international visitors as well as senior government representatives and leading figures from the world of innovation and business, active investors and highly regarded academics. With the support of the Connected funding, Belfast Met are presently driving projects across the Connected Health, Cloud Computing and Composites arena.

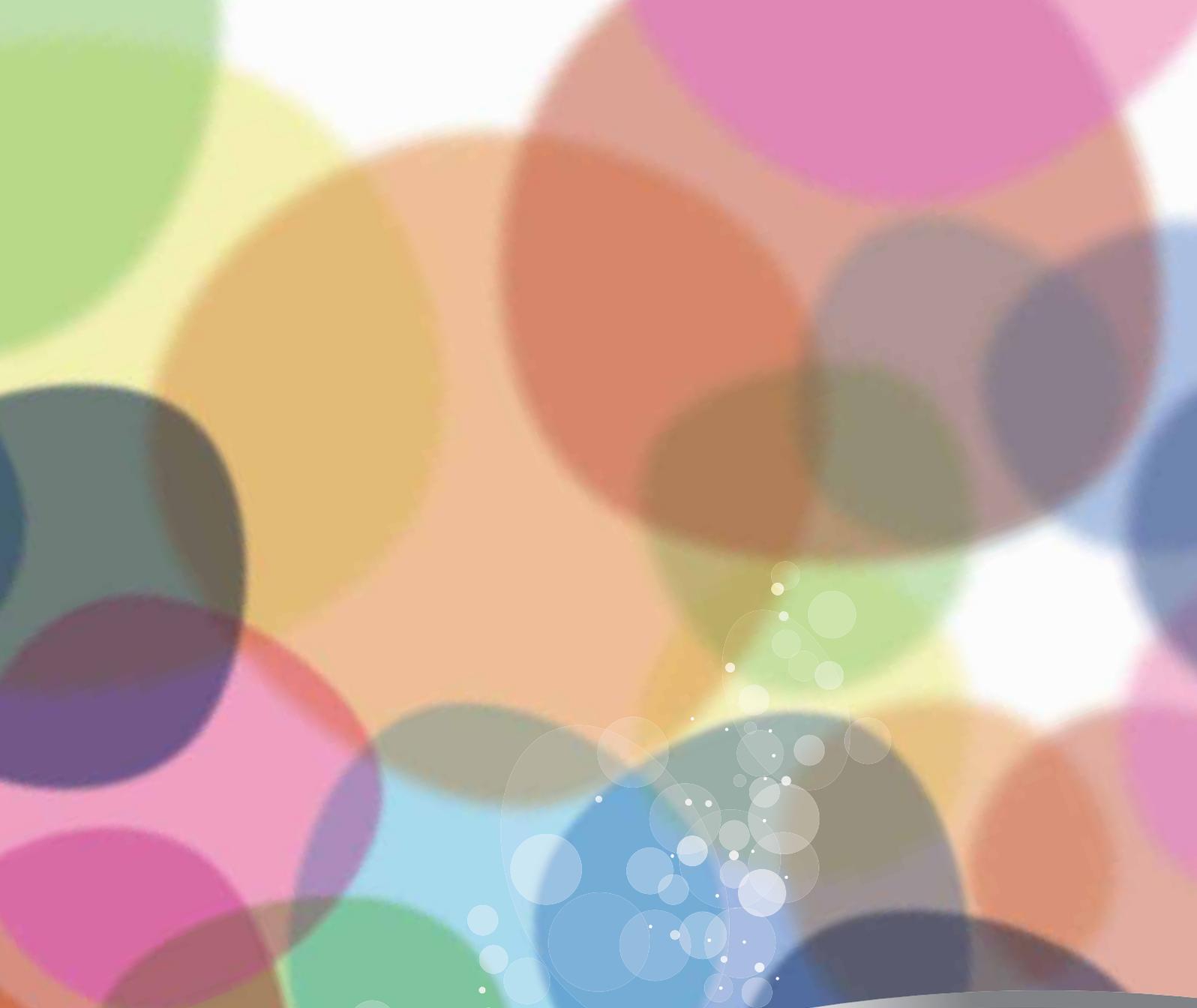
Roger Priestly, P/T Lecturer in Cloud Computing, commented: "It's well established that businesses want to take advantage of Cloud services to both reduce costs and provide organisations not only with the required efficiency enhancements but new ways to sell to existing and new customers. The InnovateUK Conference provided an excellent opportunity to hear from inspirational world speakers on cloud migration and meet with innovative experts and international buyers. With the support from Connected, I am presently developing content around Cloud services to enhance our ICT curriculum offering and therefore valued this opportunity to attend InnovateUK for the global best practice learning and collaborative networking opportunities."

Nuala Kilmartin, Senior Innovation Executive at Belfast Metropolitan College, said:

*"Belfast Met offer a consulting approach to supporting business growth and our innovative team have a deep understanding of the patterns of successful innovation, developed across a variety of industry sectors. The InnovateUK Conference provided an excellent insight to successful Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs). Across FE our employer engagement strategy concentrates on supporting organisations by addressing their business challenges for sustainable growth that serves multiple stakeholders—shareholders, employees, consumers, and society at large."*



Innovate UK Conference



# Connected

The knowledge connection for business



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