

Connected

newsletter

SUMMER 2013
ISSUE 03



Innovation through knowledge transfer 2013

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Welcome

WELCOME BY TIMOTHY BRUNDLE



Timothy Brundle, Director of Innovation, University of Ulster

It is a great pleasure to provide the welcome to the summer edition of the Connected newsletter. Over the past six years Connected has dramatically increased the level of collaboration between business and education, and between the higher and further education institutions. The University of Ulster is proud to be working alongside our education partners in support of the development of the innovation economy.

I write on returning from a trip to Lithuania to provide support for the development of entrepreneurship within universities in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. The visit not only provided an opportunity to showcase our local projects between business and education that have been supported through the Department for Employment and Learning's Connected programme, but also provided an opportunity to discuss mutual challenges and opportunities for Europe's regional innovation strategies.

Lithuania has formally taken over Presidency for the Council of the European Union on 1st July 2013 after Northern Ireland hosted the 2013 G8 Summit. Both events will place our respective talents on the world stage. Lithuania and Northern Ireland have many common attributes, including a heritage of textile manufacture, ship and aerospace engineering and agri-food production.

Each economy is forging its future from the knowledge that we are creating within our companies and education institutes, the skills that we are nurturing, the products and services that we are developing and the international markets we are exploring. Our global competitiveness will depend on the speed at which we can

innovate in each on these areas. However, much is still to be done if we are to realise our economic goals.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, has recently highlighted that Business Expenditure on Research and Development across Europe remains 66% lower than the rate of investment in the US and 122% lower than Japan, as a share of GDP. The amount of Venture Capital available within Europe is less than a quarter of that available within the US. The European Commission is responding to that challenge with Horizon 2020, a European collaborative research fund, which through an investment of up to €100bn aims to create the knowledge on which €375bn of new product sales are made which will in turn create 3.75m jobs.

Whether we each feel the innovation imperative across Europe, or within Northern Ireland, the challenge for each of us is to develop and refine the ability to collaborate and speed the path of knowledge from its generation in classrooms and board rooms to its exploitation in international markets. For many local companies, the Connected programme is delivering positive impacts from partnerships with education, and on behalf of each of Connected's education partners, I would like to thank you for your engagement, future consideration and for the support of the Department for Employment and Learning.

Timothy Brundle,
Director of Innovation
University of Ulster

Fresh Overview

SRC LAUNCHES i3 BUSINESS INITIATIVE TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



SRC launches i3 business initiative to key stakeholders

In January, Southern Regional College launched its i3 initiative to a special audience including local MLAs, Councillors, Enterprise Agencies, Invest NI, Department for Employment and Learning, and others.

The special event for stakeholders was the first in a series of 11 business events and seminars taking place throughout the week to introduce the initiative to local businesses.

SRC's CEO Brian Doran explains: "i3 is the product of years of development and a significant investment by SRC in excess of £500k.

"It's designed to bring together the college's significant knowledge, expertise and skills in a number of key sectors under one brand. i3 will provide support, training and mentoring to businesses, delivered by a team of 15 dedicated research lecturers with the primary aim of fostering economic growth in our region.

"I am delighted to launch this programme and would invite all the stakeholders present to promote this valuable initiative to your clients so that together, we can partner with local businesses to foster innovation and support economic growth."

The i3 team will work exclusively with businesses offering knowledge transfer and support through Research and Development, One-to-One Mentoring and Skills Development.

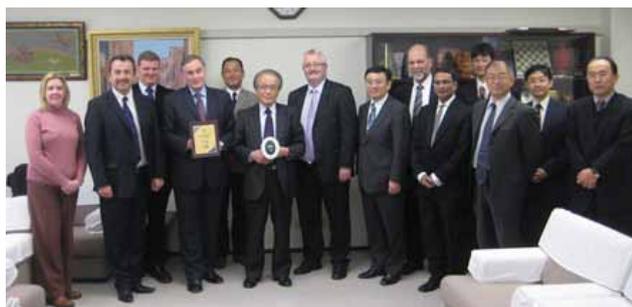
i3 areas of specialism include: Sustainable Build Technologies; Food Technology; Mobile Computing and ICT Systems; Retail Business Development; Advanced Engineering/Manufacturing; Life and Chemical Sciences; Renewable Energies and Environmental Technologies; Creative and Digital Media; and Tourism.

Speaking at the event, Claire Byrne, Head of Business Development said: "This team of specially recruited lecturers will engage with clients in a very practical way to help businesses solve real problems, address challenges and capitalise on growth opportunities.

Much of the support i3 offers is wholly or part-funded through a number of Government programmes, so it is a very accessible and affordable knowledge platform for local businesses to utilise," Claire added.

For more information about i3 support, contact the i3 team on 028 3025 9664 or email i3@src.ac.uk

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED BETWEEN NI AND JAPAN



Japanese International Visit

In the wake of the Japanese earthquake disaster two years ago, a number of Pacific Rim countries have now shifted focus to the sustainability sector to provide solutions to the ongoing problems of power for the most densely populated places in the world. Recently the second International Symposium on Expertise in Sustainable Society was held with guest lectures from leading figures in the industry including Ken Webb, Principal and Chief Executive of South Eastern Regional College (SERC).

The conference was organised by Toyama Technical College, Japan. Both Toyama and SERC have close links with an international partnership which has now been extended by a further three years in order to continue the work of sharing knowledge and best practice from either side of the world

Speaking on the signing of the new partnership, Ken Webb said: "This partnership has been a huge success over the past number of years, our staff and students have benefited from the close links. We are extremely proud to be the only the only college in the UK with this type of link to a Japanese college, and we hope this will lead to further opportunities for our students as they have a chance to see how the third largest economy in the world upskills their workforce to meet global challenges."

Membership with the partnership has now been extended to include Nagaoka University of Technology, a leading university in Japan. Nagaoka has joined the partnership as they see the potential for collaborative exchanges and research projects which could help the region as it continues to look for technological solutions to the regions energy problems.

During the signing ceremony, Ken Webb awarded Dr Nause, Vice President of Toyama Technical College, with a visiting professor status from South Eastern Regional College as a recognition of the signing. This honour is widely seen as the highest recognition between the partners as a symbol of collaborative nature of the project.

Lynn Connaughton from Colleges NI said: "The Connected project has been supporting SERC in developing their linkages with Japan over the past number of years. These links have now been enhanced by the HE/FE collaborations fostered by the Connected programme. The Connected delegations input to the symposium attracted interest from a number of international universities who were in attendance, including Hawaii, Korea and Malaysia. This level of international interest, coupled with the commitment from Nagaoka University of Technology, holds the potential for some very interesting international collaborative exchanges and research opportunities. As a result of this visit we are delighted to announced that the third International Symposium on Expertise in Sustainable Society will be held in Lisburn in June 2013."

Transferring knowledge to businesses and the wider community, as the following case studies highlight our colleges and universities are open to business.

UNITRUNK

Unitrunk (Lisburn) designs and manufactures cable management solutions which embody innovation, technical expertise and quality. With over 50 years experience in serving local and international markets, Unitrunk offers an extensive range of trunking, cable tray, cable ladder, channel and support systems, together with innovative design solutions.

Following initial contact, the company was invited to NRC to view new equipment recently acquired under the European KITE project; part of that capital spend was a Bystronic Press-brake and ABB Robot. Having seen parts being folded on the college's robot-attended press-brake, they were impressed with the capabilities of the system compared to automated folding machines; however, for it to be viable the cycle time of each component needed to be with 25% of the manual operation and the loading and unloading of the cell to be self-sufficient and integrated with the production line. It was decided that NRC would investigate these areas for development along with proving the system's capabilities for larger components.

About the Knowledge Provider

Northern Regional College Manufacturing Engineering Department has enjoyed good industrial relations with many of the local manufacturing companies. All of the lecturing staff within the department have come from an industrial background. Alan Reid, who looked after this Unitrunk project, has had considerable experience with robotic systems and has managed several projects for FG Wilson and Powerscreen, introducing them to robotic welding.

NRC has several industrial sized robots with the latest being integrated to a press-brake; this is proving to be an area of considerable interest for local fabricators as they can see the potential of being able to automate their process.



UNITRUNK

The Results

NRC was able to offer a lecturer, the college equipment, and, in conjunction with the company, was able to provide real and accurate details on the capability of such an operation over a period of six weeks.

This information has proved invaluable to the company in the early stages of the development of a new business model and planning for the future. They now have the confidence to adopt Robotic Press-brake Tending and have purchased a turnkey system to be integrated into their production line.

Contact Details of Knowledge Provider:

Knowledge Provider Name: Northern Regional College
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DONEGAL PRIME FISH

Donegal Prime Fish is a family owned-business, based in Derry, processing fresh fish. The business was established in 1992 and employs 15 people full time.

The main products are fresh fish supplied daily to hotels, restaurants and catering colleges throughout Northern Ireland.

The business also processes and smokes a range of salmon products mainly for the UK market, and also for the corporate gift market in Germany. The company has developed their own recipe for Oak Smoked Salmon and the product is hand processed.

The company holds the Sea Fish Industry Authority Quality Award and the Great Taste Award 2003. The company is also a member of the Guild of Fine Food.

About the Case

The company website was dated and in order to successfully grow, the business required mentoring and support to develop an online marketing strategy and effective online presence.

A mentor was assigned to:

- Assist the client with planning and implementation of a content managed website, and improve Search Engine Optimisation.
- Review online branding/image and coordinate branding across printed materials and delivery vans.
- Advise and assist the client with implementation of social media appropriate to target markets.
- Provide mentor support to allow the client to update and manage the website.

About the Knowledge Provider

NWRC used the services of NORIBIC to deliver the mentor expertise for web development and development of an online marketing plan. NORIBIC is a not-for-profit EU Business Innovation Centre (BIC). NORIBIC works with SMEs and start-ups, assisting them through business mentoring and support, incubation networking, and export development.



Donegal Prime Fish

The Results

Currently the client is working with a web specialist to develop a new online presence. At the end of the project it is expected that the client will have an effective web presence and digital marketing plan in place. The client will be able to update the new website and will have the skills to develop and maintain a social media marketing plan using Facebook and LinkedIn. The mentor will also assist the client to develop an email marketing campaign.

Contact Details of Knowledge Provider:

Knowledge Provider Name: North West Regional College / NORIBIC
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ALTA SCAFFOLD SOLUTIONS

Archview Scaffolding Ltd based in Newry is owned and operated by Paul McCann. Paul saw a niche in the market for onsite scaffolding plank testing, which is required for health and safety. Initial research found that no product existed in the market so Paul set up ALTA Scaffold Solutions to research, design and develop the testing equipment. The now developed mobile system allows onsite testing of each plank through a hydraulic computerised machine to BS 2482 standards.

About the Case

Within the process of the design and development Paul required CAD working drawings. Without this expertise in-house, Paul contacted Southern Regional College's Business Support Centre. Funded by the Connected Programme Catherine Jones, Business Development Officer



Alta Scaffold Solutions

and Bronagh Harte, Lecturer from the school of Architectural Technology and Construction Engineering, worked with Paul McCann to develop the required CAD drawings.

About the Knowledge Centre

Southern Regional College (SRC) is the largest Further and Higher Education College outside of Belfast in Northern Ireland. With a total of six campuses across the counties of Armagh and

Down and covering four district councils, the College offers first-class education and the College's Business Support team delivers bespoke training and specialist knowledge transfer services to businesses.

The Business Support Offices are located on three campuses in Newry, Portadown and Armagh, which are staffed by a core team of staff who have previously worked in industry. SRC's Business Support provides a range of training and workforce development programmes to enhance the skills levels of the local and regional workforce and a range of technical support/business improvement and knowledge transfer programmes to enhance business performance.

Key areas of expertise:

- Engineering
- Computing
- Business and Management
- Hospitality and Catering
- Renewable Energies

The Results

Lecturer Bronagh Harte provided professional guidance and produced required CAD drawings of the product. Paul commented: "I am delighted with the service I have received from SRC. I found the process very straight forward with onsite meetings scheduled to meet my business needs. I am extremely pleased with the project output. Bronagh produced my drawings to a very high standard. I look forward to further engagement with the College to help grow my new business."

NORTHERN HYDRAULICS LTD

Northern Hydraulics Ltd, based at Coalisland, was established by Seamus Morris in 1988 to manufacture high quality precision cylinders for use in all types of hydraulic equipment. Cylinders produced in Coalisland are fitted to a wide range of equipment such as quarry plant, agricultural equipment, fork lift trucks and robotic arms to mention a few. The company ships its product to customers all over Ireland and United Kingdom. The ultimate destination of products covers the globe.

About the Case

Technical staff from Queen's University visited the company. It was during this visit that the company expounded on a concept to change the method of construction and assembly for the hydraulic cylinders. The company needed assurances however that the proposed changes would continue to meet the strength and quality standards of the company and the industry. As a result of that meeting, it was arranged for staff from Northern Hydraulics Ltd to visit the Northern Ireland Technology Centre to discuss the concept in more detail. The outcome of that meeting resulted in agreement that NITC would carry out a project on behalf of the company. This project was funded by an Innovation Voucher from Invest NI.

About the Knowledge Provider

Operating for over 40 years, the Northern Ireland Technology Centre (NITC) is a technology and innovation centre, bridging the gap between academic research and commercial production to meet industry's needs. As one of Queens University's primary links with industry, the NITC is a self-financing unit affiliated to the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, recognised as one of the foremost contributors to NI industry from the Universities. The NITC activities include working with leading OEMs as well as with local SMEs, on projects focussing on design, engineering and manufacturing. The NITC has built local and national credibility by putting at the forefront our ability to work with and deliver innovation and real value to industry within the tight timeframes that companies demand, breaking down the barriers that may have previously existed with industry/university collaboration in the past. The NITC has built up a team of engineers and designers who bring a wealth of experience as well as great enthusiasm to all

projects whether large or small. The Centre is a strong advocate of real collaborative working and partnership with customers, believing this delivers the most effective results from idea to implementation.



Northern Hydraulics

The Results

Engineers from NI Technology Centre at Queen's University undertook the project. In the first instance a 3D CAD model was created using SolidWorks based on the 2D drawings supplied by the client. It was necessary to create this 3D model so that the Finite Element Analysis could be carried out. The second phase of the work involved the physical testing of hydraulic cylinder samples manufactured by the company using the proposed construction method. The results of both the theoretical calculations and also the physical testing of the new construction method are very promising. Further work will be performed to provide total assurances required by the company before implementing the change.

"I was very impressed with the positive attitude and enthusiasm of the staff at the Technology Centre. The work they carried out in the project will most certainly result in the implementation of new construction methods for our hydraulic cylinders. The benefit to the company will be a significant saving in money"
Seamus Morris, Northern Hydraulics Ltd.

Contact Details of Knowledge Provider:

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University Focus



Mr Eddie Friel
Head of Business Development

“Experts in the Ulster Business School have played a key role in helping us to diversify our product portfolio to include a larger variety of stone products – from kitchen countertops to garden furniture. Our clients now range from large contractors to households and we can provide a natural stone solution for every need, big or small. An added advantage is that during the Fusion project, with the University’s assistance, we developed alliances with a number of international partners in China and the US, so we now look forward to exploiting opportunities in the global marketplace.”

SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN BUSINESS

The University plays an important role in the development of the Northern Ireland economy and is committed to sharing the expertise and knowledge of its staff, a resource that has been accumulated over many years of engagement in world-class research activity.

Driving the interaction between the University and Business is Ulster’s Office of Innovation. The Office of Innovation’s primary function is to identify, protect, and commercialise the intellectual capital of the University.

Innovation Services

The primary role of the Innovation Services Team within the Office of Innovation is to translate Ulster’s knowledge and technology (Intellectual Property) into marketable products and services in the most effective and timely manner possible.

This is achieved primarily through the following mechanisms: Spinouts / New Business Ventures, Technology, Licences, Consultancy and Collaborative Development Projects.

Innovation Ulster Ltd, a 100% wholly-owned subsidiary of the University of Ulster, is the legally constituted vehicle through which the University engages commercially with the business community and investors. Profits and surpluses from commercial activity are brought back into the University for distribution to the academic community and associated faculties and schools.

Business Engagement

The Business Development Team is a key point of contact for business, including social enterprises and other organisations which are interested in accessing University expertise and resources. Additionally the Team plays a key role in engaging with policy makers and funders to support the engagement between the University and external organisations.

How does this work in practice?

Following an initial engagement between the Team and a company or other external organisation, through a direct enquiry, referral or meeting at a networking event, the Business Development Team manages an organisation’s interaction with the University. The Team will source the relevant academic, often in consultation with the relevant Faculty Director of Academic Enterprise, who can provide the best solution to the company and, where possible, find a relevant support mechanism for the interaction.

Support Programmes available

There are a wide range of mechanisms which support the interactions between the University and industry. These include Invest NI and Enterprise Ireland funded Innovation Vouchers and InterTradeIreland’s FUSION programme, as well as bespoke consultancy activities.

KTP

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are Europe’s leading mechanism to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through

the better use of knowledge, technology and skills residing within the UK knowledge base. The KTP programme is managed by the Technology Strategy Board in partnership with various other UK-based sponsors such as Invest NI. Invest NI has recently committed its ongoing support for KTP by confirming a £7.2m investment in the scheme over the next five years. This commitment along with TSB support has ensured that over £13m is available to support innovative University – Business collaborations in NI until 2017.

The Business Development Team also supports business engagement through the Knowledge Club networking initiative.

Feedback from businesses that have accessed University expertise

The University has a proven track record in delivering results to businesses and other organisations. Feedback has been excellent and many of the businesses have returned to use University services again.

Those who have worked with the University of Ulster and been delighted with their experience include:

“Experts in the Ulster Business School have played a key role in helping us to diversify our product portfolio to include a larger variety of stone products – from kitchen countertops to garden furniture. Our clients now range from large contractors to households and we can provide a natural stone solution for every need, big or small. An added advantage is that during the Fusion project, with the University’s assistance, we developed alliances with a number of international partners in China and the US, so we now look forward to exploiting opportunities in the global marketplace.”

Takis Kavvadias of Caffrey’s Natural Stone (KTP with the Ulster Business School)

“The engagement with Ulster was seamless and has proven invaluable in helping RepKnight enhance our solution to analyse and gain insight into the millions of messages we capture daily. We aim to continue the partnership and would encourage any companies thinking about taking advantage of the Innovation Voucher scheme to go for it!”

John Reid, CEO of RepKnight (Invest NI Innovation Voucher with the Faculty of Computing and Engineering)

Contact Us

The Business Development Team has a base at each of Ulster’s four campuses, allowing us to offer a Northern Ireland wide service. You can contact the Office of Innovation on 028 9036 8019 or email: enquiry@ulster.ac.uk

To request a copy of the latest edition of U2B, the Office of Innovation’s newsletter, which showcases the University’s work with businesses, please contact the Office as above, or you can view a copy online at www.ulster.ac.uk/u2b

Eddie Friel
Head of Business Development
Office of Innovation

College Focus



IMAGE ANIMATION CENTRE, ENNISKILLEN

The **IMAGE** Animation Centre in South West College's Enniskillen Campus has made a lightning start and has already had a major impact on curriculum, on relationships with businesses and on staff and student morale within the interactive media and related courses. Stephen Moss, Curriculum Manager for Technology, stated: "The interest shown in the Centre is phenomenal – the difficulty (albeit an encouraging one) is managing this level of interest and, at the same time, ensuring everyone is aware of the Centre's potential. Local businesses are very keen to be involved and we have several Projects in the pipeline."

It is a major boost to have this Centre in Enniskillen – the motion capture area is the only one of its kind in Ireland and South West College is investing in augmented reality equipment to complement the virtual reality development. There has been interest from ballet companies, performing arts groups, other Colleges and Universities in both Ireland and in UK, and from leading-edge animation enterprises.

SOUTH WEST COLLEGE INNOVATION CENTRES



IMAGE animation centre SWC

In March 2010 as part of a Connected and Invest NI Project, Padraig McNamee (Head of Technology, SWC) and Carol Viney (Deputy) travelled on a fact-finding study visit to San Francisco, California. There they attended an intensive course in Strategic Management at Stanford University and spent time in the world-famous Stanford D (Design) School. They also visited Animation Centres, in particular Lucas Films, and spoke with the Human Resources staff there about career paths for students who wish to develop a career in animation.

In June 2012 they also attended the British Design Innovation conference where they heard speakers emphasising the need for creativity and innovation in design and the importance of engendering this creativity in our younger generations. They spoke individually with the main speaker, Frank Stephenson, Design Director for McLaren Automotive Ltd.

Carol Viney said: "The two new Innovation Centres in South West College are so well linked with what is needed in industry and education today. We need studio space where creativity and innovation ideas can flow freely, where industry-standard hardware and software can then be used to expand and bring those ideas to fruition."

IDEA DESIGN CENTRE, OMAGH



IDEA SWC

IDEA is a unique interactive learning and exhibition space. It has been created to support a wide range of students and organisations from a variety of industrial backgrounds to participate in the creative process of generating new ideas. In this space ideas are conceived, nurtured and developed into prototypes that are then tested to establish proof of concept.

With the new learning ethos that IDEA captures and the facilities it provides, the Centre fosters a mindset of creativity, of problem solving, and of innovation.

Diarmuid Kelly, Centre Manager, says: "It really is a top class facility, which in many ways is addressing the missing 'D' from the 'STEM' subjects – Design, and design thinking is proving to be a very important aspect of getting the economy back on track. Spaces like the IDEA Centre can provide the tools needed to entrepreneurial students and people from the local community and industry to develop their ideas and concepts into achievable products."

Connected Out and About

SUSTAINABLE BUILD TECHNOLOGIES BREAKFAST SEMINAR AND SRC



L-R: Lindsay Bronte, Head of School of Construction and the Built Environment; Bronagh Harte, SRC Research Lecturer; Art McCormack, Passive House Academy; Paul McAllister, Paul McAllister Architects; Keith Kilpatrick, SRC Director; Joseph Little, Director with Building Life Consultancy and James McAloon, SRC Business Development Officer.

In January 2013 over 30 attendees including local architects, members of the construction industry, local authorities and academia attended a Sustainable Build Technology breakfast seminar at SRC's Portadown

Campus. The seminar was part of a series of events to launch i3, a new initiative at SRC to support businesses in a number of sectors including Sustainable Build Technologies.

SRC AND SERC CONSTRUCTION & BUILT ENVIRONMENT STAFF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE BIM & REVIT TRAINING FUNDED THROUGH THE CONNECTED PROJECT



Revit Training

In February 2013 six staff from the Schools of Construction and the Built Environment within SRC and SERC successfully completed training funded through the Connected Project in Building Information Modelling (BIM), based at SRC's Portadown Campus. The three-day training programme also included an introduction to new software, Revit Architecture.

Revit Architecture is emerging as the key software in supporting Building Information Modelling and offers architects, engineers, contractors and building owners, industry specific tools to improve collaboration, make decisions faster, carry out clash detection, predict building performance and enable complete building systems design and analysis.

Through this training, staff from both SRC and SERC received an excellent introduction to both BIM and Revit, which can now be used to enhance the delivery of industry specific training in this area and also provide staff with relevant up-to-date skills and know-how for use in the development of new training provision for industry.

The training is one of a number of skills development and investment activities ongoing at SRC and forms part of the preparation for the opening of a new Integrated Sustainable Building Technology Centre that is scheduled for September 2013.



Lord Ballyedmond unveiling the plaque with Angela Coffey, Vice-chair of the Board of Governors, Brian Doran, SRC Chief Executive and John McArdle, Mayor of Newry and Mourne District Council

SRC HONOURS VALUABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH LORD BALLYEDMOND OBE AND NORBROOK LABORATORIES LTD

The Southern Regional College recently unveiled a plaque naming its applied science laboratories in honour of the Right Honourable Lord Ballyedmond OBE, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Norbrook Group. The ceremony took place at the West Campus of the Southern Regional College and was attended by local politicians, industry representatives, SRC students and staff and members of the College's Governing Body.

Over recent years the College has forged a strong working relationship with Norbrook Laboratories Ltd on a number of fronts including the delivery of vocational qualifications at level 2 and 3 in laboratory techniques as well as bespoke business support programmes. Norbrook staff have also been instrumental in advising and supporting College lecturers in designing programmes in applied science and analytical chemistry including the first Foundation Degree in Applied Medical Science in conjunction with the University of Ulster.

Lord Ballyedmond also provides an annual bursary of £11,000 to students from the College who have the aspiration to progress to higher education. The Norbrook Prize was first introduced by Lord Ballyedmond in 2007 and since then 12 recipients have gone on to study a wide range of higher education programmes throughout the UK and the island of Ireland.

The strong relationship developed with Norbrook has been facilitated through the DEL-funded Connected programme by allowing staff to spend time focusing on building industry relationships and developing curriculum to meet industry needs.

Connected Out and About

BUTCHERS – A CUT ABOVE WORKSHOP

This workshop provided the knowledge required to equip local butchers with the culinary upskilling to develop and focus their business together with recognising the core value of why it is better from a local butcher. The butchers also attended a Master Class with Celebrity Chef Neven Maguire together with Brian McDermott. Both chefs shared their experiences and highly respected model of work that they have delivered to craft butchers of Ireland.

Led by Community Chef Brian McDermott and Celebrity Chef Neven Maguire, the event was attended by ten butchers from across Derry and Donegal. The workshop had a strong focus on adding culinary value to butchery and understanding why it is better from a local butcher. Butchers also cooked their own dish.



Butcher – A cut above the rest

Areas Covered Adding Culinary Value:

- Supermarket vs local butcher
- Understanding how we taste food
- Culinary techniques and tips
- Cooking a roast
- How to cook perfect steak
- Concept of NPD – adding value to pork
- Passing on culinary knowledge to consumer via recipe cards and staff training
- Understanding your operations and opportunity
- Understanding your core value as local butcher
- Developing your products NPD
- Your new strategy going forward
- Master Class with Neven Maguire

"This is the most knowledgeable day I have had as a butcher, would love to do more."

Shane McConnell, Butcher

"I have learned so much today that is going to be valuable to my business."

Seamus Gallagher Butchers

"Absolutely fantastic day, superb."

Paul Ellis, Paul's Butchers

EMERGING CHALLENGES IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG MISUSE



Emerging challenges in alcohol and drug misuse

A major conference hosted by North West Regional College on 27th March 2013 and funded by Connected, brought together some of the leading experts in alcohol and substance misuse from across the UK, to discuss and evaluate some of the emerging challenges for those working in this field. Organised by the School for Health and Social Care at NWRC, and held in the City Hotel, the one day conference welcomed over 90 delegates from a wide range of local agencies

who work with people and families dealing with substance misuse problems. The conference provided the opportunity for staff from different agencies to share best practice in the field of supporting those harmed by substance misuse.

The conference was hosted by Felicity McCall, whose recent play written by members of Foyle Haven, 'Every Bottle has a Story to Tell', focused on street drinking.

The conference included a session on the increase of mephedrone use since 2009 by Nina O'Neill, who was researching recreational drug use when this initially 'legal high' began to have a devastating impact on communities across Northern Ireland and beyond. The keynote speaker was Dr Moira Plant, Emeriti Professor of Alcohol Studies at the University of West of England in Bristol, who discussed issues related to women, mental health and alcohol. The link between mental ill health and substance misuse was followed up by Dr Anne Campbell from Queen's University. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders were addressed in presentations by Victor Robinson from UU and also the heartfelt story of a family dealing first hand with the challenges that FASD has on children and teenagers they have fostered and adopted. Staff from the Drink:Think project in the city spoke about the local culture of alcohol, while the Draft Commissioning Alcohol and Drug Strategy for NI was introduced by Cathy Mullan of the Public Health Agency.

The conference was also an opportunity to launch a new Foundation Degree in Responding to Alcohol and Drug Misuse, validated by UU, that will be running in NWRC from September 2013.

Connected Out and About

INNOVATION KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER CONFERENCE 2013



Ms Janet Coulter (Senior Lecturer in Fashion Design), Professor Bob Howlett (Executive Chair, KES International), Mr Eddie Friel (Head of Business Development) and Sir Brian Fender

Norman Crowley, one of Ireland's most successful business people, was in Derry~Londonderry in April 2013 for a major international business conference hosted by the University of Ulster.

Mr Crowley is the chairman and founder of Crowley Carbon, a Wicklow-based energy services provider, which recently signed a €64 million (£54.3 million) deal to deploy its smart building technology to some of the tallest buildings in the world.

He was the keynote speaker for the KES International Innovation through Knowledge Transfer Conference in the City Hotel on Thursday 11th to Friday 12th April 2013.

Hosted by the University of Ulster, and supported by Connected and Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, the focus of the conference was innovation and knowledge transfer.

Eddie Friel, Head of Business Development at Ulster's Office of Innovation explained: "This event provided the business community with an excellent opportunity to learn about how they can benefit from academic research.

"It was an excellent opportunity to learn about and discuss the impact of 'university-business' and 'business-business' interactions."

To find out more about the University of Ulster's Knowledge Club you can register your interest online at www.ulster.ac.uk/oi or email your details to knowledgeclub@ulster.ac.uk

COLLEGE URGES LOCAL BUSINESS TO 'MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS'



Make IT Your Business speakers are joined by event co-ordinator and College Lecturer Mary Hegarty (extreme right) at the NWRC event

ATLANTA GEORGIA



Atlanta Georgia

In June 2012 Patricia Flanagan, Lead on Creativity and Innovation in Belfast Metropolitan College, attended the CPSI (Creative Problem Solving Institute) conference in Atlanta Georgia. CPSI is the oldest and longest running conference dedicated to the teaching and practice of creative skills, sponsored by the creative education foundation. CPSI was the brain child of Alex Osborn, the inventor of brainstorming and creative problem solving. CPSI is an annual international conference and is focused on three main areas: creativity, innovation and leading change. World-class facilitators create an active learning environment, teaching how to maximise creative thinking and innovation skills to move to the next level. The entire experience is focused on helping move ideas into action. This is an extremely hands on conference and while there Patricia participated in a one-day workshop on the CPSI model for creative thinking and then completed a two-day programme in advanced facilitation of creative thinking. In addition key note speakers from BBDO, Harvard Business School, Huffington Post, The Jim Henson Company, Southwest Airlines and others inspired attendees with their behind-the-scenes processes of innovation and creativity.

The conference is attended by business leaders, educators and creative practitioners from all over the world and so provided Patricia with fantastic opportunities to network and promote the innovative work of BMC and in particular e3.

If you are interested in further information on how FRESH can help your business to develop please contact:

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Local business owners from across the North West recently attended a free half-day workshop at North West Regional College's Strand Road campus, which was aimed at helping them to 'Make IT Your Business'. Guest speakers at the event included representatives from CultureTech, Invest NI and the Information Commissioner's Office, who covered topics of discussion such as legal advice on data protection, and ideas on how new technology and social media can boost business performance.

The event was organised by the NWRC School of Science and Technology, and formed part of the College's strategy of raising awareness and opportunities in its 'STEM' related course provision areas, and was supported by Connected.

Clean and green firms to benefit from QUB and South West College partnership

SOUTH WEST COLLEGE AND QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST RECENTLY CONFIRMED DETAILS OF A COLLABORATION THAT WILL ENABLE LOCAL FIRMS TO IMPROVE COMPETITION IN THE HIGH GROWTH RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR.



L-R: Wilson McGarel (QUESTOR), Ciaran Prunty (QUESTOR), Lynn Connaughton (Colleges NI & Connected Fund), Fergal Tuffy (SWC InnoTech Centre), Dr Stephen Farry (Employment and Learning Minister), Aaron Black (SWC InnoTech Centre) and Malachy McAleer (Director, SWC)

The environmental research and innovation partnership is an agreement between the College's InnoTech Centre and the QUESTOR Centre at Queen's, and will focus on energy from biomass with potential for expansion in other sectors. It is a result of ongoing collaboration coordinated through the DEL Connected Programme.

The partnership proposed the installation of new shared facilities, including the upgrading of existing laboratories at QUESTOR and further capitalisation of a full Scale Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration Facility located near Omagh, with the development of a dedicated test facility at the College's Skills Centre in Enniskillen.

By pooling their resources, both organisations will provide high quality technical services in a wider range of disciplines to support local companies and accelerate commercial exploitation of new ideas and processes.

Malachy McAleer, South West College Director, said the collaboration would be a catalyst to accelerate economic development: "Innovation is critical for the continued growth of the renewable sector. Northern Irish companies in the clean and green sector require dedicated R&D support if we are to achieve ambitious targets for renewable energy and develop ideas into products, profit and jobs."

"This unique collaborative partnership brings together the expertise and recourses of two centres of R&D excellence with the Higher and Further Educations sectors with distinct areas of economic development expertise. The combined knowledge of both can provide a coherent service capable of meeting industry needs and bridging a known technology transfer gap."

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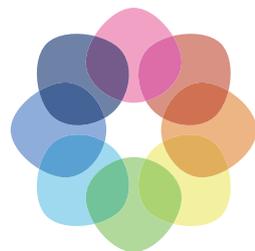
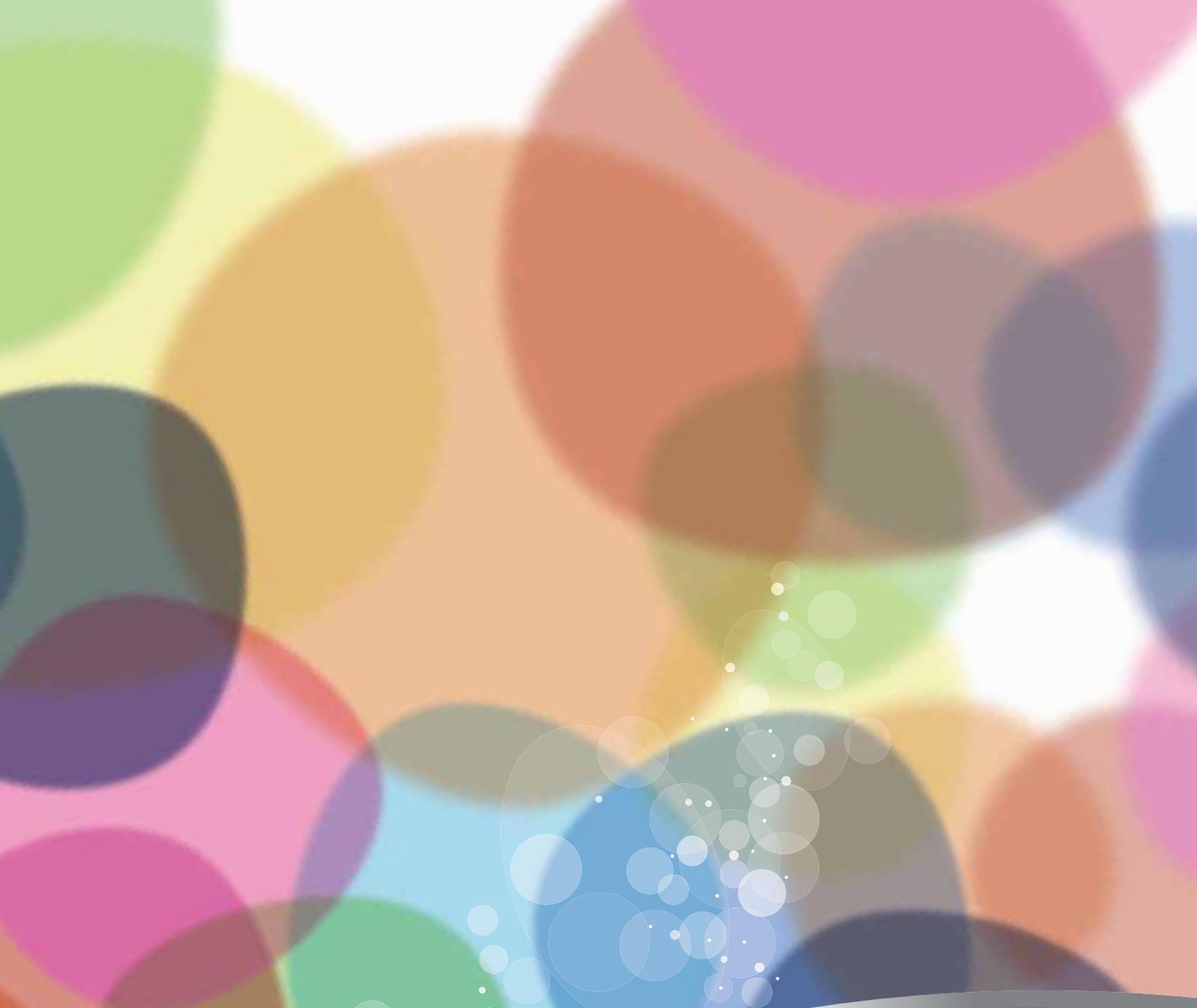
Dr Wilson McGarel, Director of QUESTOR, said smart collaboration will help build and sustain competitiveness in a lucrative sector:

"The primary purpose of the proposed collaboration between the QUESTOR Centre and the InnoTech Centre is to bridge a technology transfer gap in Northern Ireland by providing focus, joint facilities and resources that can enhance and sustain the competitiveness of existing and emerging businesses in the renewable energy sector."

"Northern Ireland is a small region and can only afford to invest shrewdly in support of key niche areas where companies can act quickly and compete globally if innovation is coordinated. Energy from biomass is one of the key niche areas where smart investment can lead to significant growth, wealth creation and increased employment."



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Connected

The knowledge connection for business



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