

# MINUTES

28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**PRESENT:** SEE ATTACHED LIST (ANNEX 2).

**APOLOGIES:** Donald Fitzmaurice, Norman Black, Bill McGinnis and Colin Elliott.

## 1. WELCOME

Chair welcomed the Panel to the 5<sup>th</sup> MATRIX panel meeting and advised of the resignation from the Panel by John D'Arcy, the representative of ANIC, and thanked John for his contribution. John's successor, Alan Blair, was welcomed.

## 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 were agreed.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

i). *Terms of Reference for Government Implementation Strand to be provided to panel for information.*

Action complete – attached with papers as Annex A

ii). *Share project plans for the project teams for information.*

Action complete – attached with papers as Annexes B-C

iii). *Invest NI to report back on FDI research.*

Niall Casey provided an update re Digital NI 2020, which is being taken forward by Invest NI and Sinclair Stockman, and advised that the report was near completion.

**Action 1: Secretariat to circulate the paper on Digital NI 2020 to the MATRIX Panel for information.**

- iv). *John D'Arcy to liaise with Invest NI regarding release of Project Kelvin findings.*

Alan Blair agreed to update the panel at the next meeting as he had just taken over from John.

**Action 2: Alan Blair to update the panel at the next meeting in relation to ANIC's liaison with Invest NI regarding release of Project Kelvin findings.**

- v). *Bill McGinnis to ensure issue of matching skills to the needs of emerging market opportunities is covered under the ESAG Task Group Report on Priority Skills.*

A written update was provided by the NIAES: "The priority skills project is currently undertaking analysis of both current and future industries and any skill issues likely to emerge which could constrain employment and productivity growth. The report will make recommendations to DEL to ensure our key industries have an appropriate match and supply of skills".

- vi). *DETI officials to draft and circulate paper on the differences on Collaborative networks, IICS and (later agreed to include) Competence Centres.*

Action complete – this was done as part of the Innovation Community event which took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

- vii). *Summary of renewable heat study to be brought to next meeting.*

Action complete – hard copies were made available at the meeting

- viii). *DRD and DFP to take forward the NI Water procurement project with DETI assistance.*

Action not complete – this has been delayed for reasons beyond DETI and MATRIX's control.

- ix). *Carry action point on FE and skills for IICs to a future meeting of MATRIX.*

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at a future meeting.

**Action 3: CollegesNI (formerly ANIC) representative to give an update on the subgroup looking at FE and skills for IICs (action brought forward from earlier meeting of MATRIX).**

x). *MATRIX Secretariat to circulate proposed dates for future meetings.*

Action Complete – dates have been confirmed as

- 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON TELECOMMS HORIZON STUDY**

Frank O'Donnell of PA Consulting presented on the findings of the Telecoms report. It was noted that the Telecoms study has been warmly received by the Telecoms horizon panel and it is widely considered to be a useful piece of work. The MATRIX Panel agreed to accept the report.

The Chair thanked the Telecoms Horizon Panel, and the Chair and deputy Chair, Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley for completing the report. He also thanked the MATRIX Secretariat, DETI's Telecoms Policy Unit and PA Consulting their input.

The potential to use the Telecoms recommendations to promote the creation of IICs was discussed and the validation of each of the market opportunities was also raised. It was noted that there were a number of Invest NI's collaborative networks which were already looking at exploiting some of the market opportunities which had been identified.

It was noted that the next step will be to follow the Market Opportunities Scanning System process and identify thematic priorities for a competitive call by Invest NI.

#### **5. PROGRESS ON INNOVATION GATEWAY & IC DEVELOPMENT**

Bernard McKeown briefly outlined the overarching purpose for the approach taken on the basis of Government's commitment to development better channels of support for IICs. It is also a major part of what government has committed to deliver in support of the first MATRIX report.

He referred to the papers which outline the work which has been done to date by the MATRIX Secretariat (at the practical level by Michael Cunningham and Claire McCafferty) alongside Niall Casey, Linda Jamison and Pat Doyle from the Collaborative Networks Team in Invest NI.

It was noted that this piece of work itself has been an exemplar of collaboration between DETI, MATRIX and Invest NI.

Michael Cunningham opened the detailed discussion by introducing the work he has been leading on developing a Market Opportunities Scanning System (MOSS).

This is a process by which the MATRIX horizon work, the role of NISP connect, and the Invest NI Collaborative Networks functions can be better integrated to provide a better, faster, more focused system to encourage the creation of IICs in the most efficient and effective way. It focuses on connecting the market priorities to a competitive call from INI.

Claire McCafferty then presented on her work to develop a detailed but easily navigable toolkit to identify much of the support available for collaborative networks and IICs.

The MATRIX panel welcomed the proposed way forward and commended the approach.

## **6. SIB INVOLVEMENT IN THE INNOVATION GATEWAY**

The possible role of SIB in the Innovation Gateway to support IICs was outlined in a paper and presentation by Pat O'Neill.

Pat outlined that SIB might be able to provide the “human interface” dimension of the gateway. It was noted that this proposal had received some cautious but warm support from DETI.

Pat suggested that SIB could take on this function in a first phase pilot (until March 2011). The panel welcomed SIB's involvement in the pilot Gateway.

**Action 4: Secretariat to update on progress on the development of the Innovation Gateway, MOSS and Toolkit at future meetings.**

## **7. REVIEW OF FUTURE ROLE OF MATRIX**

The panel was informed about a planned review and repositioning of MATRIX and that the DETI Minister had been informed of the process.

Members were advised that the review group, chaired by Mike Thompson, would consider the views of MATRIX, NISP and Invest NI to come to the most effective strategic decision in due course.

MATRIX members will be updated on the process of reviewing the panel as it evolves. But it is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes made before April 2011.

**Action 5: Secretariat to update on progress on the review of MATRIX at future meetings.**

## **8. AOB AND DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.**

### **i) TSB Operational Advisory Group.**

The Chair advised that he had represented Northern Ireland at UK level in discussions on the new UK Innovation Strategy which is due to be released. He noted that due to public sector cuts the Regional Development Agencies are being axed and greater resource being given to the Technology Strategy Board to develop the Technology Centres.

**Action 6: Secretariat to circulate the UK Innovation Strategy when published.**

### **ii) Dates for future meetings agreed as:**

- 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011

## ANNEX 1

### Summary of actions arising from fourth Plenary of MATRIX 28 September 2010:

- Action 1:** Secretariat to circulate the paper on Digital NI 2020 to the MATRIX Panel for comment.
- Action 2:** Alan Blair to update the panel at the next meeting in relation to ANIC's liaison with Invest NI regarding release of Project Kelvin findings.
- Action 3:** CollegesNI (formerly ANIC) representative to give an update on the subgroup looking at FE and skills for IICs (action brought forward from earlier meeting of MATRIX).
- Action 4:** Secretariat to update on progress on the development of the Innovation Gateway and Toolkit at future meetings.
- Action 5:** Secretariat to provide an update on progress on the review of MATRIX at future meetings.
- Action 6:** Secretariat to circulate the UK Innovation Strategy when published.

**TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010****ATTENDEES****Organisation**

Damien McDonnell	Chair
Rob Hardeman	Seagate Technology
Brian Keating	Invest NI Board Representative
Alan Lennon	Invest NI Board Representative
Norman Apsley	NISP
James McElnay	Queen's University Belfast
Bill McGinnis	NI Skills Advisor on Skills and Employment
Clare Passmore	Industry rep / Independent Consultant
Alan Blair	ANIC
Clare Gilligan	Warner Chilcott
Mike Thompson	DETI
Bernard McKeown	MATRIX Secretariat
Conor Dunbar	MATRIX Secretariat
Eoin McFadden	MATRIX Secretariat
Claire McCafferty	MATRIX Secretariat
Michael Cunningham	MATRIX Secretariat
Pat O'Neill	Strategic Investment Board
Yvonne McCroskey	DEL
Niall Casey	Invest NI
Carol Keery	Invest NI
Frank O'Donnell	PA Consulting