



MATRIX  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
SCIENCE INDUSTRY PANEL

INNOVATION POLICY UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE,  
TRADE AND INVESTMENT  
NETHERLEIGH  
MASSEY AVENUE  
BELFAST BT4 2JP

PROFITING FROM SCIENCE  
[WWW.MATRIX-NI.ORG](http://WWW.MATRIX-NI.ORG)

# MINUTES

# 10.09.09

## MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE MATRIX PANEL HELD AT THE STORMONT HOTEL

**PRESENT:** SEE ATTACHED LIST (ANNEX 1).

**APOLOGIES:** Norman Black, Alan Lennon, Bill McGinnis, Business Alliance

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chair, Damien McDonnell, welcomed members to the first plenary meeting of the second MATRIX panel and apologies were noted. Introductions were made by panel members.

During the introductions, lack of communication/feedback was highlighted as a key issue and the panel asked that the secretariat update the HORIZON panel members with regard to progress on implementing the MATRIX reports since their publication in October 2009.

**Action 1: Secretariat to circulate update of MATRIX developments to MATRIX I and HORIZON panel members.**

(John D'Arcy joined the meeting)

Welcomes on behalf of DETI and the Minister were made by DETI officials. It was iterated that the ETI Committee view MATRIX as hugely important to Northern Ireland's economy and that good cross-departmental cooperation was being obtained in MATRX' report implementation.

It was discussed that additional industry representatives to the panel are still to be appointed.

It was noted that conflicts of interest should be declared at the beginning of each meeting and/or during the course of discussions as they arose.

## **2. & 3. OVERVIEW OF MATRIX DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE AND UPDATE ON GIG PROGRESS**

A presentation of MATRIX developments since October 2008 was given by the Secretariat followed by an update on progress by the Government Implementation Group (GIG). Two additional sectors had been identified as priorities for government since 2008, Telecommunications and Energy, and the Panel was being asked that these be taken forward under MATRIX II.

The Panel asked the Secretariat to look into the possibility of making the GIG meetings more accessible to the public.

**Action 2: Secretariat is to consider the possibility of publishing the minutes of the Government Implementation Group on the MATRIX website.**

(Gerry McCormac left the meeting to attend another commitment).

The issue of procurement was raised and it was brought to the panel's attention that the Finance and Personnel Committee would be reviewing procurement in the near future and that the previous MATRIX report on procurement could be fed into this if agreeable to MATRIX and the Minister. It was confirmed that the Panel would welcome the circulation of the MATRIX Procurement report to the Committee.

It was added that there may be an opportunity for members of the Panel to meet with the Mark Glover, Manager of the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI), in relation to procurement when he is in N Ireland, scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009.

**Action 3: Secretariat to invite Panel members to meet with Mark Glover.**

It was noted that the Government Implementation Group response is to go forward to the DETI Minister at the end of September. The panel requested that a draft version be circulated to MATRIX members. Secretariat to determine if a copy of the draft can be released to the Panel.

**Action 4: Secretariat to seek departmental approval to release the draft MATRIX Government Implementation Group response to the MATRIX Panel.**

## **4. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR MATRIX II**

The draft ToR was discussed and it was agreed that the Panel should comment and feedback to DETI on the draft by Monday 5th October. Comments will be reviewed at the next meeting. It was requested that the Panel suggest names for the new role

of Strategic Advisers.

**Action 5: Secretariat to collate Panel members comments on the draft ToR. These will be reviewed at the next meeting.**

**Action 6: Panel to propose names of possible Strategic Advisers to the Secretariat by 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

The Chair added that he sits on the Technology Strategy Board's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) as a representative for Northern Ireland and it was suggested that the minutes from these be circulated to the Panel.

**Action 7: Secretariat to circulate the SAG minutes to the panel.**

A discussion arose on whether there was potential for MATRIX within the development of the new Research Excellence Framework (REF) (which will replace the Research Assessment Exercise or RAE). Norman Apsley agreed to liaise with the universities on this issue via Gerry McCormac and Norman Black and to feedback to the group at the next MATRIX meeting.

**Action 8: Norman Apsley to liaise with universities on REF and to feedback to Panel at next meeting.**

**Action 9: Secretariat to add the issue of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) to November agenda for discussion.**

(Steve Orr joined the meeting).

## **5. ROLE OF NISP CONNECT AND MATRIX**

Norman Apsley declared an interest at this stage which was noted by the Panel, who agreed unanimously that he should stay and contribute to factual aspects of the discussion.

Steve Orr (NISP CONNECT) presented to the group on the potential synergies between MATRIX, in particular the Industry Innovation Communities model and CONNECT.

The Chair thanked Steve and opened discussion. The Panel view was that CONNECT would probably have a key role to play during the creation and early development of the Industry-led Innovation Community (IIC's). The Panel praised the work done by NISP CONNECT in linking the business and research bases in N.

Ireland.

The Chair proposed a working group, chaired by Norman Apsley, to look at the potential for NISP CONNECT to contribute to the establishment and development of the IIC's. Norman Apsley agreed to come back to MATRIX with proposals and to discuss resource issues with DETI.

**Action 10: Norman Apsley to liaise with the Secretariat to discuss how to establish and support the Sub Group tasked with examining NISP CONNECT's potential role in the development of the IICs.**

The Panel asked if there were any known overlaps in the roles undertaken by Invest NI and NISP CONNECT at this early development stage of the IICs. Following discussion, in which the complementary – but differing – role that InvestNI's Network Collaboration Team plays, it was agreed that NISP Connect could bring a valuable, industry-led role to the process of establishing the IICs, in partnership with Invest NI and others.

(Steve Orr left the meeting)

## **6. MATRIX FUTURE WORK PLAN**

### **i. Intellectual Property (IP) and Knowledge Transfer**

DETI officials provided background to this topic which had been raised at DETI's Inter Departmental Working Group (IDWG) on Innovation. The main concern was the existence of a number of disparate IP and Tech/Knowledge transfer functions within Northern Ireland's public services and universities. It has been suggested that as a small region this could be said to cause duplication of effort and fragmentation. The IDWG had requested that the issue be looked at by MATRIX.

Chair suggested that MATRIX carry out a "mapping exercise," to get an overview of IP and Technology transfer and how it is managed in Northern Ireland. It was proposed that Bryan Keating chair a working group and Panel members should propose suitable members. It was suggested that Invest NI be involved in this work and also provide a degree of practical support for this group.

Following further discussion it was agreed that this group should also look at how venture capital and other private finance mechanisms might be better utilized to exploit IP and knowledge.

**Action 11: Bryan Keating to chair a working group on IP & Knowledge Transfer and to liaise with Norman Apsley and Ian Wilkinson (Invest NI) to discuss establishing and supporting the panel.**

**Action 12: Panel to propose names for membership of IP & Knowledge Transfer panel to working group by 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

**ii. Energy**

The panel noted that there were a number of pockets of interest in the field of Energy in Northern Ireland and that, in particular, there had been a lot of work looking at supply sources, but that investment opportunities needed to be identified. The panel re-iterated the need to identify not only current opportunities but those in 2050 and further down the line. The Chair stated that an Energy HORIZON Panel needed to be established and asked the Panel to propose names of relevant individuals.

Following discussion the Panel proposed inviting Donald Fitzmaurice, who is an international investor in CleanTech and former member of the Advanced Materials HORIZON panel, to present on the energy issue at a future MATRIX meeting.

**Action 13: Panel to forward names of relevant individuals to the Secretariat for consideration as Energy HORIZON Panel members.**

**Action 14: Secretariat to invite Donald Fitzmaurice, in due course, to present on the issue of Energy.**

Norman Apsley raised the upcoming Springboard “Spirit of Ireland” event at NISP which will focus on a potentially novel solution for Ireland’s future Energy needs. It was agreed that NISP would invite the MATRIX panel members to attend this event.

**Action 15: Norman Apsley to liaise with DETI Secretariat to invite MATRIX panel to the Springboard “Spirit of Ireland” event at NISP.**

The Secretariat indicated that there were a number of Energy strategy documents currently out for consultation, in particular the Strategic Energy Framework and draft Bio-energy Action Plan. It was agreed that these should be circulated to the Panel.

**Action 16: Secretariat to circulate Energy consultation documents to panel.**

**iii. Direct International Telecommunications Connectivity Market Opportunities.**

A draft Terms of Reference to study market opportunities arising out of Direct International Telecommunications Connectivity was circulated. The Panel agreed that a small study should be undertaken. Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to liaise.

**Action 17: Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to take forward the establishment of a sub group to look at market opportunities arising out of Direct International Telecommunications Connectivity and to report back.**

**iv. Telecommunications**

In line with the Department's request, the need for a full HORIZON study into the future market opportunities in Telecommunications was agreed. Further to the work being undertaken around Direct International Connectivity, Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley agreed to liaise with relevant industrialists as well as Alistair Hamilton (Chief Executive of Invest NI) for suggestions on who might be invited onto such a Horizon Panel. However it was agreed that this piece of work should be held back until the findings emerging from the Direct International Connectivity study were known.

**Action 18: Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to liaise with industry and Alistair Hamilton, Invest NI, re the establishment of a Telecomms HORIZON Panel and report back.**

It was agreed that the MATRIX work programme would be further discussed and reviewed at the next meeting.

**Action 19: Secretariat to add "MATRIX Work Programme" to agenda of next meeting.**

**7. AOB**

**i. Finance & Personnel Committee Scrutiny of Public Procurement Practice**

Anne Conaty advised again that the Finance and Personnel Committee are meeting to carry out a review of Public Procurement and that Panel members may be called upon to give input.

**ii. Project Bloodhound**

The background to Project Bloodhound was discussed and it was noted that the cross government / industry / academic bid by Northern Ireland, which had been short listed, had impressed Richard Nobel, and that future collaborations are envisaged.

One of the points of interest noted was how rapidly Northern Ireland had responded to the challenge with real leadership from SIB, Invest NI, DETI and the Universities. The Panel noted this and agreed to revisit how this might be repeated through

regionally-generated “grand challenges.”

**Action 20: Secretariat to circulate Project Bloodhound bid to panel.**

**iii. Communication**

Communication was discussed, and the panel was asked if they would act as MATRIX ambassadors to be used in Outreach events. The Panel agreed in principle.

It was agreed that Weber Shandwick would be invited to the next meeting to present on a future strategies for outreach activities by MATRIX to the business and the wider community.

**Action 21: Secretariat to invite Weber Shandwick to next meeting to discuss MATRIX’s outreach to the business and wider community.**

**iv. Return of Pro-forma Agreeing to Join MATRIX**

Panel members were asked to return pro-formas accepting their membership of MATRIX to the Secretariat.

**Action 22: Panel to return pro-formas to Secretariat.**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009. A time and venue is yet to be agreed.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MATRIX PANEL 10-09-09:**

**Action 1:** Secretariat to circulate update of MATRIX developments to MATRIX I and HORIZON panel members.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 2:** Secretariat is to consider the possibility of publishing the minutes of the Government Implementation Group on the MATRIX website.

*[Secretariat to approach GIG to ask that future agreed minutes are published]*

**Action 3:** Secretariat to invite Panel members to meet with Mark Glover.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 4:** Secretariat to seek departmental approval to release the draft MATRIX Government Implementation Group response to the MATRIX Panel.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 5:** Secretariat to collate Panel members comments on the draft ToR. These will be reviewed at the next meeting.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 6:** Panel to propose names of possible Strategic Advisers to the Secretariat by 5<sup>th</sup> October.

*[MATRIX panel to propose Strategic Advisers – Secretariat to gather names]*

**Action 7:** Secretariat to circulate the SAG minutes to the panel.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 8:** Norman Apsley to liaise with universities on REF and to feedback to Panel at next meeting.

*[Norman Apsley to action]*

**Action 9:** Secretariat to add the issue of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) to November agenda for discussion.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 10:** Norman Apsley to liaise with the Secretariat to discuss how to establish and support the Sub Group tasked with examining NISP CONNECT's potential role in the development of the IICs.

*[Norman Apsley to action – with Secretariat help]*

**Action 11:** Bryan Keating to chair a working group on IP & Knowledge Transfer and to liaise with Norman Apsley and Ian Wilkinson (Invest NI) to discuss establishing and supporting the panel.

*[Bryan Keating to action – with Norman Apsley and Ian Wilkinson]*

**Action 12:** Panel to propose names for membership of IP & Knowledge Transfer panel to working group by 5<sup>th</sup> October.

*[MATRIX panel to propose panel names – Secretariat to gather names]*

**Action 13:** Panel to forward names of relevant individuals to the Secretariat for consideration as Energy HORIZON Panel members.

*[MATRIX panel to propose panel names – Secretariat to gather names]*

**Action 14:** Secretariat to invite Donald Fitzmaurice, in due course, to present on the issue of Energy/Cleantech Market.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 15:** Norman Apsley to liaise with DETI Secretariat to invite MATRIX panel to the Springboard “Spirit of Ireland” event at NISP.

*[Norman Apsley to action – with Secretariat help]*

**Action 16:** Secretariat to circulate Energy consultation documents to panel.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 17:** Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to take forward the establishment of a sub group to look at market opportunities arising out of Direct International Telecommunications Connectivity and to report back.

*[Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to action]*

**Action 18:** Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to liaise with industry and Alistair Hamilton, Invest NI, re the establishment of a Telecomms HORIZON Panel and report back.

*[Bryan Keating and Norman Apsley to action]*

**Action 19:** Secretariat to add “MATRIX Work Programme” to agenda of next meeting.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 20:** Secretariat to circulate Project Bloodhound bid to panel.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 21:** Secretariat to invite Weber Shandwick to next meeting to discuss MATRIX’s outreach to the business and wider community.

*[Secretariat to action]*

**Action 22:** Panel to return pro-formas accepting membership to Secretariat.

*[MATRIX panel members to action]*

## ANNEX 1

PLENARY MEETING OF MATRIX  
THE NORTHERN IRELAND SCIENCE INDUSTRY PANEL  
THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

### **ATTENDEES**

### **Organisation**

Damien McDonnell	Chair
Norman Apsley	NISP
John D'Arcy	ANIC
Colin Elliott	Industry Rep/ Bombardier Aerospace
Bryan Keating	Invest NI Board Representative
Gerry McCormac	Queen's University Belfast
Clare Passmore	Industry Rep/ Independent Consultant

### **Secretariat**

Anne Conaty	DETI
Conor Dunbar	DETI
Eoin McFadden	DETI
Bernard McKeown	DETI
Laura Parkhill	DETI (Minutes)