



MATRIX  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
SCIENCE INDUSTRY PANEL

INNOVATION POLICY UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE,  
TRADE AND INVESTMENT  
NETHERLEIGH  
MASSEY AVENUE  
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PROFITING FROM SCIENCE  
[WWW.MATRIX-NI.ORG](http://WWW.MATRIX-NI.ORG)

# MINUTES

# 12.11.09

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING OF THE MATRIX PANEL HELD AT NETHERLEIGH

**PRESENT:** SEE ATTACHED LIST (ANNEX 1).  
**APOLOGIES:** Norman Black, Colin Elliott.

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

The Chair, Damien McDonnell, welcomed the new Panel members to the second MATRIX Panel and apologies were noted. Introductions were made by Panel members.

### 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Secretariat asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Donald Fitzmaurice highlighted areas where he has interests and noted that he would raise these again as and when appropriate. This was duly noted by the Panel.

### 3 & 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING and MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous MATRIX meeting were agreed.

Terms of reference were accepted by the Panel and these were signed off, with the agreement to revisit if required during the life of the Panel.

The Secretariat addressed the action points arising from the 10 September meeting and updated the Panel on their implementation. Most of the actions had been addressed and it was noted that the outstanding issues would be addressed in further detail under Agenda items.

It was proposed that the former Chairs of the past HORIZON Panel and Mary Walshok, Global CONNECT be invited to be Strategic Advisors to the Panel.

**Action Point 1: Secretariat to write to invite the past HORIZON Chairs and Mary Walshok to act as Strategic Advisors to the Panel.**

(Gerry McCormac joined the meeting)

## **5. GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION GROUP UPDATE**

Bernard McKeown presented his paper addressing the Government Innovation Gateway (GIG) as part of the government response to the MATRIX report. Focusing on the work around the Industry-led Innovation Communities (IIC's) development model a number of questions were posed to the Panel.

The Panel emphasised that the proposed GIG must be responsive to change and that the proposed schemes should set measurable targets against which its performance might be assessed. Speed of response times of any model must be incorporated into these targets, and there is a need for a named individual to take responsibility and to be accountable. There was further discussion which reflected the view that the mechanisms to take the GIG forward existed, but not the connectivity to realise it.

One IIC model that might be considered is a "new-co" which might be funded and established by Government, Academia and Businesses with secondées from any of these bodies for a maximum of 2 years.

It was noted that the Secretariat will provide an ongoing liaison between the MATRIX Panel and the Government Implementation Group.

**Action Point 2: Secretariat to feedback the MATRIX Panel views on the Government Innovation Gateway to the Government Implementation Group.**

## **6. ENERGY/CLEANTECH PRESENTATION**

Donald Fitzmaurice presented on Energy / Cleantech to the Panel.

Discussion on the scope of MATRIX' role, within the very wide Clean Energy / Clean Tech agenda took place. As a starting point it was decided that the MATRIX Horizon work would focus on the global market opportunities arising around "Clean Energy". It was agreed that common terminology and understanding on what could be defined as Clean Energy was needed from the start. It was also recognised that a key driver for the Clean Energy Panel would be the overriding need to reduce fossil fuel energy consumption by 20% by 2020.

It was agreed that Donald Fitzmaurice would Chair the Clean Energy Panel, to begin early 2010. The MATRIX Panel were invited to put forward their views on the remit and scope of the Clean Energy sub-group, and the names of possible industry and academic nominees to this group.

**Action Point 3: MATRIX members to input to the remit and scope of the Clean Energy sub-group and submit names for potential panel membership to the Secretariat.**

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

### **i) Working group on IICs**

Steve Orr presented on a possible model for the role of NISP Connect in developing IIC's.

Following discussion it was agreed that the IIC sub-group should take on a wider approach in looking at how IICs could be effectively developed and to examine what support would be needed at every stage of their growth. A number of Panel members indicated a willingness to engage in this wider group including Norman Apsley, Donald Fitzmaurice, Rob Hardeman, Bryan Keating, and Alan Lennon.

(Claire Gilligan left the meeting)

**Action Point 4: As a first stage of the IIC sub-group, Norman Apsley and Bryan Keating to meet with the Secretariat to agree the process going forward with a view to producing a draft terms of reference, by next meeting.**

(Bill McGinnis left the meeting)

In concluding this agenda item the Panel commended the NISP Connect model and in particular the work that Steve Orr had been doing to develop Connect in Northern Ireland.

### **ii) Telecomms / Kelvin**

It was recognised this work had begun and was being progressed through NISP CONNECT's facilitation of wide consultation through a Springboard "Monetizing Kelvin" event on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Invitations to this event were extended to the Panel. The Panel noted that there was now good evidence that communities were already

beginning to form as a result of Direct International Connectivity.

**Action Point 5: Secretariat to send the invitation to the “Monetizing Kelvin” event to all Panel Members.**

**iii) IP/ Knowledge transfer**

It was asked that the draft ToR for the IP / KT Panel be expanded to reflect the need for more emphasis on the needs of SME's. The sub-group would take this forward. Rob Hardeman expressed an interest to join this sub-group, and this was agreed.

The Chair reported that he had approached Alastair Hamilton, Invest NI CEO, to see if Invest NI would be able to assist the IP / KT sub-group with Secretariat services in view of the overlaps with Invest NI's own work areas.

**Action Point 6: NA and BK to meet to discuss expanding draft ToR.**

**iv) Energy/Cleantech**

In line with Agenda item 6, the Panel confirmed that Donald Fitzmaurice, as Chair of the Clean Energy sub-group, would take forward the work.

**v) MATRIX' role re Industry-led Innovation Communities**

See Agenda item 7.i above

**8. IREP (Barnett Review)**

Due to time constraints the Panel was unable to take the DETI Economist's presentation on IREP. It was agreed however that MATRIX would contribute to the DETI Minister's consultation on the recent report. At that point it was noted that a number of panel members were conflicted.

The Chairman agreed to lead on a response and invited others, who did not feel conflicted to do so, to contribute. The MATRIX Secretariat was asked to seek an extension to the consultation closure date of 16 November to accommodate this.

**Action Point 7: Panel to provide part input to the Chairman for a Matrix response to the IREP report and Chair to submit a composite response on behalf of the Panel incorporating their views.**

**Action Point 8: Secretariat to ask for an extension to the IREP deadline.**

**Action Point 9: Secretariat to convey the thanks and apologies of the MATRIX Panel to the DETI Economists in being unable to take their presentation, due to time constraints.**

## **9. Communications**

Time constraints did not allow full discussion around this Agenda items as hoped. It was noted that the MATRIX contract for PR and communications was due for renewal in the New Year and all Panel members might wish to contribute to a new approach or strategy on communications. This item will be brought forward to January's meeting.

## **10. AOB**

### **Northern Ireland Science Education Forum (NISEF)**

- a) It was noted that a request had been received by the NI Science Education Forum seeking to meet with relevant MATRIX Panel members to discuss the recent STEM report, in particular industry's role within its delivery. It was agreed that Clare Passmore and Damien McDonnell would meet NISEF as requested. The Chairman requested that any Panel members who wished to have their views incorporated should do so through the Secretariat.

**Action Point 10: Secretariat to organise a meeting between NISEF and Panel members. Any views that the Panel wishes to be raised at this meeting should be passed through the Secretariat.**

### **UK Foresight Analysis Network**

- b) The forthcoming FAN foresight exercise on 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Holiday Inn, Belfast was brought to the Panel's attention. Invitations were extended to MATRIX Panel members.

### **Interchange**

- c) The Secretariat indicated that it was seeking the acquisition of additional personnel through the Interchange Programme. It was hoped that this will be taken forward in the New Year.

## **MIDAS / MAS**

- d) It was noted that Alan Blair of ANIC wished to meet the Panel to discuss the potential to develop manufacturing advisory services within the FE Colleges. It was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with Alan Blair to see if such a meeting should be arranged.

**Action Point 11: Secretariat to liaise with Alan Blair, ANIC, to discuss MAS, with the view to arranging a meeting with some of the Panel.**

## **MEETING CLOSE**

The Chairman thanked the Panel for their input and reminded all that the next plenary meeting is due to take place on 21 January 2010. The venue and start time will be confirmed by the Secretariat.

**Summary of actions arising from Second Plenary of MATRIX:**

- Action Point 1: Secretariat to write to invite the past HORIZON Chairs and Mary Walshok to act as Strategic Advisors to the Panel.
- Action Point 2: Secretariat to feedback the MATRIX Panel views on the Government Innovation Gateway to the Government Implementation Group.
- Action Point 3: MATRIX members to input to the remit and scope of the Clean Energy sub-group and submit names to the Secretariat.
- Action Point 4: As a first stage of the IIC sub-group, Norman Apsley and Bryan Keating to meet with the Secretariat to agree the process going forward with a view to producing a draft terms of reference for this work, by next meeting.
- Action Point 5: Secretariat to send invitation to “Monetizing Kelvin” event to all Panel Members.
- Action Point 6: NA and BK to meet to discuss expanding draft ToR.
- Action Point 7: Panel to provide part input to the Chairman for a Matrix response to the IREP report and Chair to submit a composite response on behalf of the Panel incorporating their views.
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SECOND PLENARY MEETING OF MATRIX  
THE NORTHERN IRELAND SCIENCE INDUSTRY PANEL  
THURSDAY 12 November 2009

**ATTENDEES**

**Organisation**

Damien McDonnell	Chair
Norman Apsley	NISP
John D'Arcy	ANIC
Donald Fitzmaurice	ePlanet Ventures
Claire Gilligan	Warner Chilcott
Rob Hardeman	Seagate Technology
Bryan Keating	Invest NI Board Representative
Alan Lennon	Invest NI Board Representative
Gerry McCormac	Queen's University Belfast
Bill McGinnis	NI Skills Advisor on Skills and Employment
Clare Passmore	Industry Rep/ Independent Consultant

**Secretariat**

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