

Former Innovation Network Programme participant Alan Stringer from The Precision Group said:

*"This programme is a valuable stepping stone for companies or individual entrepreneurs in Lisburn to transform a good idea into a brilliant product or service. The programme allowed The Precision Group to complete preliminary research for an international award winning service with world-wide market potential."*

Please return your Expression of Interest Form to:

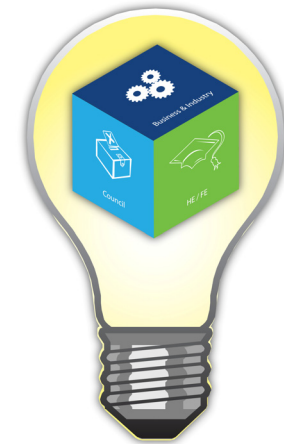
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Co. Antrim BT37 0QB

Delivered by :



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# INNOVATION NETWORKS PROGRAMME



*Working Together In Strategic Partnership As The Building Block For Innovation*



**LISBURN CITY COUNCIL**



## 'Innovative Thinking, Better Business!'

Following the success of last year's programme, Lisburn City Council has launched its second Innovation Networks Programme. This programme aims to place innovation and research at the core of local business development activity for businesses located within the City of Lisburn.

### Why Get Involved?

The Lisburn Innovation Networks Programme offers businesses the opportunity to access innovation support from academic experts; access to a series of networking and collaborative workshop events; and the opportunity to access world class research and new technologies. Local companies will be encouraged to grow their business through increased levels of R&D by identifying and developing appropriate new technologies, new processes, new systems and new products that will add value, and improve overall business competitiveness and profitability. The programme has four key elements:

- *ACCESS INNOVATION ROADSHOWS*

A series of Access Innovation Roadshows will take place throughout the City, in order to meet with local companies and undertake a bespoke business innovation and technology audit to highlight areas for improvement and opportunities for growth within the business.

Friday 11th February	House of Vic-Ryn, Moira Road, Lisburn	12.00–2.00 p.m.
Wed 16th February	Island Civic Centre, Lisburn	12.00–2.00 p.m.
Friday 18th February	Beechlawn House Hotel, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Dunmurry	12.00–2.00 p.m.

- *INNOVATE*

Each participating business recruited to the 'innovate' element of the programme, will then benefit from up to 6 days innovation support from experts at the University of Ulster or South Eastern Regional College to explore a business opportunity or solve technological or knowledge based problems, as well as signposting to additional support if appropriate. Types of projects may include product development, design, prototyping or feasibility study.

- *COLLABORATE*

The programme will also provide an opportunity for businesses to network with other companies to identify and progress exciting new collaborative projects between businesses through a number of mini-innovate workshop events. These workshops will focus on core themes identified in the roadshow, for example they may include, web security, data matrix barcoding/stock control, design, brand development or web-site optimisation as well as an opportunity to receive a further 2 days academic expertise support.

- *COMMERCIALISE*

A unique element of the programme, is that businesses will also now have access to the world class research and new technologies developed by the University of Ulster staff, which will provide opportunities to explore launching new commercially viable products and entering new markets.

### Book Your Place

If you are a business based in the City of Lisburn and interested in being part of the Innovation Networks Programme, please complete the 'Expression of Interest Form' and forward it to the address overleaf or e-mail to [f.casey@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:f.casey@ulster.ac.uk).

We will then contact you with further details on the programme and how it is delivered. Places on the programme are limited and will be allocated on a competitive basis. Please contact Freda Casey for further information on any aspect of the Innovation Networks Programme on **028 9036 6718**.

## Expression of Interest Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Product / Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Invest NI Client: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_