



# Northern Ireland Hub

## Six months of highlights

### Oct 2020 – Apr 2021

- New Enterprise Fellowship Programme awardees
  - Professor Cathy Craig, Incisiv
  - Brendan Digney, Machine Eye
- In the last six months, the number of NI hub members has increased by 29%
- Support to an increased number of applicants from NI ahead of current calls
- 90+ stakeholder meetings across the broad engineering and technology regional eco-system
- Key stakeholder event and workshop with 60+ senior leaders from industry, academia, engineering community
- Launch of Green Energy innovation challenge for primary and secondary schools in NI in partnership with 'Amplify' council areas, Manufacturing NI and Matrix.



## Growth and funding highlights

Just click on the logos to find out more about these companies.

Prof Damien Coyle  
NeuroCONCISE Ltd

Co-established new state-of-the-art Spatial Computing and Neurotechnology Innovation Hub at Ulster University and was awarded the Turing AI Acceleration Fellowship to develop AI technology that could help people to communicate following serious brain injuries.



Prof Cathy Craig - Incisiv

Recently ranked as one of the Top 50 UK Mediatech companies, Incisiv has signed a partnership agreement with major player management company World in Motion and recently completed baseline testing 50 professional Scottish rugby players using its VR technology to demonstrate very reliable measurement of brain fitness.



Niall Haslam  
Axial 3D

Won 'Best Established Small/Medium Business 2020' at The Belfast Telegraph Business Awards, 'Venture Capital Deal of the Year' at the Northern Ireland Dealmakers Awards and 'Most Innovative AI or ML Solution 2020' in the AWS Public Sector Partner Network. Announced creation of 20 new jobs after a £3m investment.



Brendan Digney - Machine Eye

Machine Eye has been awarded £75k grant funding from Techstart, with support from Belfast Harbour and BT, joined the Barclays AgriTech programme and won a place on the Propel Programme, one of Northern Ireland's most competitive pre-accelerators.



Christine Boyle - MBE Senergy

In October 2020 Senergy launched their graphene enabled all polymer solar thermal cell - the first prototype (1:1 scale) of the solar thermal cell fully manufactured by 3D printing. Selected for Urban Future Lab at NY Columbia University and the Cambridge Cleantech Act4Green Scaling Programme.



Dr Nicola Irwin - Uroglide

In March 2021, Nicola took up a new position as Medical Science Liaison at global pharmaceutical company Union Chimique Belge. The Belgium head-quartered company invests more than 20% of revenue in cutting-edge scientific research to address unmet patient needs.



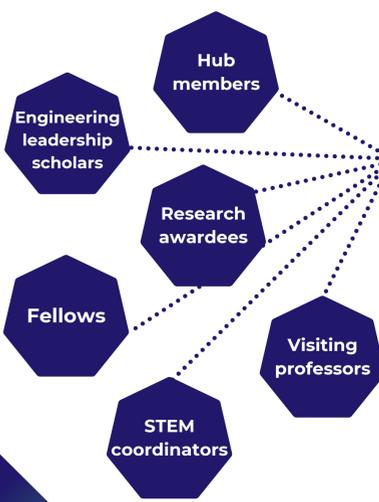
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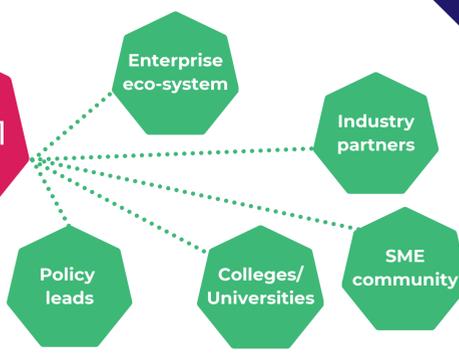
## The Regional Enterprise Hub :

Connecting and broadening Royal Academy of Engineering engagement with Northern Ireland stakeholders.

### Academy family in NI



### Regional stakeholders



Connecting across the full range of Academy activity to create the right conditions to build and grow our community of engineering entrepreneurs to deliver sustained, diverse and inclusive, engineering-led growth.

## What we are doing...

### Inspiring

By Supporting Talent and Diversity:

- Membership of WiSTEM Steering Group membership (at invitation of Department for the Economy NI)
- Amplify schools challenge within NI Apprenticeship Week

### Encouraging

Supporting exceptional entrepreneurs with high-potential ideas to build bold and disruptive enterprises that will have a positive impact on society.

### Accelerating Innovation

Accelerating paths to success through introducing NI entrepreneurs to the Enterprise Hub's Enterprise Fellowship and Scale Up Accelerator programmes and supporting them through the application process.

### Transforming the Appetite and Climate

#### Supporting Policy and Engagement.

As a national Academy we have a unique role in convening policy making, academia and industry.

- Membership of NI Circular Economy Coalition (at invitation of NI Economy Minister), facilitated by Professor Adisa Azapagic MBE FREng
- Participation in EER II 'Regional open innovation eco-systems' peer learning project
- Collaboration with Irish Academy of Engineering on shared objectives of enhancing existing North-South, East-West collaboration and support strategic growth across the region.

### What's next?

- Regular Fellows networking with Hub members and wider start-up/scale up engineering community
- Key initiative to help better connect NI SMEs with research base
- Focus future to inform Enterprise Hub pilot initiative in the region: "Embedding (not inserting) entrepreneurship culture in third level engineering education."
- Access to Finance: opening up ex-NI sources of grant funding and equity investment to NI engineering/ technology entrepreneurs
- Establishment of baseline eco-system metrics to inform impact evaluation
- Joint RAEng IrAEng Presidents' event, Autumn 2021