

# Memorandum of Understanding between Irish Technology Leadership Group and Belfast City Council

## Purpose

This MOU is being established to create a gateway to Silicon Valley for Belfast so that trade and business development opportunities can be capitalised upon by development of an effective partnership arrangement between ITLG and BCC to enhance mutual economic benefit.

This MOU will remain in place for 3 years subject to an annual review.

## Objectives

- To positively promote Belfast's technology potential on a world stage through ITLG.
- To provide small start up and growth companies in the field of technology with business development opportunities.
- To increase skills levels and job creation opportunities for Belfast based businesses.
- To share resources such as expert knowledge and specialist facilities as required.
- To give BCC access to policy guidance and to programme design and delivery advice from ITLG.
- To give ITLG access to information on positive regeneration initiatives in Belfast and to showcase trade and investment opportunities arising through indigenous company growth.

## Targeted Initiatives

The following sets out the range of specific initiatives to be undertaken through this MOU for 2012-15. For each initiative the outputs, delivery method and approximate cost are included for the first year of the MOU 2012-13.

1. To deliver an annual reciprocal trade mission between ITLG in Silicon Valley and Belfast City Council to promote investment, innovation and education.

<i>Outputs</i>	One outward trade mission led by BCC to Silicon Valley in conjunction with Invest NI where possible with minimum of 10 companies participating. One inward trade mission led by ITLG to Belfast with minimum of 6 companies participating.
<i>Delivery Method</i>	BCC EDU team and ITLG Director of Operations to lead.
<i>Approximate Cost</i>	£30,000

2. To deliver a mutually agreed internship programme for up to 2 individuals from Belfast to be placed with leading technology companies in Silicon Valley.

<i>Outputs</i>	2 places to be secured for selected participants to undertake minimum of one year's work placement inside a Silicon Valley company.
<i>Delivery Method</i>	Working with UUU and Invest NI, BCC EDU team to deliver.
<i>Approximate Cost</i>	£5,000

3. To convene an annual symposium on "Enhancing Belfast's competitiveness" between ITLG Members and BCC Elected Members.

<i>Outputs</i>	Shaping of BCC's approach to economic development to be delivered by focused inputs of ITLG Members advising on way forward.
<i>Delivery Method</i>	BCC EDU team to deliver. May take place as conference call or as part of a trade mission programme.
<i>Approximate Cost</i>	£2,000 approximately

4. To deliver an international promotions campaign in Silicon Valley showcasing Belfast.

<i>Outputs</i>	Belfast specific campaign created
<i>Delivery Method</i>	BCC EDU team to deliver. Joint approach with Invest NI preferable.
<i>Approximate Cost</i>	£3,000

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

This MOU will be reviewed annually by both parties. The emphasis will be on extent of achievement of the actions outlined. A detailed evaluation framework will be put in place at the outset along with action specific key performance indicators.