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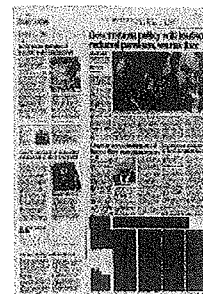
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Author: Francesc McDonnell

Headline: Hi-tech hopes for a thriving financial district



Hi-tech hopes for a thriving financial district



BELFAST BRIEFING

FRANCESS McDONNELL

PICTURE A map of Belfast 10 years in the future and what might you see? Signposts to the still "unmissable" Titanic visitor centre? Another new shopping development, a peace museum or even a world-class sports stadium? But would you expect to find a thriving financial district?

Belfast already has the New York Stock Exchange on board, and major investors such as Fidessa and Citi can testify to the fact that the city has what it takes to create a viable financial hub.

But Belfast's political and business leaders also recognise that if it wants to lay the foundations for its very own version of Wall Street, then it has to be able to offer what other locations cannot.

Northern Ireland already has an impressive telecoms infrastructure. Not only was it the first region in Europe to have 100 per cent access to broadband, it also boasts one of the fastest connections to the United States from Europe.

According to industry experts, the North has the only cross-Atlantic connection with latency of less than 70 milliseconds and up to 1.92 terabits of capacity: in layman's terms, it is fast – very fast and very powerful. It also has four fully fibred independently owned rings and a further five connections to the US, Europe, Britain and Ireland.

According to the North's

Minister of Enterprise, this is why geographical locations are almost "irrelevant" for a growing number of Northern-based businesses.

Arlene Foster has highlighted how high-achieving indigenous companies such as Ballynahinch-based Datum Tool Design have been able to harness Northern Ireland's impressive telecoms infrastructure to "partner in real time" with major global corporations from Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier and Hindustan Aerospace.

According to Foster, this infrastructure can also give the North "a singular advantage when competing for foreign direct investment from global companies servicing international markets, such as Citi and New York Stock Exchange".

It is estimated that the financial services sector in Northern Ireland employs more than 23,000 people in roughly 1,200 firms. The majority of these international companies that have invested in the North, such as Allstate Corporation, Liberty Mutual and NYSE Euronext, are based around Belfast.

But these, as far as the city's council and investment champions are concerned, represent just a fraction of the major investment that they want.

And, thanks to a major new project, Belfast is about to become even more attractive to potential investors.

It has been selected as one of the UK's first "Super-Connected Cities" and will receive £6 million (£7.5 million) in funding from the UK department of culture, media and sport to upgrade city-wide broadband speeds to at least 80Mbps and deliver high-speed capacity (of at least 100Mbps) to specific businesses.

This month city leaders will bid for a further £7.7 million (£9.6 million) of additional funding towards the project.

According to one telecommunications expert, Dr Sinclair Stockman, Super-Connected Belfast will "light up the city's digital highways, ignite growth for local businesses and attract both new business investment and world-class talent to our shores".

Belfast took the opportunity to showcase the city as a "trailblazer of technological excellence" by hosting the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's summer

conference last week. Eurocities is a network that brings together the local governments of more than 140 large cities in more than 30 European countries.

Delegates from across the EU heard how, when the *Titanic* was built in 1912, Belfast "was a highly motivated, wealthy and industrious city on the cutting edge of technology and advancement".

According to Lord Mayor Gavin Robinson, today it is "once again a city at the forefront of innovation and change".

Robinson believes this will help transform the local economy by "attracting businesses from across the world".

When the *Titanic* set sail from Belfast 100 years ago it symbolised the city's ambitions and reflected its strengths at that time. Part of its legacy may be a tourist attraction today but the *Titanic* visitor centre just also happens to be located in what is fast becoming a blossoming hi-tech and financial quarter.

The city may have radically different ambitions and strengths in 2012 but it still has the same pioneering spirit it demonstrated 100 years ago.

Perhaps a financial district might not be so far off the map in 2022.

Super-Connected
Belfast will 'light
up the city's digital
highways and
ignite growth'

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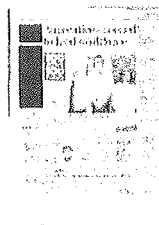
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Circulation: 63.049

Author:

Headline: City's cyber power to be promoted at EU forum



City's cyber power to be promoted at EU forum

DELEGATES from across Europe are meeting in Belfast today for a conference to promote the city as a trailblazer of technological excellence.

The Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) Summer Conference has been organised by Belfast City Council and will look at the significant role of the city's cyber security infrastructure in transforming it to compete economically with others across the world.

The conference at the City Hall will be opened by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Gavin Robinson, and will include talks from Dr Norman Apsley from the Northern Ireland Science Park, Dr Sinclair Stockman from Digital NI 2020, Jim Gamble from Ineqe, Ingrid Goetzl from the Eurocities KSF and John McCanny from ECIT. Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster will also be speaking at the conference.

The EU delegates, from countries including Belgium, Austria, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Estonia and the UK, will also be visiting the Northern Ireland Science Park, Titanic Belfast, University of Ulster, CITI, BT NI and Eircom NI headquarters as part of their two-day trip.

City's cyber power to be promoted at EU forum

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Conference promotes Belfast as trailblazer of technological excellence

Delegates from across Europe met in Belfast last month for a major conference to promote the city as a trailblazer of technological excellence.

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The Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster also spoke at the conference.

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Welcoming the delegates to Belfast, the Lord Mayor Alderman Gavin Robinson, said: "The Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum Summer Conference told the story of Belfast's transformation and it is fitting that our story begins here at City Hall and ends at Titanic Belfast.

"When the Titanic was built, in 1912, Belfast was a highly motivated, wealthy and industrious city on the cutting edge of technology and advancement. In 2012, we are once again a city at the forefront of innovation and change.

"Belfast is re-creating its image and forging a new reputation as a trailblazer of technological excellence in the field of cyber security and we are keen to show how this is enabling us to achieve economic success by

attracting businesses from across the world to our city. "This conference provided a platform for a meaningful exchange of learning and networking as well as the chance to

explore the potential for future joint working and collaboration in the field," he added.

Minister Arlene Foster said: "As Enterprise Minister, I am very aware of the importance of robust cyber security, both in terms of the security of the citizen, of government and of businesses. However I am also aware that this provides us with significant opportunities as well.

"As our globalised world continues to be-

come ever more dependent on the secure transmission of data, that also provides opportunities for highly connected regions such as Northern Ireland to become centres of commercial as well as research expertise in cyber security.

"Through initiatives such as Eurocities and the Enterprise Europe Network, Northern Ireland businesses, researchers and government can form the partnerships with which to develop a knowledge based economy with innovation at its heart," she added.

The conference talks centred on the following themes:

*Creating a Digital Economy in Northern Ireland in a Fully Connected World

*Delivering Cyber Security Technology through Open Innovation

*Building Confident, Competent, Safe and Secure Digital Communities

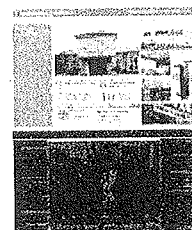
*Making IT a Reality

*Local Government Perspective on Cyber Security

The conference followed a launch bid by the council earlier in June to make Belfast one of the most advanced and super-connected cities in Europe for ultrafast broadband and widespread WiFi provision by 2015.

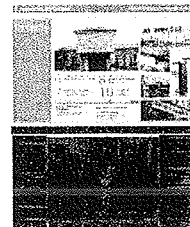
Belfast has been named by Westminster's Department of Culture, Media and Sport as one of ten cities to receive funding as part of its Super Connected Cities initiative with guaranteed funding of £6 million. But a further £7.7 million is on the table if it can be demonstrated that there is a demand for better broadband connections in the Belfast City Council area and businesses, communities and residents are being urged to back the bid by registering support through completion of an online survey.

For further information on Super Connected Belfast, go to www.belfastcity.gov.uk/superconnected





The Lord Mayor of Belfast Alderman Gavin Robinson is joined by the speakers of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) Summer Conference in the City Hall today which looked at the importance of having a cyber security infrastructure in the city in transforming it to compete economically with others across the world. They are Dr Norman Apsley, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Science Park; Ingrid Goetzl, Chair of the Eurocities KSF; Professor John McCanny, Director of ECIT; Jim Gamble, Chief Executive of Ineag and Dr Sinclair Stockman, Executive Director of Digital NI 2010.



Cyber City has chance to shine Inside Innovation

DR NORMAN APSLEY

Chief Executive
Northern Ireland
Science Park



CANALS were the accepted agents and arteries of the industrial revolution in England; so first Scotland and then Ireland decided they needed a piece of the action. Unfortunately, they had reasoned without taking account of the changes brought about by the very things they were building. The capital cost never paid back because not enough value was trading through the infrastructure provided.

Some worried as the investments were made in telecommunications fibre, to give us our world class provision, that history was about to repeat itself. So it was with great pride and delight that we welcomed a gathering of city officials from across the EU as part of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) Summer Conference the other week to tell them of our successes in research, technology deployment on behalf of democracy and most important of all in software and other knowledge based sales (and jobs). Delegates were hosted by Belfast City Council and heard how the city is a trailblazer of technological excellence and cyber security, capitalising on its infrastructure to transform the city and allowing it to compete economically with the best across the world.

Among the amazing facts that people learned was that already 1/3 of the software that powers Wall Street List originates in Belfast. Similarly we discovered that many of our manufacturers are directly serving the world's tier one makers of planes, cars etc. through secure fibre links. At the same time, our creative industries are expanding to meet insatiable global demand for quality content.

Some of the world's largest technology companies are turning their eyes to Belfast for the strategic acquisition of local technology companies. These include IBM, which has acquired Intelliden and Q1, HP, who purchased Autonomy Meridio, NYSE who acquired Wombat and Kofax, who bought Singularity.

A recent report spells out the opportunity to harness the power of this infrastructure through the full exploitation of cloud computing. Whisple Cloud Services suggest that we could benefit from a further 16,000 jobs as a result of accelerating the development of cloud computing, built on what is recognised

now as one of the best digital platforms in the world.

When it comes to cyber security itself we boast a UK centre of excellence at ECIT which has links to all big players in the world. ECIT manages four technology clusters in Secure Digital Systems, Digital Communications, Speech & Vision Systems, High Frequency Electronics and is home to CSIT, the UK's lead Innovation and Knowledge Centre for cyber security research. It played host just last week to a Knowledge Transfer Partnership information event to promote how companies can collaborate to access the £13m funded KTP programme for Northern Ireland. I hope many of you will participate in this brilliant scheme to embed the latest cyber-security in your company.

The Eurocities conference followed a launch bid by Belfast City Council to make Belfast one of the most advanced and super-connected cities in Europe for ultrafast broadband and widespread WiFi provision by 2015. Belfast has been named by Westminster's Department of Culture, Media and Sport as one of ten cities to receive funding as part of its Super Connected Cities initiative with guaranteed funding of £6m. But a further £7.7m is on the table if we can demonstrate that there is a demand for better broadband connections in the Belfast City Council area. Businesses, communities and residents are being urged to back the bid by registering support through completion of an online survey here www.belfastcity.gov.uk/superconnected/index.asp. I really think each of us needs to consider lending our personal support to this endeavour. Digital connectivity can make us centre of the world rather than a periphery of Europe.



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Headline: City Hall to host seminar



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Conference to promote Belfast as trailblazer of 'tech' excellence

Businesses and residents urged to back a bid to make Belfast a 'super connected' city

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The Lord Mayor of Belfast Alderman Gavin Robinson was joined by the speakers of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) Summer Conference in City Hall. He's pictured with Dr Norman Apsley, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Science Park; Ingrid Goetzl, Chair of the Eurocities KSF; Professor John McCanny, Director of ECIT; Jim Gamble, Chief Executive of Ineqe and Dr Sinclair Stockman, Executive Director of Digital NI 2010