

## 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.



Publication: Irish News  
Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2012  
Page: 37  
Extract: 1 of 1  
Circulation: 41.932  
Author:  
Headline: City Hall to host seminar



---

## City Hall to host seminar

DELEGATES from across Europe meet in Belfast City Hall today for a major seminar to promote the city as a trailblazer of technological excellence. The Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) summer conference, organised by Belfast City Council, 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 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 speak.

Publication: North West Telegraph

Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Page: 39

Extract: 1 of 1

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.



# Conference to promote Belfast as trailblazer of 'tech' excellence

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

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

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

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

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

Welcoming the delegates to Belfast, the Lord Mayor Alderman Gavin Robinson, said: "The Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum Summer Conference will tell 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."

The conference follows a launch bid by the 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 £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.

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 become 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."

# 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](http://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.



## 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.

The Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum's (KSF) Summer Conference was organised by Belfast City Council and examined 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 was opened by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Gavin Robinson, and included 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.

The Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster also spoke at the conference.

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

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](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/superconnected)

