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to take over Derry-Londonderry

byte
night
2013

action for
children

changing
lives

Mark Heath
VP Engineering, Citrix
Byte Night Sleeper

Sleep outside for one night in Belfast to help youth homelessness with Action for Children

Byte Night is ready to change lives again in **2013**.

Byte Night is now the leading charity event for the IT, technology and innovation sector. On **4th October,** we are expecting **1500 people** from CIOs to Digital Creatives at **7 locations** across the UK to all give up their beds to help us raise a record **£1 million** in just one night!

100,000 young people are homeless in the UK every year. **1 in 3** will attempt to take their life and **1 in 7** will endure a form of abuse. The money you raise will support vulnerable young people who are without stability, are at risk of being homeless, may be dealing with abuse or neglect, or are alone with no hope for a brighter future.

£1 Million, 1 Night - Be part of something special.
Sign up your company to help us change lives for the better.

Byte Night: 4th October 2013

Belfast Activity Centre, Barnett Demesne, Belfast
For more details bytenight.org.uk or contact
Dawn McCormick on **028 9268 9631 / 07525241864**
Email Dawn@auroraevents.co.uk

Register at: bytenight.org.uk

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Sync NI magazine

foreword
from Professor Sinclair Stockman, Executive Director, Digital Northern Ireland 2020

The Digital Storm, or Digital Wave, is probably the most disruptive and transformational global innovation ever. Whether it is positive or negative will depend on our ability to exploit the power and potential of the wave, rather than trying to ride out the storm.

Northern Ireland has from the very early days, played an important role in the development and exploitation of digital technology. Some of the first packet switching software as well as the first fully software driven financial dealing system were developed in Belfast.

Fast-forward to the present day, the digital technology and software development industry in Northern Ireland is alive and thriving.

As the Digital Age now enters a phase of accelerated growth, Northern Ireland is as well prepared as any region in the world, and is better equipped than most to exploit the potential of the Global Digital Wave to the full. Working with industry, academia, government and community groups, the Digital Northern Ireland 2020 (DNI 2020) programme, aims to ensure that we take a proactive approach to the exploitation of the digital platform.

"Make distance invisible, make talent visible". This is one of the consequences of being fully connected to the global digital platform. Across Northern Ireland, businesses have rapidly established a presence in the global marketplace and are servicing customers in all corners of the globe.

Digital media and financial markets systems are two of our fastest growing sectors. We also have great examples of traditional linen businesses thriving because they can now address a global marketplace and meet their precise needs.

The same is the case for education platforms, health, service sector skill development, financial services and software design and development and many more areas.

We are fortunate here to have a great digital platform, excellent global connectivity and a talented core workforce upon which to build our future. This will have a positive impact not only on our economy but also in opening up opportunity to all sections of our region.

The next 10 years offer great potential for Northern Ireland. The ball is very definitely in our court, provided we rise to the challenge, have an ambition and a strategy for success, then the region can and will become one of the leading digital regions of the world. So let's leverage the storm and ride the wave.

Sinclair Stockman
Executive director, Digital Northern Ireland 2020

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Culture TECH

A SEVEN DAY FESTIVAL OF DIGITAL CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 9TH -15TH, 2013

DERRY - LONDONDERRY

WWW.CULTURETECH.CO

Introducing: myGRiPzone

a revolution in sports practice

Despite advances in golf technology, the availability of more golf courses and better informed coaching, the average male handicap across the world today is 16, this hasn't changed in 40 years!

And get this, 83% of golfers who practice don't see an improvement in their game! This was one of the startling stats that came back from a piece of research carried out by a small Irish company on over 1000 international golfers who regularly practiced.

Now there is a better way to practice...a more effective way to practice that has already made an impact on golfer's performance around the world.

It's called GRiP (Game Rehearsals in Practice).

Endorsed by Graeme McDowell's performance coach Karl Morris who recently commented: "I feel as if golf has been waiting a long time for a product like this, with GRiP you get absolute quality practice"

GRiP is a practice plan designed for both players and coaches:
1. Complete a series of game-like practice drills
2. Practice under pressure recording every shot & outcome
3. Challenge personal bests & track real-time performance progress online
4. Player/Coach feedback

identifies performance strengths & improvements

The player has a choice of recording their practice sessions using a physical pad and uploading the key stats to an online performance portal or recording their session directly using the GRiP Mobile application on iOS & Andriod Platforms.

Although it costs very little, it will have a major impact on your game.

GRiP has been well received by a number of the sport's professionals, academies and universities since it was developed in 2012. A Florida University, the Mississippi Institute of Golf and two top academies in Johannesburg and Cape Town South Africa are the latest organisations to adopt the programme.

Ian Murphy, Invest NI's Director of Growth & Scaling, welcomed the news. He said: "myGRiPzone is an exciting online sports performance improvement product with significant export potential. This high growth firm has continued to enhance its profile among target customers and is winning new business as a result. Its recent achievements will give performanceACTIVE the capabilities to undertake further product development and also move into other sports."

GRiP is designed and developed in Ireland and is now used by PGA professionals, coaches, academies, clubs and golfers in 24 countries. Follow them on twitter @mygripzone

"GRiP is a great tool to practice effectively. Both my mental and swing coach preach to me the importance of practicing with a purpose"
Fergal Rafferty Adams Pro Tour USA

"I have a strong belief that practice should be made more difficult and the player should be accountable for the quality of their shot hitting when practicing. I would highly recommend this to any golfer and coach who want to improve"
David Nable 2011 Queensland Australia PGA Teacher of the Year.

mygripzone.com

What's it all about? Rotor
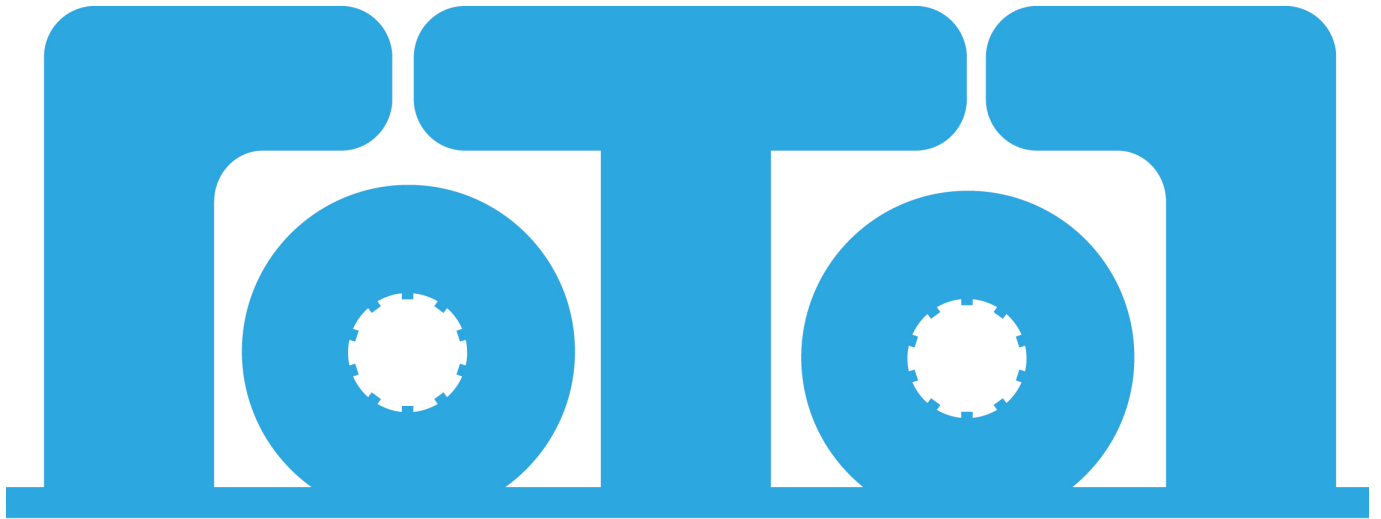
R O T O R

Rotor is an online tool for creating music videos. It provides upcoming musicians and enthusiasts with a simple method for quickly and inexpensively creating quality music videos. Imagine visiting our website, uploading your song, uploading some video clips, selecting a video style and clicking 'Go'. Rotor will then do the rest!

Rotor first analyses the music and finds out everything it needs to know, such as where the chorus is, where the beats are and what specific features exist in the song. It uses this information, along with the video style that the user has chosen, to edit the final music video and to drive the effects it applies to it.

Each video produced is different because Rotor responds directly to each song, it uses the video clips that are uploaded by the musician and the style they have chosen simply acts as a design guide for the way that Rotor

should react when it does it's thing. We have stock video footage that can be used in the situation where the musician doesn't have their own.

There is even a simplified way to edit the video yourself to make sure you like what you see before it's made. Once the music video is made the user can then download it or share it directly to sites such as YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, MySpace etc.

I came up with the idea for Rotor when I was working on a project of my own. I was trying to make an application that allowed music to edit video automatically, to be used in live performances.

It was apparent that I could save the videos while they were being made. Upcoming musicians have a huge demand for music videos so that they can promote themselves online and connect with their fans, but music videos take a lot of time

and money. My work has always been around the music industry and my two co-founders are the same - Eoghan Kidney is an award-winning music video director and Tim Redfern is a developer specialising in audio and video processing. Eoghan and Tim have worked together in the past on numerous projects that combine audio processing with visual material.

For the three of us, our work has been leading us to the point we're at now. We've witnessed the music video problem first-hand and developed Rotor as the solution. So far, we are the only ones to solve the problem in this way.

We will be launching a demo through our website, www.rotored. com, in the coming weeks and our beta version will be launched in September at the CultureTECH festival. Follow us on Twitter @RotorVideos or on our Facebook page - RotorVideos - to get the updates.

Consilium Change Name to TotalMobile

As of 1st May 2013, Consilium Technologies Ltd is pleased to announce it will change its name to TotalMobile Ltd. This represents an exciting new era for the business which started in Belfast as TASK Software in 1985 and became Consilium Technologies in 2001. The company recently moved to new offices in Belfast's Clarendon Dock to

functionality together. It's the most efficient and productive way to defeat work. That is what we have based our major developments on over the past decade, including £millions of research and development invested in the TotalMobile™ product.

We are delighted to be able to mark this commitment with a new company

TotalMobile's new offices at Clarendon Dock, Belfast

accommodate the growing workforce and to support the other operations in the UK and North America.

TotalMobile CEO Colin Reid said "The world is going mobile and at a very rapid pace. Mobile working no longer applies just to staff that spend nearly all of their time out in the field. Rather, it is increasingly becoming a way of life for everyone.

Today's devices such as smartphones and tablet PCs, allow you to work very effectively on the move. Our change of name very much reflects this new reality. Mobility is the experience that brings technology, design and

name; this represents the next exciting stage in our development and it promises to be the most successful yet.

Although our name and logo are changing, everything else will remain the same, particularly our people, our commitment to our existing products, TotalFinance and TotalRepairs and their future development and, above all, our continued focus on meeting our customer's needs."

The office address and telephone contact details will remain the same. The new company website can be found at www.totalmobile.co.uk, the previous website www.ctechs.co.uk will no longer be in use from 1st May.

About TotalMobile

TotalMobile is a market leading mobile working solution evidenced by customers such as Newcastle City Council, Cardiff City Council, Fife Council, Belfast Health Trust, Bristol Community Health Trust, St. Andrews Healthcare and an ever increasing number of customers in Industry.

Belfast-headquartered TotalMobile Ltd. was founded in 1985, and is recognised as the international mobile expert. With a wealth of industry experience, more than 100 UK-based professionals offer innovative software solutions that revolutionise the way in which national and local governments as well as private firms make efficiency savings. The company has invested millions in research and development, to create its flagship TotalMobile product. Now available for the Healthcare market, it allows the NHS to save money while doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals have more time to spend with patients. The proven workflow management system enables users to improve patient safety and care quality via a simple native app on all mobile devices and platforms. For more information please visit www. totalmobile.co.uk

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Liberty IT Welcomes Scott Ambler, Recognised Thought Leader in the Agile Community

Employees at Liberty IT recently welcomed one of the great names in the software industry, Toronto-based Scott Ambler, to their Belfast offices. As a Senior Consulting Partner of Scott Ambler + Associates, Scott travels the world providing training, coaching, and mentoring in disciplined Agile and Lean strategies, helping organisations to improve their software processes.

During his time at the company, Scott presented to the 340-strong workforce and held a number of discussion-led open sessions with teams of employees. He shared his decades of practical experience and sound advice on achieving successful and productive Agile transformation.

Another reason for his trip to Belfast was to present at Spring Bash – 'Scaling Agile' - jointly organised and sponsored by Liberty IT and Instil. Attended by over 200 IT professionals from across Northern Ireland, Scott guided his audience through the principles of the Disciplined Agile Delivery (DAD) process decision framework, detailing how DAD provides a solid foundation from which to scale Agile,

teaching how Agile teams work at scale, and identifying several common scaling anti-patterns which should be avoided.

William Hamilton, Managing Director in Liberty IT notes, "Hosting such a renowned thought leader in the Agile world was a fantastic experience for our employees. Getting the opportunity to engage with him and his principles provided some extremely useful and interesting insights. We look forward to discovering ways to implement this learning within our own organisation in the near future."

Liberty IT Wins Top Placement Employer Award

Belfast based IT company, Liberty IT proudly received the award for the Ulster Placement Employer of the Year 2013 (in the category of over 50 employees) at the recent University of Ulster gala awards ceremony.

This award, which recognises top employers' contributions to student employability through work-based and

TV presenter Claire McCollum (far left) pictured with Liberty IT employees Ashley Meehan, Cathy Donnelly, Emma Mullan and Laura Cunningham.

placement learning, was especially welcomed given Liberty IT's significant investment in their placement students. HR Director Cathy Donnelly commented:

"We have developed a very successful business over the last 16 years and our placements have played a huge part in this. With 80% of them returning each year as graduates, 60% of which achieve a 1st class honours degree, we very much consider them our future talent."

Liberty IT is a wholly-owned subsidiary of parent company, Boston-based Liberty Mutual Insurance. In business for over 100 years, it is one of the world's largest insurance companies, employing over 50,000 people worldwide.

Expanding year on year for the past 16 years, Liberty IT employs over 340 talented IT professionals, in areas such as infrastructure, software engineering, business analysis, architecture design, information management and verification. In addition, this employer of choice recruits approximately 17 placement students and 25 graduates each year.

Dani Awards 2013 @ CultureTECH

The DANI Awards are the Northern Ireland's premier Digital Industry Awards, celebrating excellence within the digital sector. The DANI Awards are your opportunity to shine and demonstrate the outstanding work in your field.

Now entering their 3rd year, the DANI Awards connects the Provinces digital leaders through its annual ceremony.

Any company within NI or working with an NI business, whether public or private sector can enter the DANI Awards, regardless of size.

The DANI Awards has a range of categories suited to a wide variety of organisations; from large private and public companies through to thriving entrepreneurial businesses, promising start-ups and established SMEs.

This year we are delighted to be hosting the awards in association with CultureTECH. The gala night takes place in St Columbs Hall, Derry on Friday 13th September (lucky for some ! !)

The awards categories are:
- Digital Culture Project of the Year
- Best Mobile Development Project of the Year
- Best E-Learning Project of the Year
- Best Gaming & Animation Project of the Year
- Best Web Project of the Year
- Best Viral Campaign of the Year
- Best use of Social Media
- E-Commerce Business of the Year
- Breakthrough / Exporter of the Year
- Rising Star of the Year
- Digital Agency of the Year
- Digital Industries Person of the Year

As tradition continues the Digital Industries Person of the Year is by nomination only, so get your NOMINATIONS in !

This year our expert panel of judges have been selected to reflect specific areas of expertise and excel in their own field within the digital industries. Between them they have countless years of experience working at the coalface and understand that for businesses to succeed online they have to strive for excellence every step of the way.

Our Judges are Gregg Fraley, Mary McKenna (Learning Pool), Mark Nagurski (CultureTECH), Jill Robb (Ambition Digital), Barry Adams (Pierce Communications), Gareth

Naomh McElhatton, Managing Director @ Dani

Dunlop (Fathom), Brian Dologhan (Invest NI) and Dr Valerie Purchase (UoU).

We are delighted to have continued support from our Media Partners Sync NI and our sponsors University of Ulster, Invest NI & Epi-Server, Crescent Capital & LCC Power.

We are delighted to have Grainne and Ciaran Maher commissioning the award design again this year. Also please take note that this year's theme of the Awards is 'Geek Chic' ... You are totally entitled to run with your own take on this, however glamour is still a necessity !

Entries for the twelve categories can be submitted online at www.thedaniawards.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 5pm, Friday 12th July 2013

Any questions please call DANI HQ on 028 8775 9784 and keep up with the awards by following on Twitter @ daniawards / #thedaniawards2013.

Good luck !

Collaborations – are you protected?

The last few years has seen an increasing focus on different skill sets forming collaborations in order to produce cutting edge products and services. Forde Campbell LLC are a commercial law practice who specialise in Intellectual Property, advising participants of collaborative projects on the agreements they would need with each other to cover all aspects of the collaboration.

These include in particular project management and governance, participants' roles, setting up lines of communication, confidentiality, publications and protection and exploitation of resulting intellectual property (patents, copyright, etc) at the end of the project.

Too often we have had to advise clients in relation to disputes where the areas set out above have not been dealt with at the onset. If these areas are not agreed and documented between the parties it can be a costly experience often involving court proceedings in the case of disagreements.

Forde Campbell LLC have significant experience with national, European and international collaborations, predominantly in the IP-heavy areas of science, engineering, and technology R&D between the academia / research institutes and industry. With our experience in the media and information technology industry we have also advised on numerous collaborations in these fields.

If you would like to have quick chat to discuss areas of concern in relation to your collaboration please contact Rory Campbell at **info@fordelaw.com** or **02844 610780.**

FORDE CAMPBELL | LLC

'Propellers at the Ready' for Phase two Launch

Aiming to fast-track new and innovative businesses that can export successfully to markets around the world, Invest Northern Ireland's latest Propel Programme embarked on a new phase

set up and grow successful businesses based on innovative ideas, products and technology and have gained close to £4million investment.

This year's 26 entrepreneurs come

"The Propel Programme's tailored support helps entrepreneurs through the challenging process of taking an idea forward, funding its development and launching it on to an international stage. Feedback from previous

Tracy Meharg, Invest NI's Executive Director of Business Solutions, centre, pictured with Diarmuid Moloney of Rotor and Celine Magill, Art on Fashion along with other Propel participants

this month as 26 successful candidates entered its crucial second stage.

Invest NI's Propel Programme provides entrepreneurs with an invaluable range of practical business support mechanisms required to develop an initial concept into a winning product with international appeal.

The uniquely nurturing and progressive learning environment encompasses intensive business development workshops, mentor-led expert guidance, market entry advice and vital financial support. In the last three years the programme has already helped many local entrepreneurs to

from an array of industries from all over Northern Ireland and are set to enter into another intensive period of workshops and mentoring over the next 10 months. Participants will also have access to £20,000 of financial support.

Previous participants who have achieved success through the programme include global gaming platform Goprezzo , Farmvet Systems – an innovative software programme for veterinary management and Okotech offering wireless heating control system.

Tracy Meharg, Invest NI's Executive Director of Business Solutions said:

participants has been extremely positive and we have seen some very successful businesses emerge from the programme.

"This second phase has been designed to bring an intense focus to each business idea and to help get the business to a stage where they can pitch for private and institutional investment, providing them with a robust and tested business plan built on validation and research, but most of all progress."

Here we learn how some of the current participants on this year's programme are progressing.

A product designed for barristers, by barristers

As a practicing barrister for eight years specialising in family law, Orlagh McGahan was fortunate enough to build up a large client base. However, with a busy practice came a significant amount of administration. Faced with a time management problem, Orlagh decided to embark upon a software development strategy which was how her product 'Briefed' was born.

"Briefed' is a case management system designed to help barristers spend less time on administration and more time arguing their cases. She explains;

"Befitting the Bar's tradition of collegiality and reinforcing the benefit of the library system, 'Briefed' is truly a home-grown product, designed by barristers for barristers. It is a 100% secure programme which can run on computer or mobile device giving you access to information from anywhere, whether that is case information, fee notes, calendars or expenses."

Orlagh quickly realised the scale of the project and the opportunity it presented, not to mention the associated financial implications that came with it. This is what led her to the Propel Programme.

"Having read one of the Invest NI e-Newsletters, I spotted the opportunity to apply for the Propel Programme. It has greatly assisted me in validating my business model and identifying a roll out plan for my export markets. As well as the expert input at workshops which is fantastically informative I find the provision of the workspace in Belfast- the 'HUB' - a truly excellent idea. It is giving me the opportunity to work in an environment surrounded by other 'Propellers' each of whom are also highly motivated individuals. The facility allows free flowing ideas, assistance and support, and is a truly enjoyable and stimulating working environment." Being first into the market with an innovative online tool designed specifically for the unique world of barristers, Orlagh hopes that her product will become an industry standard for all new barristers to run their business, regardless of what country or jurisdiction they work in.

The future of cattle feeding

Local engineer, Nigel Woodside developed his unique in-parlour cattle feeding system after a local yeast importer approached him about finding a cost effective solution to ensuring cattle are fed consistent amounts of vitamins and minerals.

"I had been working on the project in my spare time for a number of months and had installed a prototype system on a farm in Cork. After hearing about the Propel Programme through LEDCOM in Larne I decided it was the right time to seek help and support so I could turn my idea into a full-time business venture."

His business called 'Farmatic' is now seeking to develop the product as well as the company business plan and take it to markets across the world.

The 'Feed-x' micro feed system can be manually operated by the farmer via a push button in the milking parlour or it can be operated automatically using a signal from the cow's electronic ear tag or collar which is picked up by an RFID scanner. Individual or batched animals can be fed depending on the animal's dietary requirements or fodder quality.

The system can dispense amounts from 1/2 gram to 200 grams in 1/2 gram increments and has a 'real time' animal feed data recording and storage capability. The Propel team are advising Nigel about all the elements involved in running his business, such as managing cash flow, understanding legal implications, venture capital and product development.

"In this super technological age I've realised how important it is to get a new business and products to market quickly, whilst avoiding costly mistakes. The experience of the team and robustness of the Propel Programme ensures that these mistakes can be bypassed and the time to market can be compressed. Over the next few months I look forward to gaining advice and support from my mentor specifically on the areas of marketing and raising finance."

By participating in the programme Nigel aims to employ up to six people within three years and to be exporting his products to mainland UK and Europe.

A 'Beacon' of Hope for the Digital Publishing Industry

With a background in web design, Kevin McGrath was intrigued by the new reading experiences that the latest tablet devices offered and was curious about the design and development process behind them. It was this curiosity that led him to create 'Beacon' - a solution for publishing and selling digital magazines.

Describing his product Kevin said; "since the iPad was first launched, digital magazines have become more and more popular but the tools used to create them are the same as those used for printed magazines. 'Beacon' offers a simplified workflow with a flexible output so you can publish your magazines on more platforms and reach more readers.

With the low overheads of micropublishing, a small distribution can still be profitable. Using this model a writer with an existing following from social networks like Twitter can sell directly to readers at a reduced cost, therefore retaining more of the profit."

By borrowing techniques from the web design industry and applying them to magazine production, Kevin was able to create early prototypes that made him realise it was a business idea worth pursuing. It was then that he applied for the Propel Programme.

"We read about Propel in the local press and immediately applied to the programme. Phase One has helped us to think about the all the necessary but unglamorous things involved with a start-up. It's easy to focus on the parts you enjoy most - the product design and dream features - but that's all time wasted if there's no market for your product or if you don't understand the motivations of your customers. Propel has given us that blueprint so we have an overall strategy for the business."

Working out of the Belfast 'HUB' alongside the other start-ups has given Kevin the opportunity to cross fertilise ideas with fellow entrepreneurs. Speaking about this experience he said;

"Speaking to other Propel participants has been really useful; you always know that of the other 25 participants at least one person will have had some experience in an area you might be struggling with. We have also just had our first mentoring session which has provided us with the opportunity to speak to an experienced entrepreneur who can give advice based on personal experience, something which has saved us a lot of time in trial and error."

Kevin now hopes that 'Beacon' will allow a new generation of content creators to push the boundaries of the digital magazine industry.

Invest Northern Ireland will be looking for more high calibre entrepreneurs who have the passion and energy to succeed on an international stage for the Propel Programme's next intake which opens on 1st August 2013.

Encouraging 'would be' entrepreneurs with innovative ideas that have global potential Tracy Meharg said:

"If you have the creativity and drive to bring an innovative, high-growth new product or service to the global market, and you would like to benefit from a structured and intense programme of support, then Invest Northern Ireland's Propel Programme could be the ideal opportunity for you."

For more information and to view past participants' videos, log on to www.propelprogramme.co.uk or call 0870 4954 841. You can also follow Propel on twitter @PropelNI

Working at the Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment – Five Reasons Why I Like Working with Examinations

Andrew Bruce, a recent recruit in the CCEA ICT Team, explains the best things about working in the NI education sector

I have to be honest; I never really intended to work in CCEA. I'd spent the better part of twenty years working for North American technology companies and never really expected to do anything else. The fact that the Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment was looking for people with a background in software development was somewhat unexpected. I really shouldn't have been surprised. After all, CCEA can't just go out and buy an examination processing system, so they just have to build one themselves – and for this they need IT people!

Given Northern Ireland's vibrant software development environment, I'm sure that there are plenty of people at any time who are considering their career options. For me, this has generally meant looking at the usual Foreign Direct Investors, many of which are very fine employers. Yet with my move to CCEA I managed to find something a bit different that has worked very well and provided a competitive compensation package. I thought I'd pass on my top five favourite things about working in the N.I. education sector. Maybe you will find them useful when considering your next step…

You get to live at home

Most of us over 35 know that the glamour of regular business travel soon wears off. Working in IT in Northern Ireland often means working for a company that has offices or customers elsewhere in the world, and this can involve regularly spending time away from family and friends. The great thing about CCEA is that it's based in Belfast and it serves local people, and for this reason you can live at home and have a much greater chance of maintaining a healthy work–life balance.

Massive focus on quality

Unsurprisingly, people would tend to get upset if you got their exam results wrong. This means that we have to be tireless in our quest for quality in the systems that we provide, and as such we're accredited to standards like ISO9000/TickIT and ISO27000. Given the on-going level of change in the qualifications arena, maintaining the focus on quality can be extremely challenging, but hey, life would be very boring without a challenge or ten!

Cutting-edge approach to software development

Due to the focus on quality, the CCEA ICT team tends to be really forward thinking about the way it does business. We operate an Agile software development process, and utilise cutting-edge tools and practices. We're always looking for ways of improving the way we work, and in line with CCEA's Investors in People accreditation, there are always plenty of opportunities to learn new skills.

Opportunities to be innovative

In my view, the education sector is currently at a real watershed in terms of how technology is used.   This provides loads of opportunity to really make a difference. Right now we're deploying new applications that create some of the biggest changes in the administering qualifications in NI in the last twenty years.

Making a difference

And finally, on a very personal note, I've found it hugely rewarding to know that I'm making some sort of contribution to the local education system. And I get paid to do it!

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CCEA will be recruiting for a number of software development specialists and other IT vacancies. Look out for job adverts on Sync NI and www.ccea.org.uk soon.

CultureTECH to take over Derry-Londonderry

CultureTECH takes over Derry-Londonderry when it returns for its second year, bringing a week-long festival of digital technology, media and music to the City of Culture between September 9th and 15th. It's going to be a quirky, messy, intimate and a unique gathering of interesting people doing interesting things.

The CultureTECH festival is one of Ireland's largest celebrations of digital culture, showcasing the best local and international talent across the creative digital industries from gaming to music and animation to digital arts. As part of the City of Culture programme, the festival will cram in over 170 events and will attract over 30,000 people over the week.

Last year's event was brilliant (if we do say so ourselves) but this year we have upped the ante, and will be taking over the whole city, with more venues, exciting use of spaces and great content. The theme for the CultureTECH Conference is 'Telling Digital Stories" and we're very lucky to be hosting the Belfast Media Festival as it comes to Derry for the first time.

We're bringing a bit of sparkle this year, as the DANI Awards roll into town, celebrating the best work that the digital and creative sectors in Northern Ireland are doing. We've our tuxes ironed and are working on our acceptance speeches already.

As well as the headline events, we're going to be taking our speaker line up to places you wouldn't expect to find them. We're going to be using coffee shops, bars, empty retail spaces and historic venues. We want loads of audience interaction and want our speakers to have just as good a time as everyone else.

Another huge element of the festival is CultureTECH Jr., which is being produced in conjunction with Seagate. We've lined up Teen Tech's first visit to Northern Ireland and a massive Coder Dojo event over the course of the week to work with schools and youth groups.

It's going to be Business Unusual in Derry as Invest Northern Ireland are opening a pop-up shop for the week, with plenty of workshops and clinics on a variety of subjects.

Like your music? Good. For the whole week we're going to be mixing work and play. We've lined up a plethora of label showcases and live gigs, ranging from cool electronica to crossover collaborations between DJs, opera singers

and everything in between. We're pleased to be welcoming Glasgowbury Festival as they bring the Glasgowbury picnic to the centre of Derry for a free open air concert in Guildhall Square.

Hey gamers, we've got loads to keep your thumbs twiddling. We're teaming up with the guys from Multiplay to turn the city into a massive arcade, with a huge Minecraft tournament, vintage arcades and local games. Add into a pinch of art, a sprinkling of film screenings and a dollop of digital theatre, and hey presto, CultureTECH.

And lastly, we're hosting a 2 day conference around the Loebner Prize in Artificial Intelligence, to find the world's best conversational chatrobot, which is happening at the University of Ulster.

How much is all this going to cost, I hear you ask? We're doing it differently this year. We're accessible to all. Most of our programme is free to all. Some events carry a charge, but treat it as a pic'n'mix style event and come for the bits that float your boat.

For more information about the festival, and see how to get involved, please visit www.culturetech.co

Omagh Enterprise Launches the new Innovation Growth Centre

Omagh Enterprise Company has developed a 14,000 square feet two storey Innovation Growth Centre, based at Omagh Enterprise Centre as part of the Innovation and Enterprise Programme. The construction phase was completed in May 2013 and provides high-spec accommodation for knowledge-based businesses. Offices are now available to rent - Sizes vary from 230 sq ft to 430sq ft including 'hot desk' facilities for businesses at affordable rates.

Business bottom line will benefit from:
❯ Easy-in, easy-out flexible lease agreement
❯ Free parking and 24/7 access
❯ Ultrafast Broadband speeds of 10Mbps to 10Gbps
❯ 3 phase power
❯ Secretarial support available
❯ On-site restaurant

Ultrafast Broadband
❯ How fast do you want to go?
❯ Does your success depend on fast, reliable communications and downloads?
❯ What advantage would ultrafast broadband give you in the marketplace?

The speed your business moves at could make all the difference to your bottom line. So we offer broadband speeds from 10Mbps to 10Gbps, giving you the bandwidth you need to succeed. When you're setting up, it's one less thing to worry about – it's already here – where you need to be.

For more info Contact Sharon Tracey-Collins on:
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8224 9494 Fax: +44 (0) 28 8224 9451
Email: sharon.tracey@omaghenterprise.co.uk

Project has been part-financed by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Join us this autumn on the Postgraduate Certificate in Digital Media Communication

Want a chance to gain some perspective on digital communication? This one year, part-time University of Ulster accredited Postgraduate Certificate programme aims to develop professionals who can support the strategic adoption of digital media communication to achieve organisational goals.

It is designed to help professionals and graduates from Communication, ICT, Business or Marketing backgrounds to better understand and capitalise upon digital media technologies and services to achieve competitive advantage. The course provides a holistic view of Digital Media Communication by uniquely combining academic expertise from the School of Communication and School of Computing and Mathematics, with the knowledge and practical experience of professionals working in the field.

The topics we will be covering include:
❯ Organisational communication strategies for the Digital Economy
❯ Online Consumer Behaviour and Value Propositions
❯ Web Planning, Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) and Measurement

❯ Social Media Strategies and Practice
❯ Online Advertising
❯ Email Marketing
❯ Organisational readiness for Digital Communication
❯ Risks and rewards of managing reputations online

"It can be challenging to undertake a part-time course while working, what's great about DMC is that classes don't run every week and are offered in 'blocks' from 1pm – 9pm supported with online learning that you can do at home. The support that I have received from the lecturers and industry professionals on the course has equipped me with the correct tools that are helping build my confidence both professionally and personally." Corrine Heaney (former student).

For further course information and to apply online visit: www.study.ulster.ac.uk/prospectus/course/201314/10708

Alternatively, you can contact the Course Director, Dr Valerie Purchase by phone on 028 9036 6723, or by email: vc.purchase@ulster.ac.uk. Closing date for applications: Monday 2nd September 2013 before 5.00pm.

Are you ready for the Cloud?

Cloud Consulting Ltd. (CCL) is a UK & Irish based Salesforce.com Partner and we specialise in the implementation, customisation and development of the Salesforce.com customer relationship management (CRM) application.

We have a successful track record of migrating companies from their old 'on premise' sales-force automation (SFA) and CRM systems and also integrating Salesforce.com with their other business systems. This is not 'blue sky' work but practical and pragmatic engagements targeted at resolving key business problems quickly and effectively. We only work where we can show either cost savings or revenue increases.

With offices in Belfast, Dublin and London, CCL is providing experienced business and technology resources to our growing customer base to successfully manage and implement their Cloud solutions.

> "Cloud Consulting Ltd have helped us to look at the longer term with regards to Salesforce and have enabled us to get to a level where we are now almost entirely self-sufficient regarding how we use the system." *Simon McIntyre, Brand Strategy & Communications Executive – TotalMobile (Belfast)*

CCL can carry out strategic business consulting that will kick-start your transition into the Cloud. We offer various packages to accommodate our client's unique needs - from a day's training or application health-check, 3, 6 and 12 day quick-starts through to complex system configuration, data migration and integration projects. Even when the project is complete we can provide you with continuous support.

> "We chose them not only because they ranked highest on our evaluation matrix; they were also the most responsive and displayed a real desire to engage with us." *Eileen O'Sullivan, CFO & COO – dotMobi (Dublin)*

In addition to using highly experienced resources CCL utilises best in breed technology. Our objective is to fuse your business processes and the right technology

solutions together. We operate across all industry sectors with significant expertise in financial services, telecommunications and media, utilities, as well as retail, travel and transport. We deliver business enabling technology and develop bespoke Cloud Applications to make it all real.

We believe in making your business run:
- Faster
- Cheaper
- Better
- Safer

> "Cloud Consulting completed a Salesforce health check for us. From there we were looking to further enhance our customization on Salesforce to allow us increase efficiencies in key areas of our operations, we needed a partner that could develop and suggest enhancements and options with us." *Geraldine Ryan, Sales Office & Bid Manager - e|net (Limerick)*

SILVER CLOUD ALLIANCE PARTNER

For an initial discussion around your business requirements and to see how we can help make your business more successful get in touch with:

Jonathan Egan
Phone: +353 863 632 331
Email: jonathan.egan@ccltng.com
or **Tim Pullen**
Phone: +44 7770 834 091
Email: tim.pullen@ccltng.com

You can also visit www.ccltng.com for further information.

VISA

CyberSource®

Cybersource, a Visa company is a global leader in e-Commerce Payment Management. As part of CyberSource's continued growth and expansion we are looking for talented IT professionals who want to make a difference.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- ► **Software Development Manager**
- ► **QA Test Manager**
- ► **Lead/Staff Software Engineer**
- ► **Build and Configuration Management Engineer**
- ► **Staff QA Engineer**

For further information please visit cybersource.com/ni or contact Brianne on T: (028) 9044 7974 or E: brmoran@visa.com
Applications Closing: June 14th at 5.00pm

CyberSource is a wholly owned subsidiary of Visa Inc. CyberSource operates in Europe under agreement with Visa Europe.

Halo Heads Up the Hill

MLAs entered the 'Dragon's Den' when they joined more than 100 angel investors and professional service companies at Stormont to see local businesses pitch for growth funding.

In a special, one-off event, eight local companies gave MLAs an opportunity to see for themselves how the pitch process works and how this type of investment could operate in their own constituencies.

"This was not a demonstration, but a real investment evening involving over 50 angels which was moved to Stormont as a one-off event," said Alan Watts, Director of Halo, the Northern Ireland business angel network based at NI Science Park.

"The future economic prosperity of Northern Ireland depends upon investment for research and development being made available to young and growing businesses, particularly those with innovative ideas for their products and services. Halo has raised a total of £5m of funding inside four years to support exciting new and expanding businesses and we have good reason to believe that 2013 will be a record year for angel investment in Northern Ireland."

Thomas Hunter McGowan, Frank Hewitt, Arlene Foster, Alastair Hamilton and Norman Apsley

Halo's role is to match companies with growth potential to high net worth individuals – angels - who may wish to invest in them. It is open to all NI companies except those operating in property or straight retail, and will look at all stages, from start-up to established businesses, as well as both technical and non-technical companies.

The event, which was sponsored by Par Equity, was welcomed to Stormont by Simon Hamilton MLA and the guest speaker was Arlene Foster, Minister of the Department of Trade and Investment. For more information on Halo visit www.haloni.com today.

Search on for 2013 Innovation Founder of the Year

There is nothing stopping the next generation from developing and commercialising their own innovative thinking, says one of Northern Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs.

Tom Eakin, founder of thriving medical device manufacturer TG Eakin Ltd, Newtownards, was speaking at the launch of the Innovation Founder of the year Award 2013, part of the NISP CONNECT 25K Awards.

Tom Eakin, Arlene Foster and Ciaran McGivern at the launch of this year's nominations

Last year's winner said: "The award was a great incentive for me and my company to do even more to encourage entrepreneurship in NI If we are to develop a strong knowledge economy in NI, it is important to celebrate and showcase entrepreneurship to the next generation."

Supporting the launch, Arlene Foster, Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, said: "Tom's success is a fine example of what can be achieved with imagination, determination and ambition."

The award, supported by Bank of Ireland, recognises community leaders who have achieved distinction in founding, leading or building a Northern Irish life sciences or technology based business organisation.

Nominations can be registered online at http://www.nisp. co.uk/innovation-founder-of-the-year-award/. Nominees should demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit, innovative thinking and determination to succeed. The closing date for entries is June 28.

Go for Growth

Centre for Competitiveness

www.cforc.org

Innovation and Competitiveness

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- Premier Membership Benefits
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  - Energy
  - Smart Homes
  - Manufacturing Excellence
  - Service Excellence
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  - Education
  - Public & Voluntary Sector
- Quarterly Members Newsletter
- Members sign posting
- Preferrential Pricing for Specific Services
- Affordable Membership Fees
- New Interactive Website (Content Rich)

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Visit www.cforc.org on-line today and register as a member or contact membership services by email - lorraine.branagh@CforC.org or by telephone on +44 (0)2890 737950

The Centre is continually rewriting the book on Performance Excellence and Challenging the status quo. Our team of technical and business professionals are available to support your needs.

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Queen's Road
Belfast BT3 9DT

Tel: +44(0)28 9073 7950

Fax: +44(0)28 9073 7951

Event Preview: NISP CONNECT 25k Awards: Top 10

The Top 10 teams will compete in the final rounds of the 25k Awards. Each team will be set the task of producing a Business Plan and delivering the BIG pitch, which be judged by an expert judging panel. The winner will be announced at the 25k Awards Dinner on 26th September.

Bio-tech

Jenarron Therapeutics Ltd has developed a proprietary hydrogel-based drug delivery platform that can be used to present a wide range of pharmaceutical agents to wound sites, such as local anaesthetics and antibiotics.

Digitease has developed a data-glove rehab product for Rheumatoid Arthritis care and treatment for the human hand.

ProAx-SiS has developed small molecule, peptide-based inhibitors (Protease-Tags), which serve both as a means to trap active proteases and to provide a visual readout of their presence in biological samples, with applications to protease biomarker identification.

Clean-tech

ADFertech is developing a product whereby nutrients contained within Anaerobic Digestor liquor are concentrated and processed to form granular fertiliser.

Inkintelligent has created inks which provide information on the surfaces they come into contact with and the first commercial product is a pen with an ink that – in combination with light sufficient to activate the surface – responds to most surfaces that exhibit photocatalytic activity.

Digital Media & Software

Columbus uses powerful new mathematics and smartphone technology to create a personal travel assistant helping users monitor progress during their journey.

Liopa is a mobile biometric authentication and speaker verification application. The technology can identify people by assessing the unique biometric characteristics of the user.

Hi-tech

Xpress LF is developing a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System for your Smartphone.

Eye-See 3D wants to help optometrists diagnose eye conditions using their 3D camera system for imaging the human eye.

Nite Rider has developed a night vision visor for motorcycle helmets using thermal imaging.

Upcoming Events

1   Danske Bank Export First

BY   NI Chamber of Commerce
WHEN   25th June 2013
WHERE Radisson Blu Hotel , The Gasworks, Belfast

2   Q-CON XX - local games arcade

BY   Q-Con
WHEN   28-30th June 2013
WHERE Queens University Belfast

3   25k Awards Dinner

BY   NISP CONNECT
WHEN   26th September 2013
WHERE Titanic Belfast

4   TMED5 'Enabling Healthy Ageing'
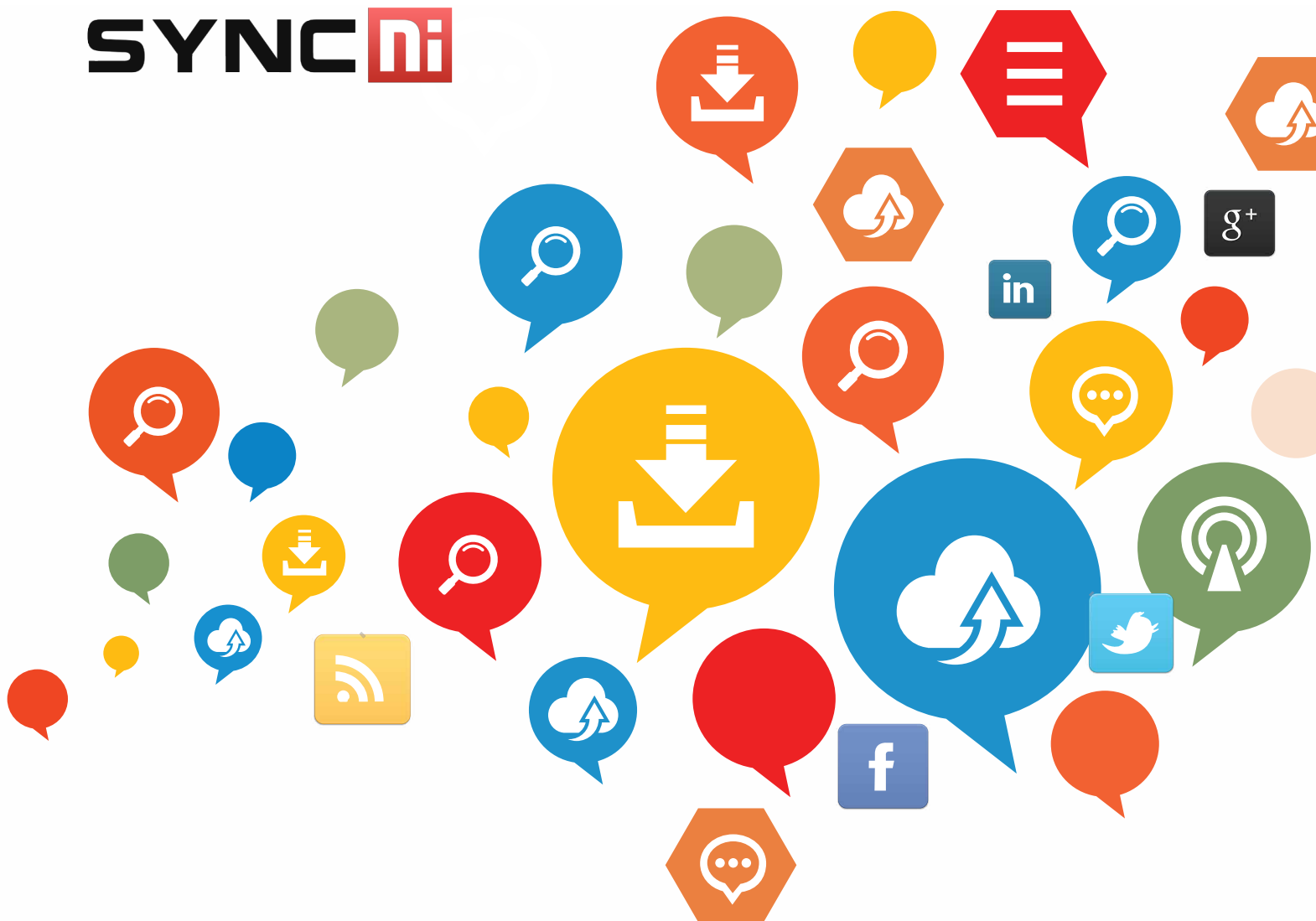
BY   Action for Children
WHEN   4th October 2013
WHERE Belfast Activity Centre, Barnett Demesne

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Calling all Entrepreneurs...
Your BIG IDEA could be worth BIG MONEY!

Are you a young innovative company with a great business idea and looking for equity funding? Enter the InterTradeIreland All-Island Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition 2013 for your chance to win a share of €280,000 cash prize fund.

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