

# SMART Belfast

Investing  
in urban  
innovation



## What Smart Belfast?

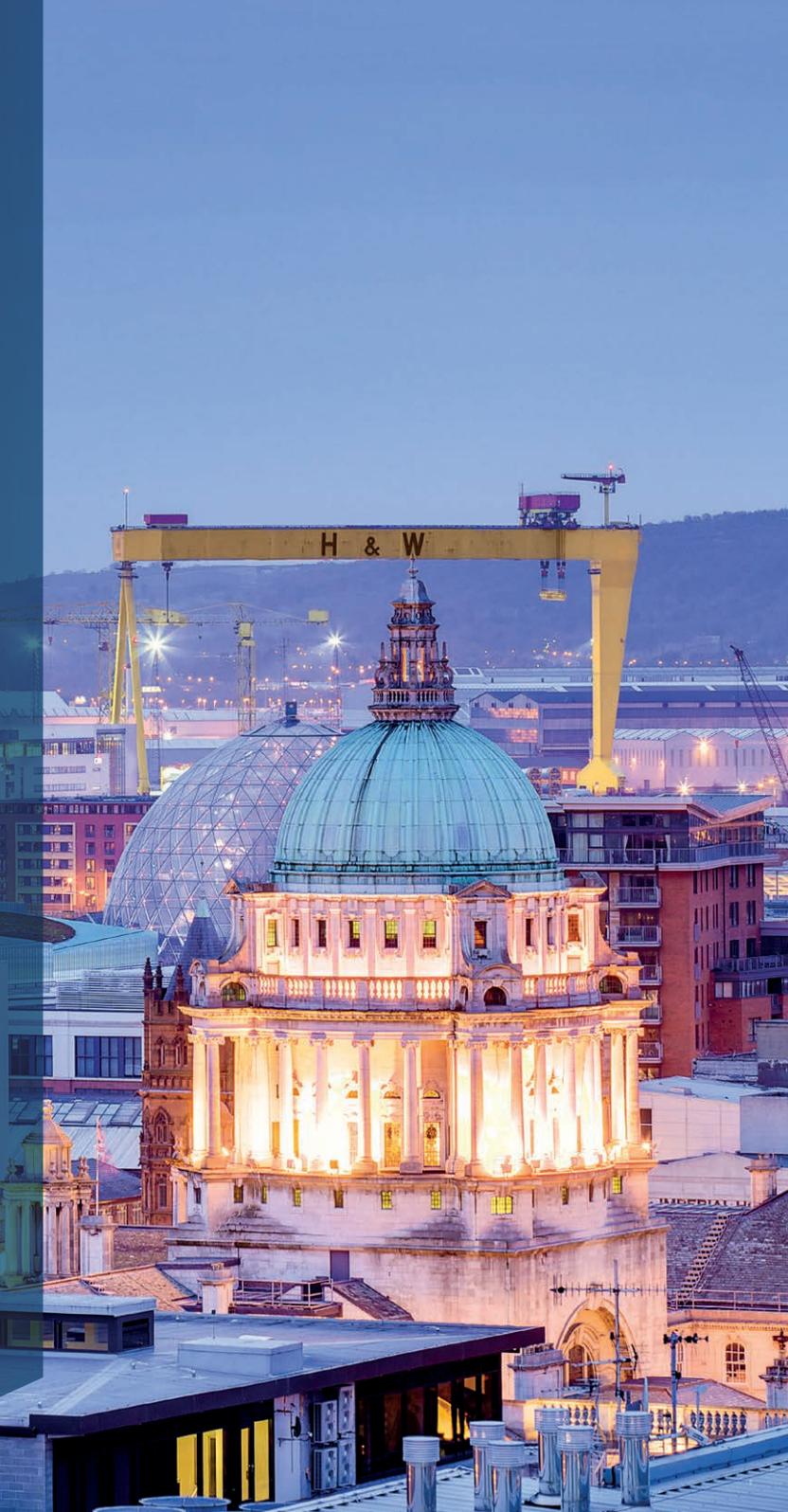
**Belfast has ambitious plans for the future. Building on our economic revival, we want to make our city an outstanding place to live, work and invest.**

We are harnessing the creativity of our citizens, our start-ups and industry partners, and building on our first-class digital infrastructure, to address today's urban challenges while at the same time growing an urban economy for the twenty-first century.

To drive our ambition, we are working to secure over €1 billion of co-investment from a range of sources. The UK Government has already indicated that it will invest €350 million in building a unique digital innovation ecosystem.

Our approach is underpinned by a commitment to:

- better life outcomes for our citizens,
- public and private sector co-investment partnerships,
- local innovators, businesses and start-ups,
- a shared digital infrastructure and
- data transparency, privacy and security.



## Collaborate with us

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**Belfast offers an ideal urban environment to design, test, and build advanced digital solutions for the twenty-first century city.**

**Our government, universities and businesses are working together to provide a range of exciting opportunities for digital innovators to co-invest in real-world products and solutions.**

Belfast offers a unique blend of characteristics:

- We are a mid-size English-speaking city providing an urban test-bed environment that is large enough to deploy solutions at scale but small enough to demonstrate clear impact. With strong links to the UK, Europe and North America, Belfast can showcase innovations on the world stage.
- We offer a mature and supportive governance and legislative framework that provides a secure environment for intellectual property development.
- The city has some of the highest density fibre in Europe and the best availability of superfast broadband in the UK. We are one of the first regions in Europe to operate high speed, next generation services with a 40Gb link to North America and Europe. We also have comprehensive 4G coverage; with preparations underway for the roll-out of digital fibre and 5G networks.
- We have a thriving digital technology sector and a lively and diverse innovator community. We are increasingly recognised as a global centre of excellence in areas such as cyber-security (Centre for Secure Information Technologies), data analytics (Cognitive Analytics Research Laboratory).
- Our two universities, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, have a combined student population of 45,000 providing a skilled and creative talent pool. Queen's is one of the top one per cent of universities worldwide and is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of research intensive universities.
- Local cluster specialisms include: Mobile app and software development; E-commerce and marketplace; Digital media and entertainment; Data management; Cyber security; Fintech and Data analytics.
- We are one of the top ten most successful cities in the world in terms of attracting digital sector FDI (fdi Magazine 2018).

## Our Programmes

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Our planned €350 million digital innovation ecosystem will offer innovative companies a coherent, shared basis to work with the city to create breakthrough technologies, products and services.

Here are some of the opportunities we want to explore with you:



### Global Innovation Institute

Building on the rock-solid foundations of three existing research centres: The Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT), The Institute of Health Sciences and The Institute for Global Food Security, this new Global Institute will enable a holistic approach to digital innovation, encompassing hardware, software, networks, data processing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) services.

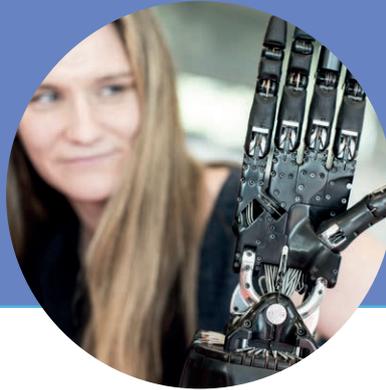
At its core will be a petascale computing facility implementing a best-in-class real-time 'AI Cloud' to accelerate growth sectors including health and life sciences, agri-food, advanced manufacturing, and digital media.



### Smart Belfast District

This large-scale smart district will incorporate the central business core, the city's port and the city's main tech development sites. Drawing from a multi-million Euro Infrastructure Enabling Fund, the district will foster the deployment of city-scale fibre, wireless networks and Internet of Things (IoT) shared infrastructure to offer a rich urban environment for the development and roll-out of multiple use-cases, innovative digital systems and services.

Public and private sector asset holders are committed to working together to offer low-barrier access to industries seeking to work with us in developing advanced urban services.



### Digital Innovation Platform (DIP)

A shared environment in which researchers, entrepreneurs and industrial partners can come together to address key challenges in business and society through the secure application of innovative tech and big data science.

DIP will lower barriers to industry partnerships and offer simplified access to a pool of expert capabilities in data analytics, cybersecurity. It will also create opportunities to utilise controlled test-environments including the Smart District.



### Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre

Queen's University Belfast, with Ulster University, are developing an Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, that builds on 50 years of aerospace and composite innovation between the universities and industry. It will provide a suite of facilities for the manufacturing sector, bringing together advanced manufacturing techniques with Industry 4.0 disruptive technologies.

It will include a 'Factory of the Future' providing access to the latest manufacturing technologies, supported by professional engineers with design and simulation capability. This facility will enable companies to experiment with process flows, materials and prototyping before implementing in a live production environment.



## Centre for Digital Healthcare Technology

A co-creation platform between industry, local universities and a major teaching hospital to create accelerated opportunities for new healthcare pathways and to support the rapid realisation of commercial market solutions.

The platform will be supported by engineering, computing, molecular science and artificial intelligence capability. A key element is a hospital based clinical Living Lab that will focus the treatment of respiratory conditions, stroke and diabetes.



## Regional Innovators Network

A network of state-of-the-art innovation co-making facilities providing problem-solving environments that foster creativity, empowering businesses and communities with critical opportunities for innovating, creating and skill building.

Each space will offer technologists, businesses and local communities the space and equipment to pursue scalable innovation projects.



## Institute for Advanced Clinical Healthcare

Led by our universities i-REACH will bring together clinical infrastructure to conduct large scale clinical trials in fields such as respiratory medicine, oncology and vision sciences.

Working closely with AI specialists at the Global Innovation Institute, i-REACH will deliver clinical trials that are supported by real-world, real-time data.



## Screen and Media Innovation Lab

A university-led research and innovation centre to accelerate the convergence of creativity, content development, technology and digital delivery.

Building on our universities' track-record, this global centre will provide academic and industry partners with cutting-edge incubation facilities and transformative production, studio and Research and Development facilities.

## Interested?

We are engaging with partners throughout 2018 and 2019. If you are interested in finding out more about the Smart Belfast opportunities and think you have something to offer the city, let us know. We are keen to work with other cities, industry partners and innovative organisations to explore mutually beneficial co-investment opportunities with these and other projects.

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City Council