



# SUMMARY REPORT 2015











# WORKING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP LIMERICK'S BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

**INNOVATE LIMERICK** was established by Limerick City & County Council to help drive innovation and act as the delivery mechanism for the projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 Plan and the Limerick Regeneration Implementation Plans and others.

It is a public-private partnership company whose Board is made up of key partners from the private sector together with elected members and representatives from LEDP, LIT, UL, EI, Tait House Community Enterprise, LCETB, Limerick Chamber and Limerick Regeneration.

One of Innovate Limerick's core objectives is to work with key stakeholders to develop Limerick's business ecosystem and position Limerick City and County as one of the most attractive locations to start and grow a business.

## CURRENT PROJECTS INCLUDE

1. Limerick Innovation Hub
2. Troy Film Studios Limerick
3. Rathkeale Enterprise Centre
4. Kantoher Enterprise Centre
5. National Advanced Manufacturing Centre
6. International Cluster Conference
7. National Sports Cluster
8. ISAX

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN LIMERICK'S CONNECTED BUSINESS ECO-SYSTEM



1



## INNOVATION HUB ROXBORO

The Innovation Hub at LEDP Roxboro that will extend to 35,000sq ft and the project will be completed by March 2016. On completion, the hub will offer potential tenants the biggest modern open plan office footprint available in Limerick at present and is attracting interest from both indigenous and FDI projects. The project is being managed by LEDP in conjunction with Innovate Limerick and is co-funded by Limerick Regeneration and Enterprise Ireland. When full it is anticipated that this project should facilitate the creation of close to **150 direct jobs and an additional 75 jobs** will be created in the ten associated Community Enterprise Centres located right around the City and County.

2



## TROY FILM STUDIOS LIMERICK

The agreed location for the film studio is the 340,000 sq.ft 'Culture Factory' which is based at the old Dell building in Castletroy.

The concept of developing infrastructure for film production in Limerick will bring outside annual spending of approximately €80m to the local economy and it is anticipated that 750 full time equivalent jobs will be created directly from this development within three years. With the potential for hundreds of indirect spin off jobs from sub-supply businesses including construction, accommodation, hospitality, IT, etc.

Innovate Limerick and Limerick City & County Council through LCO Enterprise Development Company Ltd have agreed a development partnership with Troy Studios to deliver a major film production facilities hub in Limerick.

The film studio which is currently under construction and due for completion in July/August 2016 will not only support the creation of new jobs, the creation of new businesses, but will lead to the creation of a completely new industry in Limerick and the Mid West.

3



## RATHKEALE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

In November 2014, Innovate Limerick with financial support from Limerick City and County Council purchased the former Andersen Jewellery Factory in Rathkeale which closed with the loss of 170 jobs. The plant was officially reopened as Rathkeale Enterprise Centre on 16th November 2015 by Minister for Finance Michael Noonan who also opened Design Pro Ltd's new offices at the centre on the same day.

A part eight planning application has been submitted by Innovate Limerick to Limerick City and County Council for change of use of part of this facility to meet the requirements of other tenants waiting to relocate to this site.

4



## KANTOHER

In 2014 Innovate Limerick purchased a 30,000sq ft premises on three acres at Kantoher, Co Limerick to provide additional enterprise space to businesses in the region. Strand Foods Ltd. who process and wholesale a range of chicken products have recently relocated to this facility securing the future of twelve people who are employed in this business. The move by Strand Foods to Kantoher has provided the company with a cost effective base to grow employment further and expand their business.

5



## NATIONAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTRE LIMERICK AND MID WEST

Innovate Limerick supported by a wide range of both indigenous and multinational businesses in the region and third level education institutions have submitted a formal application to both Enterprise Ireland and IDA to have the proposed National Advanced Manufacturing Centre located in Limerick. Discussions are ongoing on the development of a national centre but the decision to locate the pilot project in Limerick is a welcome development.

6



## INTERNATIONAL CLUSTER CONFERENCE

The third international cluster conference titled *"Clusters as Drivers of Competitiveness"* which was hosted between Innovate Limerick and PST-FR Fribourg, Switzerland was held in Limerick on 30th September – 1st October 2015. Over two hundred delegates from around the world attended this two day event with key international speakers and cluster experts from a range of disciplines such as Dr Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School.



7



## NATIONAL SPORTS CLUSTER

Innovate Limerick are promoting the establishment of a National Sports Business Cluster based in Limerick. The cluster could be formed from various elite sporting facilities including UL's sports campus, LIT's Sportslab (Europe's leading strength and conditioning centre) in Thurles and a range of companies involved in other sports-related activities, from sports tech to nutrition companies in Ireland.

*'There has been quite an amount of research into clusters and their benefits but there is very strong evidence that regions with formal clusters tend to do a lot better than those without established clusters' – Dr Philippe Gugler, University of Fribourg*

Key objectives include attracting multinational investment, growing start-ups, incorporating a sports industry economic strategy, establishing specialities within sports innovation and developing a sports tech lab to link third level and industry. It is anticipated that up to five hundred jobs could be created in associated companies as a direct result of opportunities identified by the establishment of a National Sports Cluster.

8



Innovate Limerick through Limerick City and County Council is one of the founding partners of ISAX - Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange.

**ISAX** is an independent partnership of government agencies, research institutions and industry – collaborating to identify and bring to market innovations that can enhance the quality of life and extend the independence of older adults. It currently has 18 members including Limerick Local Authority, UL and LIT as well as companies such as An Post, Glanbia, AIB, Bank of Ireland, IBM (who are supporting the Limerick Active and Healthy Ageing City initiative). Limerick is actively involved in a number of their projects which have the potential to deliver strong social benefits

to older adults and their families here in Limerick. Probably most importantly include:

- The national Taskforce on Housing for an Ageing Population, which is seeking to develop innovative approaches to providing housing with care in clustered settings.
- Start Your Own Businesses for older adults and will be encouraging them to look at business opportunities in the 'smart ageing' field.
- Design Symposium on Age Friendly Environments – which will be held here in Limerick in June and will bring together older adults, planners, engineers, marketing experts – all focused on developing improvements to our city and how to make it more age friendly.

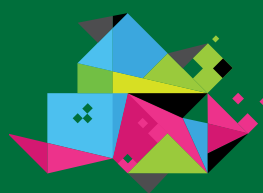
**limerick  
2020**

**A  
VIBRANT  
ACCELERATOR  
HUB**

**A  
VIBRANT  
CULTURAL  
HUB**

**A VIBRANT  
START-UP  
HUB**

**A  
VIBRANT  
INNOVATION  
HUB**



**INNOVATE**

**Limerick**

**Innovate Limerick**  
Unit B12  
L.E.D.P.  
Roxboro Road  
Limerick

**T:** 061 221414  
**E:** [innovate@limerick.ie](mailto:innovate@limerick.ie)

**[www.innovatelimerick.ie](http://www.innovatelimerick.ie)**