

BACKGROUND

Aims of MATRIX

MATRIX is an industry led panel convened to advise government and inform academia and industry on the commercial exploitation of R&D and science and technology in Northern Ireland.

MATRIX is a collaborative endeavour with the primary aim to champion the role of science and technology as one of the key drivers of economic growth in Northern Ireland.

Objectives

The overall objectives of MATRIX are to:

- Provide neutral leadership and be an honest broker for Northern Ireland science and technology sectors
- Facilitate engagement and collaboration of industry with academia and government
- Identify, agree and oversee a market led science and technology foresight programme
- Commission research and provide the evidence base to government for future science and technology policies and strategies that will ensure NIs sustainable competitiveness in the global economy
- Liaise with DfE Permanent Secretary, other government departments through the NICS Board, and other relevant organisations to advise and act where necessary on the adoption and implementation of MATRIX recommendations e.g. the developing Skills Strategy 202 for NI
- Advise on how regional and national science and technology, innovation and R&D policies may be most effectively implemented
- Initiate and enhance links with relevant local, national and international organisations as appropriate to ensure connectivity with the UK, available funding streams and export markets
- Act as an influential point of coordination to help maximise public and private sector funding
- Promote a culture of innovation in the wider science and technology community and endorse regional innovation and research and development programmes
- Actively promote case studies and exemplars within the region
- Develop a structured outreach and communications programme which supports the aims of the MATRIX panel, reflects the work programme and provides support to related activities.

Membership & Organisation

Each industry member must be authorised by their respective organisations to represent the best interests of their particular sector and Northern Ireland.

MATRIX may establish Industry Leadership Groups (ILGs) to fulfil projects relating to its work programme. Membership of sub-panels should expand the capability of MATRIX and draw on international expertise, increase industry representation and expand sectoral linkages. Furthermore, ILGs should provide an opportunity to develop future NI leaders.

The MATRIX panel will meet quarterly and a fulltime and dedicated Secretariat, based within the Department for Economy's Future Sectoral Policy Unit, will support the work of MATRIX and its foresight panels.