

# News

Joint Business Council



## Welcome to our new JBC chairman

**Hugh Crossey, Managing Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Northern Ireland has been appointed new chairman of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council.**

Mr Crossey will chair the 40 strong council, which comprises senior business leaders from across the island of Ireland.

Commenting on his appointment, Hugh Crossey said:

“The current economic climate has profoundly impacted on both jurisdictions and collaboration in driving up our competitiveness and encouraging investment are key to stimulating recovery.”

“The global landscape is changing; domestic and overseas investors are increasingly demanding in their investment criteria and we must understand their needs and ensure that the political and business agendas deliver on their expectations.”

“Developing even stronger cross-border communications, energy and education linkages are vital if we are to exploit the investment opportunities that global recovery will offer.”

“What we do in the next three years will determine the future prosperity of a generation.”

The JBC’s primary role is to promote economic growth and development on the island of Ireland and advance our international competitiveness for the benefit of both jurisdictions.

JBC Director in the Northern Ireland office, Julie Jordan, said:



“We are delighted to welcome Hugh Crossey as our new Chairman. He is an experienced and highly respected leader with over 25 years as an advisor to the public and private sectors in the UK, Ireland and Europe. Mr Crossey will provide invaluable leadership for the JBC’s position as the coordinated voice for business across the Island of Ireland.”

## Chief Executive Update

**Unquestionably the highlight for JBC in recent weeks was the Council’s North West Plenary, which took place on 15 April and which is highlighted elsewhere in this update.**

In addition to the business forum and the business networking opportunities, the programme included a tour of the Ebrington urban renewal site that will very soon be physically linked with the old city by the new Peace Bridge currently under construction. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the practical support and financial sponsorship for our North West event from Valerie Watts, Chief Executive of Derry City Council and Dr Aideen McGinley, Chief Executive of ILEX Urban Regeneration Company. We are currently in discussions with a number of parties in terms of putting together a follow up regional event in 2011 and are hopeful that this can provide a development showcase for another Irish city region such as Limerick and the Mid west.

For a small island in a global economy, it makes common sense that we **cooperate to compete**.

An example of the cross border challenges that are now being addressed relates to energy policy where the exemplar is the Single Electricity Market (SEM) - a pool through which all electricity has to be bought and sold across the island. The Single Electricity Market combined two smaller electricity markets to facilitate greater competition, improved reliability of energy supply and reduction in energy costs to business. Within Europe, the Single Electricity Market on this island is a leading exemplar of cross-border co-operation and which through further development will bring increasing benefit to industry.

As an island, we have enviable renewable energy resources – a competitive advantage we share with Scotland. To position ourselves as serious global competitor and be fully prepared to exploit global economic recovery, we urgently must optimise our competitive advantages – one of which is that this island can be the world-leader and international test bed for renewable energy.

In a recent InterTradeIreland survey of 1000 businesses across the island, the cost of energy was identified as the priority area to focus on in the next 6 months. The work of the Joint Business Council in progressing this agenda for business is only one example of where we can succeed, bearing in mind we work across the very diverse areas of infrastructure, innovation and skills.

# Plenary highlights regional initiatives vital for economic recovery

**The JBC bi-annual plenary on 14 & 15 April in the North West attracted 100 representatives from industry, government and academia from across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.**

Hugh Crossey, Chairman of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council, addressed the plenary dinner in the Guildhall in Derry -Londonderry. Mr Crossey said:

“The very size of the metropolitan areas around Belfast and Dublin means they have a pivotal role in driving economic recovery on both sides of the border.

“However, we must recognise the distinctive advantages of the island’s regional economies and encourage greater exploitation of their unique strengths and untapped opportunities.

“The selection of the North West for the location of our conference reinforces the importance of the region to the economy of this island.

“The ambitious and distinctive strategies developed by Ilex, Derry City Council and the communities in the North West show how the regions can develop economic and social programmes that contribute to national recovery.”

Delegates were welcomed to the Guildhall by the Mayor of Derry, Paul Fleming. Junior Minister Robin Newton also attended on behalf of OFMdFM.

The plenary meeting was chaired by Sir Roy McNulty, Chairman of Ilex Urban Regeneration Company, and included presentations from Ilex, Derry City Council, the North West Gateway Initiative, Massachusetts Middle Cities Project and Shannon Development. Ronnie Hall, Director DG Regional Policy, spoke on the future of EU Regional Policy and the Northern Ireland EU Task Force. Padraig Canavan, CEO Singularity, advised on Project Kelvin.

A site visit to Seagate Technology at Springtown was hosted by Dr. Brian Burns, Vice President of Operations. Ilex hosted a visit to the Ebrington Barracks site and explained its regeneration master plan

for the site incorporating art galleries, a heritage centre, hotel, residential buildings and outdoor concert arena.

The JBC plenary in the North West was supported by Derry City Council and Ilex Urban Regeneration Company. Outlining the importance of the event, Dr Aideen McGinley Chief Executive of Ilex, said:

“We are delighted that the JBC has chosen to host their plenary in Derry during our bid for the 2013 UK City of Culture. This event brings a wealth of business experience to the city and provides us with an opportunity to highlight the city and region as an ideal location for business and investment”.

Valerie Watts, Town Clerk and Chief Executive of Derry City Council, said:

“We are proud to support this event and welcome these business leaders from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland to our City. Derry City Council has strong aspirations that this event will result in successful networking and business development opportunities.”

JBC Chief Executive, Reg McCabe, emphasised the cross-border significance of the event:

“Our plenary will continue to advocate the importance of cross-border collaboration to provide the best possible operating environment for business on this island, for the benefit of both jurisdictions.”

Copies of the conference presentations are available for download on the JBC website: [www.jointbusinesscouncil.com](http://www.jointbusinesscouncil.com)



Julie Jordan, Junior Minister Robin Newton, Hugh Crossey, Sir Roy McNulty, Kirsty McManus



Reg McCabe, Hugh Crossey, Mayor Paul Fleming



Reg McCabe, Julie Jordan, Terence Brannigan, Valerie Watts, Vincent Cunnane

# An all-island Economy

**As North and South face challenging economic times, the Joint Business Council brought together key business figures from both sides of the border to debate the all-island economy, its priorities, potential and the barriers to be overcome. The full discussion is available on the JBC website at [www.jointbusinesscouncil.com](http://www.jointbusinesscouncil.com)**



**Terence Brannigan**  
Chairman,  
CBI Northern Ireland



**Hugh Crossey**  
Managing Partner,  
PricewaterhouseCoopers



**Julie Jordan**  
Director,  
IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council



**Tom Noonan**  
Chief Executive,  
Maxol Group



**Eoin O'Driscoll**  
Chairman,  
Board of Forfás

## Urgent need for Governments to address obstacles to cross border mobility of undergraduates

**At a meeting held in Stormont on 16 February 2010, a delegation representing IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council (JBC) and Universities Ireland (UI), urged Minister for Employment and Learning, Sir Reg Empey to support the introduction of an innovative cross-border Talent Acceleration Programme for graduates.**

The programme's objective is to provide outstanding students with the opportunity to avail of education opportunities in the other jurisdiction, an objective which can be achieved at low cost with support and endorsement from the two Governments.

For the past five years the Joint Business Council and Universities Ireland have been running an innovative scholarship scheme which has seen 20 high-achieving graduates from Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland crossing the border to undertake Masters and PhDs in the other Irish jurisdiction. This year, for the first time, the scheme will incorporate a job placement opportunity with a sponsoring firm, to be managed by IBEC's Export Orientation Programme, the Republic's longest running and most successful graduate placement programme.

Paula O'Dwyer, Projects Manager of the JBC said: The inclusion of a graduate placement opportunity will boost the pool of highly educated graduates on the island of Ireland by supporting education provision and also through provision of positive work

experience. This unique combination can deliver value for graduates, for companies and for the island economy in the current environment where talent uptake opportunities are very limited.

JBC and UI also raised concerns with Minister Empey in relation to the very low numbers of students registering for undergraduate courses in the other jurisdiction.

Enrolment figures indicate that Northern students represent only 1% of the Republic's undergraduate population while the corresponding figure for Southern students in Northern Ireland is just 3.5%. As a result there is very limited cross-fertilisation in terms of education opportunity taking place between the two jurisdictions.

Andy Pollak, Secretary of Universities Ireland said: Entry requirements for A-Level students attending Republic of Ireland universities can be significantly higher than for Leaving Certificate students. The JBC and UI urge the Department for Employment and Learning and the Irish Department of

Education and Science to undertake an assessment of these requirements to ensure that students from one jurisdiction are not being placed at a disadvantage relative to students from the other jurisdiction.

Hugh Crossey, Chairman of the JBC Steering Committee said: "Differential fee structures between universities in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland may also contribute to creating obstacles to cross-border mobility. It is important therefore, that fee structures on both sides of the border do not exacerbate this.

"Equity and equality of cross-border university access should underpin the future policy decisions on fee structures in both jurisdictions, he said.

# All- Island Business Attitudes to Sustainable Energy

**In March 2010, the Joint Business Council commissioned a survey of 600 companies (300 NI and 300 RoI) to assess business attitudes to sustainable energy and energy efficiency.**

The survey was first commissioned by JBC in 2008 and repeated this year to benchmark changes in attitudes and actions of companies around energy efficiency within their operations.

Julie Jordan, Director of the Joint Business Council said "The 2010 results highlight an increase in the percentage of companies with targets or initiatives to improve energy efficiency - the key motivator being cost savings. The main barriers to investing in energy efficiency are cost of technology and lack of financial incentives."

The results showed that, on average, almost three quarters (72%) of business across island either already have taken or plan to take action over the next three years to improve energy efficiency within their companies. For almost all (93%) of those surveyed, cost savings was cited as the key driver to invest in energy efficiency, with related incentives such as financial assistance also being cited as critical.

The survey found that a third of business across the island had conducted an internal energy audit within the last 3 years, with

this figure reaching almost 50% for medium and large energy users (€/ $\pounds$ 100k-500k and €/ $\pounds$ 500k+ respectively).

Almost half (46%) of all companies reported that they now had a structured scheme in place to improve their energy efficiency – a major increase since 2008, when only a third of businesses had such a scheme in place. Again, for medium and large energy users, the figure was substantially higher with 64% and 56% respectively having a scheme in place - demonstrating the significance of energy efficiency cost savings to these companies with higher energy bills.

Of those companies which currently do not have a scheme in place, 28% stated that they have plans in place to implement a scheme within the next 3 years. Again, this figure increased (to 40%) for companies with higher expenditure on energy bills and those in manufacturing rather than services.

Jordan added "Company performance on energy efficiency remains a key priority for business on this island – primarily driven by cost concerns. Our survey found that

energy efficiency was rated as a medium or top priority by up to 84% of companies – highest for those which are medium/large energy users and within manufacturing sectors."

In terms of actions taken by companies, she added: "Actions that companies have taken range from reducing business travel to fine tuning their supply chain as well as efficiencies applied to production processes – the latter of which demonstrates the potential for smart metering within industry – with two thirds (63%) of businesses citing an interest in smart metering."

The study was supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Both the SEAI in the Republic of Ireland and the Carbon Trust in Northern Ireland emerged very favourably in terms of business awareness of the organizations and rating of their performance.

The full report and results are available at [www.jointbusinesscouncil.com](http://www.jointbusinesscouncil.com)

## All-Island Freight Forum

**The inaugural meeting of the North/South Freight Forum took place on 29 January 2010 in Dublin Castle and was hosted jointly by Department for Regional Development (DRD) in Northern Ireland and Department of Transport (DoT) in the Republic of Ireland.**

Presentations were made by Departmental representatives, including DoT Secretary General Tom O'Mahony as well as a range of industry representatives, including JBC CEO Reg McCabe and Tom Wilson of the Freight Transport Association. Five key priority workstreams were identified. At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Transport Sectoral Meeting on 3rd March 2010, Ministers Conor Murphy and Noel Dempsey both commended this initial North/South Freight Forum meeting and asked that five North/South working groups be established to progress the agreed priority areas. The establishment of a Freight Forum was highlighted in the "Freight Transport Report for the Island of Ireland" which was published by the Joint Business Council and InterTradeIreland.



Reg McCabe, Julie Jordan, Tom O'Mahony and Tom Wilson

# Tri-Partite Renewables Research

**Following on from the Joint Business Council Energy Summit in Scotland, work is underway on key recommendations arising from the event.**

In October last year, the Joint Business Council hosted the first tri-partite Energy Summit between Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland, kindly sponsored by SSE Renewables. The three respective ministers with a remit for energy, Arlene Foster, Eamon Ryan and Jim Mather, met collectively for the first time and participated in the Ministerial-Business discussion. The event, which the JBC hosted in Edinburgh, attracted 120 senior representatives from the energy sector and wider business community as well as energy government officials. A number of areas were proposed as potential collaborative opportunities. The Joint Business Council has been exploring these areas, identifying partners, preparing proposals papers and seeking views on project ideas.

On 25 March 2010, JBC facilitated a meeting in Belfast with key stakeholders and the Scottish Energy Technology Partnership (ETP) - an alliance of Scottish universities engaged with industry in world class energy research, development and demonstration. The ETP Director, Simon Puttock, provided an overview of the ETP model and those present from across the island identified a number of shared priorities and actions.

JBC is meeting potential partners regarding an all-island mapping study of renewable research and expertise within third level institutes across NI, ROI and Scotland. The study will produce a valuable information resource for both academia and industry and be a key international promotional tool for the island in the field of renewables.

In addition, both JBC and ETP are collaborating with potential partners regarding a pilot project to facilitate tri-partite renewables research between industry and third level institutes in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. Options being explored include phd scholarships, project-based employees, academic exchange visits and support for development of industry-academia joint funding applications. Alongside these pilot projects, proposals are also being developed for a full-scale tri-partite renewables research initiative involving key players from government, industry and academia across the three countries.



DETI Minister Arlene Foster, Eamon Ryan, TD, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Julie Jordan, IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council, Jim Mather, Department of Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Scotland

Director of the JBC, Julie Jordan, said: "This island has strong wind and marine renewable energy resources – a strength we share with Scotland. It is critical that we optimize collaboration between industry and academia in renewable energies to ensure that we are best placed to fully exploit our renewable potential. The Joint Business Council is progressing a number of options to support tri-partite industry-

academia partnerships in renewables between Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. As a representative body for business, the Joint Business Council wants to ensure research within third level institutes is driven by commercial need and equally that industry is geared up to take full advantage of the R&D within our world-leading research centres."

## Welcome

The JBC would like to welcome Kirsty McManus as the new IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council Programme Manager to be based in CBI Northern Ireland. Kirsty has a Bachelor of Science in Information Management and a Masters of Business Administration. She has spent the last 10 years working as a project manager within the I.T and Economic Development areas. She has also spent significant time working in the United States for Vistage International.

# U.S. and All-Island Renewables Forum Creates Business And Research Opportunities

**The Joint Business Council was a partner in a major two-day Marine Energy and Smart Grid conference which was held to create business and research opportunities between Ireland, Northern Ireland and the U.S. The event attracted 150 senior representatives from the three countries.**

The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Ireland, Eamon Ryan, opened the event on 10 May in Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin. The workshop continued the following day, May 11, at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, led by the Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment, Arlene Foster.

The island of Ireland, located at the extreme edge of Northwest Europe, has an offshore marine territory which covers ten times its landmass and a coastline which is amongst the best in the world for offshore wind, wave and tidal resources according to industry experts.

Companies and organisations attending the two-day workshop explored opportunities in marine energy and smart grid technology and heard about plans to develop the island's resources in this area. The workshop also highlighted opportunities for collaborative projects and partnerships between companies across the island and those in the U.S.

Opening the event, the Irish Minister for Communications, Energy, and Natural Resources Eamon Ryan, said: "This conference will help us tap into the potential we have for renewable energy in Ireland, particularly off our coasts. Governments, business and consumers alike will reap rewards if we can harness the immense power of the oceans. Maximising Ireland's renewable potential, including the development of a smart grid, is Irish Government policy. Today we join with our friends in the US, those in industry and academia to eliminate any obstacles and forge ahead with the new economy."

Hosting the event in Stormont, the Northern Ireland Energy Minister Arlene Foster, said: "Northern Ireland has a strong renewable energy sector with significant growth potential. By profiling our local capabilities and geographic location, global energy companies will be encouraged to

access our technology, skills and advanced expertise. Their market presence will also give local companies the opportunity to network and compete for supply chain opportunities in export markets. As a key investment area, Invest NI is offering advice and support to companies who wish to take advantage of the multi million business opportunities in marine, wind and bio-energy technologies."

The U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Daniel M. Rooney, who also attended the conference and hosted a reception for attendees, said: "We are very pleased to co-host this important conference with both governments and are delighted that we had such strong participation from senior U.S. government officials, which is yet another example of the close ties between the U.S. and the island of Ireland. The turnout and the discussion we will have today also indicate the vast potential for future collaboration by companies and research institutions on both sides of the Atlantic."

Julie Jordan, Joint Business Council Director, said: "This event brings together industry leaders, key energy researchers and Government officials to create greater collaboration in marine energy and smart grid business development and research between the island of Ireland, North and South and the U.S. This fits with one of our JBC key priority areas – energy – and our work to facilitate greater all-island collaboration to ultimately ensure a balanced energy mix, achievement of energy targets and security of energy supply at cost effective prices for business. Energy is a top priority for business on this island and thus a top priority for the Joint Business Council. Supporting collaborations across the island between the two jurisdictions, as well as with GB, European and International partners is a crucial component in taking full advantage of opportunities in this sector and simultaneously addressing our energy challenges."

During the 2 day event, a number of investment announcements were made. Rockhouse Mountain Energy, LLC ("RME"), a U.S. company dedicated to the support, promotion and development of alternative energy sources, announced their intent to construct up to 500MW of wave power generation off the western coast of Ireland by 2020. The wave power systems to be installed will be manufactured by Ocean Power Technologies Inc. ("OPT"), a NASDAQ and AIM-listed company that specializes in the development and commercialization of wave energy based on its proprietary PowerBuoy® device. OPT's PowerBuoy system is based on modular, ocean-going buoys that capture and convert predictable wave energy into low-cost, clean electricity. Its technology and energy systems benefit from over a decade of in-ocean experience and are insured by Lloyds Underwriters of London.

Mr. Robert Jawitz, Manager of RME, noted: "The excellent wave climate, the proactive support of the U.S. Embassy, and the visionary policies and plans of the Irish Government, combined with OPT's planned timetable for the commercial roll out of its PB500 PowerBuoy (500kW), will allow for an OPT wave farm with a total capacity of 500MW to be installed off the Irish coast by 2020 to meet the wave component of Ireland's Energy Plan."

Dr. George W. Taylor, Executive Chairman of OPT, added: "OPT is pleased to be a part of the significant initiatives being undertaken by the Republic of Ireland to harness its plentiful renewable ocean energy resources, which complements our projects in Cornwall and Scotland. Rockhouse Mountain Energy has devoted much effort in recent years to working with the Irish Government and other stakeholders to develop wave energy in Ireland."

Ireland's leading independent energy firm Energia also announced its plans to add wave power to its 220 MW renewable energy portfolio in an initiative that strongly



Dan Rooney US Ambassador to Ireland, Julie Jordan, IBEC-CBI JOint Business Council, DETI Minister Arlene Foster, Kamala Lakhdir US Consul General

supports Government's renewable energy development objectives. The company signed a preliminary off-take agreement (for the purchase of electricity generated) with the pioneering U.S. firm Ocean Energy Systems (OES) whose Wave Energy Converter (WEC) uses wave energy to produce electricity. The off-take agreement has a potential value of €1m annually for each WEC unit being constructed for a 20 year operating life. The electricity will initially be generated from a development test site off Belmullet, Co. Mayo, where the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and OES are jointly developing a Wave Energy Converter prototype. The prototype will be capable of generating 12 Megawatt Hours of electricity each day.

The new technology in the Wave Energy Converter transforms the ocean's wave motion into electricity using the McCabe Wave Pump articulated-barge coupled with a novel power take-off system. Powered by a swell of 2.5 metre high waves for 8.5 secs, the WEC is capable of supplying 500 kilowatts of electricity to the grid – enough to displace 380kg of CO<sub>2</sub> from conventional generation. The power take-off technology is being developed in the U.S. by Dr. Michael McCormick, a professor who specialised in ocean wave energy at the US Naval Academy.

Tom Gillen, Chief Operating Officer, Energia, commented, "This exciting new deal with

Ocean Energy Systems is a natural step for Energia given our longstanding commitment to renewables. There is a massive role for new energy technologies such as this in meeting the Island's future energy needs. Energia already supplies many of the island's leading public and private sector organisations with green power. We look forward to growing our existing green energy client base through the use of new renewable sources such as the Wave Energy Converter, alongside our already considerable bank of wind farms."

Brian Cunningham, Chief Executive, Ocean Energy Systems commented, "The oceans of the world contain as much as 10 trillion watts of renewable energy, and the west coast of this island is recognized as one of the richest wave environments in the world. Energia is making a smart commitment to harness the huge potential that remains largely untapped in the oceans, and we look forward to working with them to help this island use the natural resources to meet its energy needs sustainably."

Through its renewable energy portfolio, Energia is eliminating over 350,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year from the atmosphere – the equivalent of removing the emissions of over 160,000, 1400 cc cars from our roads. In this way, Energia's operations make a very strong contribution to carbon reduction by its electricity customers. These figures will increase

significantly in the years ahead as further green projects come on stream.

The company is a leading all-island player in the provision of renewable power. They have consistently been one of the largest investors in the renewable sector. Following initial wind farm investments in 2003 in Derry, Energia currently has over 220 MW of operational windfarms, and a further 400 MW in development. Energia also sources conventional power from the Group's power stations in north Dublin, where the company has invested €500 million in the capability to supply up to 17% of electricity requirements on an all-island basis.

Energia has a 25% market share of the business electricity market on an all-island basis with over 50,000 customers. The company also supplies one third of all gas consumed by the largest industrial and commercial gas users. Energia has offices in Dublin, Galway, Cork, Belfast and Omagh.

Joint Business Council Director, Julie Jordan, said: "These business partnerships are to be commended and demonstrate the value of facilitating and supporting joint meetings, discussions and events both on a cross-border basis and with international counterparts."

## Four students presented with North/South postgraduate scholarships

**The IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council and Universities Ireland presented four students with masters' scholarships, worth €15,000 each, at an awards ceremony in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast on 7th December, 2009. The scholarships will assist students who are crossing the border to undertake postgraduate studies in the other part of the island.**

This unique scheme is a joint initiative by the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council, which promotes North-South business co-operation and Universities Ireland, which promotes collaboration between Northern and Southern universities. It aims to improve collaboration between the business and higher education sectors on the island. Congratulating the students on their success, CBI Vice Chairman, Brian Ambrose said:

"An important priority for business is the availability of an educated, well-trained and adaptable workforce that will enable companies to compete on the world stage. Education and training at all levels of progression have an essential role to play in putting our two economies back on a growth path. This postgraduate scholarship scheme aims to support this by promoting collaboration across the island."

Outlining the Joint Business Council's proposal to expand the scheme to incorporate a graduate placement opportunity to be managed by the Export Orientation Programme, Brian Ambrose said:

"The extension of the current scholarship scheme format to include a graduate placement opportunity will improve the pool of skilled labour on the island of Ireland by supporting the higher education of graduates and providing positive work experience to graduates that allows them to gain an appreciation of working in a company"



Pictured at the awards ceremony on 7 December were (l-r) Reg McCabe, JBC Chief Executive, Paula O'Dwyer, JBC Projects Manager, Andy Pollak, Secretary Universities Ireland, Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment and Learning and students; Deirdre McKenna, Bryan Mukandi, Anna Magee and Mairéad Cantwell.

Business scholarships were presented to the following students:

Mairéad Cantwell, a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, doing an MSc in Spatial Regeneration at Queen's University Belfast. This scholarship was part-funded by RPS.  
Anna Magee, a graduate of University of Ulster, doing an MSc in Energy Management at Dublin Institute of Technology. This scholarship was part-funded by Dublin Port.

Universities Ireland North-South Masters scholarships were presented to:

Bryan Mukandi, a graduate of National University of Ireland Galway, doing a Masters in Political Philosophy at Queen's University Belfast.  
Deirdre McKenna, a graduate of Queen's University Belfast, doing a PhD in Architecture at University College Dublin.

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