

Centre for Competitiveness

Business Bulletin News

JUNE 2020

Northern Ireland Companies must 'Stay Alert' to the global challenge.

The year 2020 has been a watershed year in the history of the nation and in the global economic landscape. The Covid-19 Pandemic coming ahead of the looming Brexit uncertainties, possible recession and increases in cost will present the Northern Ireland private sector with significant competitive challenges in the days and months ahead. Some companies will not be equipped to survive because they do not have the fundamental concepts of Competitiveness in place to thrive and grow. Post Covid-19 there will be a fundamental shift in the nature and style of Competitiveness. This shift will affect the way we live and make a living. The next phase will be driven by transformations that have already started to take place during the lockdown: These include:

- (1) The shift towards a new society and geopolitical uncertainty
- (2) The restructuring to a new economy with increased regulation
- (3) Communications will be a Critical Element
- (4) The Emergence of innovative New Enterprises
- (5) New Skills for new ways of working / Digital Disruption
- (6) Total Flexibility in supply chains with resource scarcity
- (7) Environmental - Climate Change and Decarbonization
- (8) International Accreditation based on 'Excellence' in Systems and Leadership will be the new 'Competitive Edge for Organisations—regardless of size, scale or sector.

The Centre for Competitiveness operates within global partnerships by the same mission and desire as other nations to see their region prosper and provide a future for those that follow.

This world is changing forever so it's time that business leaders and government started to rethink and reboot our economy in a joint mission; NOT impossible. This is where political leadership and informed business leadership are essential. Leaders are responsible to lead and create the strategic roadmaps for their region. There are many tools and techniques available to assist the willing in carving out new and niche opportunities through rethinking strategy, innovation and igniting growth. As organisations are emerging from Lockdown to a changed and uncertain business climate they will need to plan for and chart a Pathway through;



1. A Re-opening and Recovery Phase
2. A Business Consolidation Phase
3. A Growth and Sustainability Phase

The Centre can assist and support organisations through these phases of transition through a range of business tools and techniques based on Best Practice in Systems, Processes and Leadership. Frameworks such as the world class European Leadership and Business Management assessment model with its sub-framework on innovation leadership are readily available to those spurred on towards achieving a sustainable future while managing change and the transformation needed to survive. This same European Leadership and Management assessment model is equally effective in supporting change in the public and voluntary sectors of the economy as some have experienced.

A few companies are steadily gearing up for international competition, but not enough and this needs to be addressed by people and the sheer determination to win for the sake of those coming after us. There are companies with us today that came through the 2008/9 financial crises because they adopted the remedies provided to them through the Centre's well-equipped arsenal of tools and techniques and a highly competent and industry experienced staff. The Centre provides strong regional value in innovation and business management leadership in the public, private and voluntary sectors to drive new opportunities and embed a continuous improvement and innovation culture within an organisation. On-line, confidential, self-assessment tools are available to organisations with a global knowledge base available for participants as an added service. www.cforc.org

Our Values

Since its founding in 1990 the Centre for Competitiveness has had as its core mission advancing the quality of life and prosperity of business and organisations and by extension all citizens. For over thirty years, our members and those that served on our Board have worked with passion to provide increased opportunities and contribute to the country's competitiveness through training, skills enhancement, participating in global research, and providing the latest tools and techniques from around the world to provide the best, up to date, business improvement services. The Centre is totally self-funded by Membership and service delivery and while inexpensive, membership demonstrates a committed by organisations and business to the Centre's societal values, competence and support for private sector leadership in accelerating competitiveness through collaboration. For details contact: bob.barbour@cforc.org



Bob Barbour
Director & CEO

TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP



The Centre for Competitiveness and Queens University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) on the 8th day of June 2020 around the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (“AMIC”). AMIC is an Innovation Project of the Belfast Region City Deal (“BRCD”), which is led by Queen’s but is highly collaborative in nature and brings together key partners including Ulster and a number of industry partners.

The role of the Centre will be

- To further enhance AMIC’s support to its client companies by providing a conduit to CforC’s international partnerships in innovation, productivity and quality.
- To advise AMIC’s client companies on appropriate development actions based upon CforC’s broad knowledge and portfolio of support instruments developed over the past 25 years.
- To introduce AMIC client companies to CforC’s broad partner network where there is perceived to be potential, mutual benefit.
- To ensure clear communication between the activities of the Advanced Composites Collaborative Network and the ongoing development of AMIC.
- To assume any devolved responsibilities on behalf of AMIC as may relate to the Advanced Composites Collaborative Network and which will directly assist in the development of AMIC.
- To assist AMIC in road mapping technology and investment needs supporting the development of Advanced Composites to meet Industry needs. Contact: Dr Alan Blair on alan.blair@cforc.org or info@compete.org

RE-IGNITING GROWTH EUROPEAN INNOVATION FRAMEWORK

“**Innovation** – the practical translation of ideas into new or existing products, services and solutions, processes, systems, organisational structures or social interactions”

The European Innovation Lens focuses on the activities, processes and culture that combine to stimulate innovation and encourage it to flourish. It represents a broad view of innovation and aims to measure tangible business impact (Results), in relation to organisation’s Direction and the degree of success in Execution. In 21st Century competitive economies you can choose to INNOVATE or DIE. For more insights on what this means for your organization contact: George.wilson@cforc.org or info@compete.org

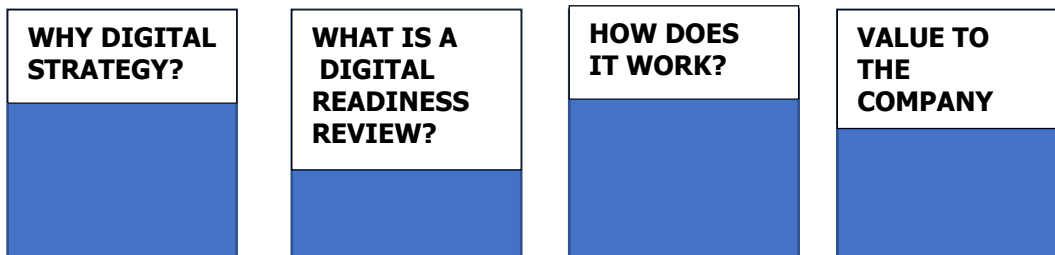


DIGITAL READINESS

A DIGITAL STRATEGY FOR YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANISATION

Digital transformation describes the process of improving competitiveness and gaining business advantage by applying digital technologies to existing and new business models in innovative ways for exponential impact. Technology is no longer simply a business enabler but is also a business driver.

Where to start?



Before investing in digitalisation, organisations should strategize and plan every aspect of their business, What technologies are right for the business and how they can get the most out of the 4th Industrial revolution. To enable this a free online assessment tool is available which looks at 9 defined levels of readiness, each evaluating the use of different technologies. The tool assesses the process technologies and leadership decisions that impact a company’s Digital strategy. Facilitation of this process with a management team is recommended and provided by the Centre. For more insights on how this can help your organization contact: Dr Paul Madden at paul.madden@cfotrc.org or info@compete.org

TALENT - PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH PEOPLE

ESSENTIAL SKILLS TRAINING & COACHING

Total Quality Systems Curriculum

- Value Stream Mapping
- 5S & 7 Wastes
- PDCA
- Process Mapping
- Creative Problem Solving
- APQP & PPAP
- Six Sigma (all belt classes)
- Fundamentals of Production
- Team Leader Development
- Balanced Scorecard

Engagement – Knowledge - Measurement



For more insights into improving productivity through people contact

william.usscher@cforc.org or info@compete.org

Centre for Competitiveness

STRATEGIC DRIVERS & EXECUTION FRAMEWORK

EFQM 2020	INNOVATION LENS	DIGITAL STRATEGY	TALENT
Business Breakthrough Roadmap with on-line assessment & European Recognition	New Products & Services with on-line Assessment & on-line Global Knowledge Base	On-line Digital Readiness Assessment Leadership Technology Value	Skills, Careers, Diversity & Inclusion Cultural Transformation

(ADS) Aerospace, Defence, Security & Space	HOSPITALITY & TOURISM	SMART GRID IRELAND Cluster Secretariat
21 st Century Supply Chain Improvement Program for Certification Competitiveness & Growth Supply Base Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Diagnostic & Advisory Services • Management Development • China Tourism market COTRI programmes and International Certification for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations - People - Destinations 	ENERGY SUPPLY Electricity Digitalization Decarbonization Decentralization

MISSION

“To actively support the development of an internationally competitive economy through Innovation, Productivity and Quality Excellence in the public, private and voluntary sectors. “

A shift in economic power is currently underway as organizations look towards new ways of doing business. Given this scenario, it is imperative for stakeholders to keep pace with the dramatically evolving competitive international landscape, anticipate new avenues of growth and competition, create smart business models, and capitalize on these advancements taking over the global market.

The Team at the Centre for Competitiveness is here to assist. The Centre was established by industry for the express purpose of providing leadership and improving and supporting organisations become internationally competitive, grow and prosper.

COMPETENCY BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Bob Barbour – Director & CEO (Retiring) Ex Digital Corp, USA
- Dr Paul Madden – Director & Digital Lead Ex Rolls Royce
- Dr Alan Blair – Associate (Aerospace & Innovation) Lead Ex Bombardier
- Dr Tony Lenehan – Director (Tourism, EFQM & COTRI) Ex Failte Ireland
- George Wilson MSc – EFQM, Innovation and Recognition Ex Ulster University
- William Ussher Bsc – Manufacturing Systems Lead Ex Ford Motor Company

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Kingon (Managing Partner PWC – Retired)	Chairman
Bob Barbour	Director & Chief Executive
Dr Tony Lenehan	Executive Director (ROI)
Joe O’Neill (Belfast Harbour Commissioners)	Managing Director
Paul Stapleton (NIE Networks)	Managing Director
Ian Campbell (Translink)	Operations Director
David Watson (Ryobi)	Managing Director
Andrew Robinson (Boomer Ind)	Managing Director
John Irwin (Denroy Plastics)	Managing Director
Dr Paul Madden (Ex MR Rolls Royce)	Associate Consultant
Brian O’Hare (Bombardier)	Transformation Director
Brian McAreavey (PWC)	Partner & Director
Claire McAlinden (Queens University)	Operations Director NITC
Damian Duffy (Belfast Met College)	Operations Director
Richard Holmes	Causeway Coast & Glens Councillor
Joe O’Mahony	Board Member,, Lagan (ROI)

International & National Partnerships

- European Foundation for Quality Management, Brussels with 28 country partners
- United States Council on Competitiveness, Washington DC
- Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils with 33 global partners and universities
- ADS – UK (Aerospace, Defence, Security & Space organisation)
- COTRI – Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute
- DRL – UK Digital Readiness Organisation & High-Speed Manufacturing Research Institute

We welcome any suggestions on improvement to the information provided and what additional types of information you would be interested in.

Next Newsletter edition will provide some additional information on the Centre’s support for its members with case study examples addressing some local and international developments.

Please email: bob.barbour@cforc.org