

News release

Date: Thursday, 30 March 2017

Title: University–business partnerships power Welsh economy

Business leaders, entrepreneurs, politicians and top Welsh academics celebrated the launch this week of a new collection of case studies highlighting the value to the Welsh economy of research and development activity in our universities.

Innovation Nation / Torri Tir Newydd is the first comprehensive showcase of the contribution Wales’s universities make outside academia.



More than 100 delegates attended the reception in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, which was opened by the **Skills and Science Minister, Julie James**. University exhibitors were on hand to offer further insight into their collaborations with local, national, and international businesses.

Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James said: “I am pleased to promote these excellent case studies which showcase the high standard of Welsh Government supported research and development underway in universities and businesses in Wales.

“The case studies show high quality examples of internationally renowned industries working with world-class research capability and demonstrate why Wales has a growing reputation as a location of choice for innovation, creativity and technology. I hope they will inspire more businesses in the areas of science, engineering and technology to come to Wales.”

Drew Nelson, President and CEO of IQE, a Cardiff-based global leader in the design and manufacture of advanced, compound semiconductor wafer products, spoke at the event. He described how his company’s thriving partnership with Cardiff University has been further boosted by the UK Government’s decision to locate a £50m Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult in South East Wales.



(left to right: Sasha Davies, David Allen, Julie James, Rob Humphreys, Drew Nelson)

Sasha Davies, Head of Strategic Development for Wylfa Newydd told delegates how Bangor University and Horizon Nuclear Power are working together to prepare graduates for work in the nuclear sector.

“Our agreement with Bangor University furthers our ongoing commitment to supporting skills development and training across North Wales, creating long term career opportunities for the region’s young people. We look forward to working with the University as the Wylfa Newydd project moves forward, utilising the first class research and development facilities and expertise it has developed over many years.”

David Allen, HEFCW Chair concluded:

“Through their wide-ranging R&D and training activities, our universities bring real benefit to the economy of Wales. These case studies represent only a small sample, but they provide an insight into how our universities work closely with their partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors to make a difference to all our lives.”

You can find the full report at www.hefcw.ac.uk - Innovation Nation / Torri Tir Newydd

Ends

Contact:

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Notes

The Senedd reception was organised by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) it was sponsored jointly by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure.

HEFCW has published this brand new collection of case studies, ***Innovation Nation / Torri Tir Newydd***, to highlight the value to the Welsh economy of innovation activity in our universities.

The case studies are presented under four themes:

1. Creating / safeguarding jobs
2. Attracting investment
3. Skills and work-based learning
4. Collaborative projects

About HEFCW

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is the public body that sits between universities and the Welsh Government. We regulate fee levels at higher education (HE) providers, ensure a framework is in place for assessing the quality of higher education and scrutinise the performance of universities.

We distribute resources for higher education teaching and research, and help to deliver Welsh Government priorities for higher education for the wider benefit of society and the economy.