



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Innovation Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Proposed appointment of an additional three members to the Innovation Board

Report Author: Matt Wright

Matthew.Wright@lancashirelep.co.uk

Executive Summary

This report refers to nominations for the remaining three vacant positions on the Innovation Board

Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the three nominations as set out in the report and recommend them to the LEP Board for approval.

Background and Advice

At the meeting on the 23rd June 2020 the LEP Board approved the establishment of an Innovation Board, for the purpose of holding to account the delivery of the innovation activities in the Innovation Plan and to set future strategic innovation priorities.

The Board, which is a Committee of the main LEP Board, consists of a maximum of 15 members and meets four times per year, or subject to business need. The current membership of the Board is set out below.

Chair	G Baldwin	Vice Chancellor, UCLan
Deputy Chair	C Whelan	(Corporate & Finance)
Co-opted LEP Member	T Attard OBE DL	(Corporate & Manufacturing)
Skills & International Rep	Vacancy	TBA
UK RI Rep	R Holland	Regional Manager, Innovate UK



Universities Rep	D Williams	Director of R&I, Lancaster University
Research & Science Rep	N Jones	Engineering & Physical Sciences Council
Start-up, Micro & SME Rep	J Binnion	The Growing Club CIC
Strategy & Branding Rep	J Dalton	Groundswell Innovation Ltd
Thematic – Health & Life Sciences	L Green	Innovation Agency (AHSN)
Thematic – Energy & Environment	L Roche	Westinghouse Ltd
Thematic – Manufacturing & Construction	P Lee	Victrex Ltd
Thematic – Digital, Creative & Marketing	Vacancy	TBA
Thematic – Professional & Services	G Dykes	British Business Bank

At least three members of the Board comprise Lancashire registered SMEs and two comprise large Lancashire sited companies to provide at least six private sector members. The current Board provides a 7/7 (50/50) gender split, a 9/5 private to public (/HEI) split including a variety of types and sizes of organisation, and a broad geographic spread across the county.

At the meeting in November 2020 the Chair presented a report regarding the 3 vacancies on the Board, which if filled would take the membership to the maximum of 15 as permitted by the Terms of Reference. It was noted that during the initial recruitment process for Board members potential gaps had been identified with regard to representation on the Board from a small/medium sized enterprise in the technology/software/digital space, a representative from the Blackburn area and a person with a public facing international role.

Board members were asked to forward any contact details for potential candidates to fill the three vacancies to the Chair and the Innovation and Digital Lead for Economic Development at Lancashire County Council, for consideration.

Since then three candidates for membership of the Board have been identified. After initial discussions with the Chair regarding their suitability, interest and potential contribution, some background information about each candidate is presented in this report for consideration by the Board.

Candidates

Mike Gibson – Managing Director Miralis Data Ltd

Over the last 25 years Mike has constantly innovated, launched new and exciting products and services that others want, reshaped businesses, built great teams, created value and grown companies and people.



He co-owns Miralis Data, a company focused on helping improve the planet by reducing vehicle emissions through optimisation and the transition to electric vehicles. This logistics optimisation offer includes packing algorithms to maximise pallet and container loads (working with Diageo, Disney, Heineken, Estee Lauder and many more); routing and scheduling, where it's built the brain behind Route Monkey and Iceland's home delivery platform); fleet determination; depot, network and warehouse optimisation; and last mile delivery. The other area of expertise is electric vehicles where the company offers solutions around transition readiness; smart charging algorithms; and EV network platforms.

Mike has extensive experience of securing innovation grants, particularly from Innovate UK and collaborating with Lancashire universities.

Judson Smythe, Technical Director MGS Plastics Ltd

Judson is a Technical Director of MGS Plastics which is based on Centurion Business Park in Blackburn and provides injection moulded plastic services to industry

With a solid foundation in the manufacturing industry Judson's areas of focus are business improvement, technical project management, change management, leadership, technical sales and customer relations. These skills, developed and refined through global experience, enhance his ability to deliver cross functional solutions and satisfy a multitude of business needs.

Judson was a panellist on the Innovation in Manufacturing Panel at the inaugural Lancashire Innovation Festival and is passionate about supporting the wider innovation ecosystem particularly in regards to STEM skills and talent development.

Melissa Conlon, Commercial Director, AMRC (NW)

Melissa is an Experienced Commercial Director with a demonstrated history of working in the information technology and services industry. Skilled in Business Planning, Analytical Skills, Coaching, Customer Relationship Management (CRM), and Public Speaking she has travelled the world examining best practise in relation to Industry 4.0 and the new AMRC (NW) building is being constructed on the Salmesbury EZ site.

AMRC specialises in carrying out world-leading research into advanced machining, manufacturing and materials, which is of practical use to industry. The 100-plus industrial partners range from global giants like Boeing, Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems and Airbus to small companies. Businesses can work with them on a one-off project, or join as a member for long-term collaboration.

As a key anchor institution within the Lancashire innovation ecosystem, Melissa (as lead of AMRC North West) has led significant funding bids for the institution and the wider county.



If appointed the additional 3 Board members will give an 8/7 female to male gender split, a 8/7 private to public (/HEI) split including a variety of types and sizes of organisation, and a broad geographic spread across the County.

Should the Board approve the nominations it will be necessary to seek approval from the LEP Board to formally confirm the appointments.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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