

Report to Partnership Meeting 11 September 2020
RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY
CIVTECH 5.0

PURPOSE OF REPORT

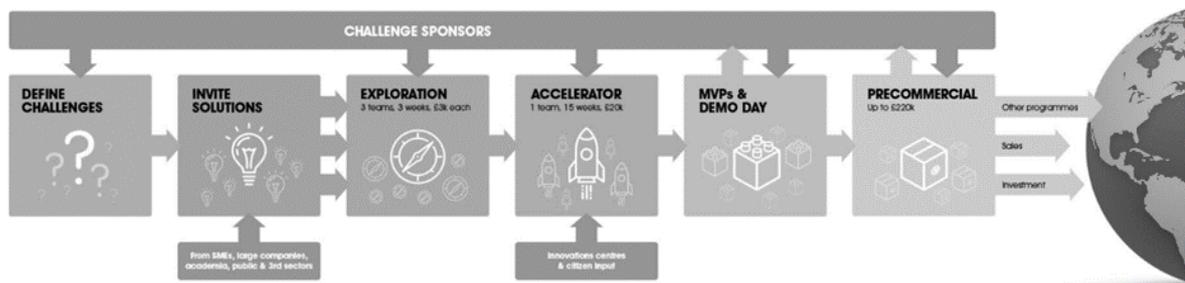
To update Members on HITRANS involvement in the CivTech 5.0 project. Feedback is welcome on additional information that might be helpful to include.

OVERVIEW

HITRANS is currently involved in the CivTech 5.0 programme to address a specified transport challenge, “*How can we use technology to create a smart and sustainable travel network in remote and rural areas?*”. This issue was identified when considering the geography of the Highlands and Islands and the associated challenging transport environment, covering almost 50% of Scotland’s landmass but with only 10% of its population. While dispersed settlements are reliant on a good transport network for connectivity and access to key services, the financial sustainability of traditional transport services is a significant challenge. Traditional models are based on a “critical mass” of demand which by its very nature is lacking in most rural and remote areas. Now more than ever it is important we understand the transport available for use within the region (including buses, ferries, trains, car clubs and cycling), and create a more flexible, demand-responsive system that meets the needs of users, calculates and understands travel patterns as well as addressing cost efficiencies and long-term viability. The CivTech 5.0 alliance has aided in the navigation of procurement routes and introduced innovative businesses to solve the challenge.

UPDATE

The CivTech 5.0 process has 6 stages, shown in figure below, HITRANS has completed the shortlisting of candidates from 6 to 3 and is entering the Exploration stage. Initially, HITRANS defined the challenge and presented it as an open question to avoid targeting any pre-determined solutions, launching on July 10th 2020. A short video was produced and published to accompany this, outlining the problem and introducing the HITRANS team. Through Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) HITRANS received a total of 16 applications, with solutions ranging from solely technological innovations to those considering the individual demographics being addressed and the Covid-19 pandemic. The HITRANS team reviewed and scored each application before collaborating with the CivTech team to shortlist 6 candidates. The candidates chosen were; The Open Transport Initiative, Liftango, ViaVan Technologies, Data Understood Ltd, Routable AI and Ove Arup and Partners Limited. On the 17th August the 6



candidates presented their individual proposals and answered further questions. Following this, these 6 candidates were further sifted down to 3; Data Understood, Routable AI and Liftango.

CIVTECH 5.0 KEY DATES

Challenge Call 10 to 31 July 2020	Challenges will be published on Public Contracts Scotland on 10 July. The CivTech team will manage all liaison with Public Contracts Scotland and arrange to distribute all application, evaluation material and coordinate evaluation activities.
Challenge Sponsor Induction Day 14 July 2020	CivTech will offer the Challenge Sponsor an opportunity to take part in an induction day, where the most important aspects of the programme will be explained and discussed.
Sift to 6 Applications 3 to 7 August 2020	The Challenge Sponsors and CivTech will score and select up to six applications per Challenge to be taken forward for interview.
6 to 3 Interviews 17 to 21 August 2020	The six selected companies will attend an interview and pitch for a place on the Exploration Stage.
Exploration Stage 7 to 18 September 2020	Selected teams, working with their Challenge Sponsor, will further develop their proposal. The first day of the Exploration Stage on 7 September will give companies and Challenge Sponsors the opportunity to meet and learn more about one another, as well as meeting the CivTech team and learning about expectations and outcomes.
Exploration Final Interviews 21 to 25 September 2020	The selected three companies will attend interviews and deliver their final pitch for a place on the Accelerator. Challenge Sponsors and CivTech will assess and score each interview to select one company to go through to the Accelerator Stage.
Accelerator Stage 19 October 2020 to 22 January 2021	The real hard work begins! This exciting fourteen week Accelerator Stage is designed for Challenge Sponsors, companies and CivTech to work dynamically and collaboratively towards a prototype or MVP (Minimum Viable Product). CheckGate weeks are designed to provide a staged, formal review of progress towards the prototype (MVP), with tranced payments linked to the successful completion of the CheckGate meetings. Dates will be confirmed as soon as possible during these weeks: CheckGate 1 – w.c. 19 October 2020 CheckGate 2 – w.c. 16 November 2020 CheckGate 3 – w.c. 14 December 2020 CheckGate 4 – w.c. 11 January 2021
Demo Day week 25 to 29 January 2021	The CivTech Accelerator culminates in Demo Day, where companies and Challenge Sponsors demonstrate and present their solutions. Arrangements for the 2021 Demo Day are still to

	be confirmed however the Challenge Sponsor Teams and senior executives from their organisation usually attend.
Pre-commercial stage	If progress during the Accelerator is judged to be successful, the Pre-commercial stage is negotiated towards the end of the Accelerator with the support of the CivTech team. The scale and nature of these agreements are bespoke to the needs of each Challenge.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – The transport challenge HITRANS is pursuing through CivTech 5.0 supports several RTS objectives, particularly the aim to reduce barriers to participation in employment, learning, social, leisure, health and cultural activities through improved transport networks in a sustainable way.

Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS involvement with CivTech supports broader policy work in a variety of ways, including any possible solution to the challenge making areas better connected and rural areas more accessible.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS made use of CivTech 5.0 as it offered engagement and innovative possibilities in a cost-effective environment.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – This collaboration with CivTech is targeted at improving the availability and accessibility of transport services in the HITRANS area, ensuring quality of connectivity in remote and rural areas

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:-

1. Note the report.

Report by: Kelly Martin
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Date: 1st September 2020