HI▶TRANS
THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Report to Partnership Meeting 13 November 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.
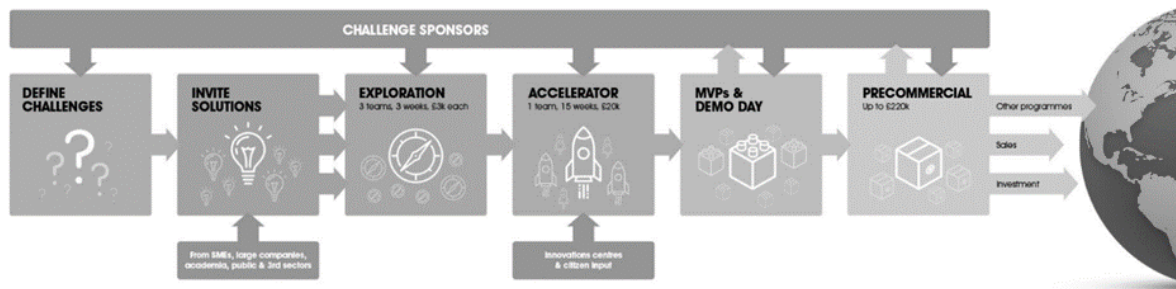
OVERVIEW

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 a single candidate to take forward to the Accelerator 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.

From the 7th-18th of September these selected teams further developed their proposals with opportunities to collaborate with HITRANS in the Exploration Stage. At the end of this period the candidates delivered their final pitch for a place on the Accelerator. HITRANS and CivTech assessed and scored each interview to select one company to go through to the Accelerator Stage; Routable AI. We have now entered the fourteen week Accelerator Stage with Routable AI 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 tranched payments linked to the successful completion of the CheckGate meetings. HITRANS and Routable AI have engaged in Checkgate 1, with Checkgate 2 happening on November 16th.

CIVTECH 5.0 KEY DATES

Challenge Call 10 to 31 July 2020	
Challenge Sponsor Induction Day 14 July 2020	
Sift to 6 Applications 3 to 7 August 2020	
6 to 3 Interviews 17 to 21 August 2020	
Exploration Stage 7 to 18 September 2020	
Exploration Final Interviews 21 to 25 September 2020	

Accelerator Stage 19 October 2020 to 22 January 2021	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: 4th November 2020