MEET THE AMBASSADORS:

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

MEET THE AMBASSADORS:

ANN BEYNON, OBE
DIRECTOR WALES, BT

Ann Beynon has been Director of Wales at BT since 2006. In this role her emphasis is on helping people, businesses and communities in Wales harness the opportunities of communication technologies. In addition to being Equality and Human Rights Commission's Commissioner for Wales, Ms Benyon has been on the board for various media-related national and UK organisations and was appointed as HRH the Prince of Wales' Ambassador to the community in Wales in 2007. Ms Beynon was awarded an OBE in 2008.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Trends are positive in this sector, with good potential for growth. There is a diverse range of software related companies in North Wales, with larger scale enterprises in the North East; Deeside is home to Unilever's Global IT Service Centre, with the headquarters of Moneysupermarket. com PLC close to Chester.

Overall the region has a good entrepreneurial base of small scale, 'homegrown' software development companies which have already attracted investment from private equity and other sources of funds. There is significant Research & Development (R&D) expertise and capacity for developing new technologies in the Computer Sciences sector. For example, the Centre for Advanced Software Technology (CAST) at Bangor University is a Centre of Excellence for the development of visualisation technology and applications.

The sector is well supported by Software Alliance Wales which assists innovation and growth amongst the ICT and Software Sector in Convergence Areas of Wales, with a mission to *"promote Wales as a key driving force in Software Development"*.

Entrepreneurial start-ups are also well supported through the Centre for Advanced Software (CAST), part of the University of Bangor, which provides incubation facilities for companies in the software sector and also provides business support. These resources are underpinned by the £40 million pound investment in the High Performance Computing (HPC) Wales programme. HPC Wales is an innovative collaboration which gives businesses and researchers access to world-class, secure and easy to use HPC technology.

At a strategic level, policy is seeking to build capacity, with an advisory panel to the Welsh Government seeking to *"Establish Wales as a 'connected' region with a reputation, domestically and internationally, as a responsive place to start, grow and sustain an ICT sector business"*. Investment in infrastructural capacity is delivering rapid results; the Welsh Government and BT are working in partnership on the £425 million 'Superfast Cymru' programme to develop a nationwide superfast broadband infrastructure. Work has recently begun in Gwynedd

A recent report by the Sector Skills Council for e-skills shows that IT employment as a whole is set to grow by 2.5% a year over the next five years, more than three times the rate predicted for UK employment as a whole. Business analysts such as Dylan Jones-Evans have advocated Wales taking the initiative in exploiting these predicted expansions in 'cloud' and 'big data' computing. Plugging the skills and qualifications gap is a key strategic priority, and there are relevant Higher and Further Education courses available across North Wales, for example at Coleg Llandrillo.

**SKILLED UP
FOR THE FUTURE.**

In partnership with:

ESF

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ewrop & Chymru: Buddsoddi yn eich dyfodol
Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
Europe & Wales: Investing in your future
European Social Fund

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CYNGOR
GWYNEDD
COUNCIL

NDA
Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority