

# Technology Strategy Board

## Driving Innovation

### Press release

11 January 2012

#### **Preparatory studies will help develop 'Internet of Things' applications and services**

Ten British companies are to receive up to £50,000 each to undertake preparatory studies to better understand how to move towards an application and services marketplace in the 'Internet of Things'.

This is the first investment in a government-backed initiative, managed by the Technology Strategy Board ([www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org)), aimed at encouraging and accelerating the formation of an Internet of Things ecosystem of applications and services. Following the completion of the preparatory studies, the Technology Strategy Board will invest up to £4 million later in 2012 in a funding competition that will lead to the development of a convergence demonstrator, which will show the benefits to be gained by merging applications and services together through an Internet of Things.

The Internet of Things<sup>1</sup> describes the trend for environments, buildings, vehicles, clothing, portable devices and other objects to have more and more information associated with them and/or the ability to sense, communicate, network and produce new information. A widespread Internet of Things could transform how we live in our cities, how we travel, how we manage our lives sustainably, how we age and how services and entertainment accompany us and adapt as our surroundings change.

David Bott, Director of Innovation Programmes at the Technology Strategy Board, said:

“The Internet of Things has the potential to stimulate large scale investment, create jobs and bring substantial economic growth. The number of connected objects is estimated to reach 50 billion by 2020, and the potential added value of services using the Internet of Things is likely to be in the range of hundreds of billions of pounds a year, with new business models, applications and services across different sectors of the economy.”

The ten companies leading the preparatory studies are: AIMEs Grid Services, British Telecommunications plc, Cambridge Wireless Ltd, Focus Innovation Ltd, Globosense Ltd, Housing 21, In Touch Ltd, InteliTap Ltd, Swirrl IT Ltd and WattBox Ltd.

The Technology Strategy Board has also established a Special Interest Group of relevant companies and organisations to build awareness of the opportunities provided by the Internet of Things, help shape the Technology Strategy Board's programme and promote wider participation. In particular, the Special

Interest Group is carrying out a research and development road-mapping project, in collaboration with the Research Councils. The results of the project are likely to be released in a few months time.

<sup>1</sup>Various other terms have been used with the broadly similar meaning in other contexts, such as Pervasive Internet, Connected Environments, Smart Places, Smart Cities, Connected Cars, Ubiquitous Computing, Everyware, Connected World, Physical Internet, Smart Homes, Smart Meters, Wireless Sensor Networks, Ambient Intelligence, M2M, Web of Things, etc.

## Ends

### Notes to Editors:

1. The **Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led government body which works to create economic growth by ensuring that the UK is a global leader in innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit: [Technology Strategy Board website](#).
2. The vision of the Technology Strategy Board is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation and a magnet for innovative businesses, where technology is applied rapidly, effectively and sustainably to create wealth and enhance quality of life. Our approach to accelerating the pace of innovation in the UK is captured in our strategy document, *Concept to Commercialisation*, published in May 2011. This builds on our first strategy, developed in 2008, and sets out new directions, taking into account the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead. To see the new strategy please visit: [Concept to Commercialisation](#).
3. The Technology Strategy Board's [\\_connect](#) platform provides an effective and powerful way to collaborate online, network and share knowledge with other innovators. It provides a place to work together securely and share information & knowledge. Users can utilise the online tools to work collaboratively, discuss ideas and find events. The networks offer up-to-the minute news on funding, events, articles and publications, plus information about all 15 Knowledge Transfer Networks. Through the networks, users can find potential business partners, entrepreneurs, collaborators, other innovators, researchers and academics.
4. The offer of funding is conditional and remains subject to the successful completion of Technology Strategy Board compliance and financial review processes. To view / download a list of the projects please visit: [IoT preparatory projects](#).
5. For further information about the *Internet of Things convergence* competition for funding of preparatory studies please visit: [IoT competition](#) and the [\\_Connect](#) site: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/internet-of-things-convergence>.
6. For further information about the Internet of Things Special Interest Group please visit: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/internet-of-things>.
7. Media enquiries **only** should be addressed to the Technology Strategy Board's media relations consultant or manager:  
Nick Sheppard

Media Relations Consultant  
Mobile: 07824 599644, Email: [nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk)

Claire Cunningham  
Media Relations Manager  
Mobile: 07554 115745 Email: [claire.cunningham@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:claire.cunningham@tsb.gov.uk).

8. Companies and other organisations seeking information about Technology Strategy Board funding competitions should visit the Competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – [Competitions page](#) , email <mailto:competitions@innovateuk.org> or phone the Competitions Helpline at 0300 321 4357.
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