



Training and the Space Industry Skillnet in Ireland

Danny Gleeson
Network Promoter

Introduction

- Profile of Irish Space Industry
- Drivers & Barriers for Irish Space Industry Growth
- Origin of Space Industry Skillnet Training Network
- Experience to Date & Lessons Learnt
- Relationship with SINEQUANET
- Plans for the Future

Profile of Irish Space Industry

- Ireland has been a member of ESA since 1980
- There is no Irish national space programme
- Irish space companies are all SME's (10 to 100 staff)
- Space is typically < 25% of their business
- Space is an enabling influence for technology & quality
- Most have benefited from technology transfer & spin off
- All want to expand their space activities

Drivers for Irish Space Industry Growth

- Irish ESA budget has doubled in 5 years
- Ireland consistently under-returned in ESA programmes
- New companies willing to participate in ESA projects
- Existing space companies want to expand activities
- Very successful track record of technology transfer
- Access to central government funds for training



Barriers to Irish Space Industry Growth


- Shortage of basic space industry knowledge
 - Designing for Space Environment
 - Manufacturing for Space
 - Environmental Test for Space
 - Software Development for Space
 - Quality & Safety for Space
- Insufficient access to space expertise
- Poor record of industrial partnerships with ESA SME's
- Lack of exposure & credibility with European primes



Origin of Space Industry Training Network

- The Space Industry Skillnet training network launched in February 2006.
- Provision of long term sustainable training & support to Irish space companies.
- Objective: lower barrier to entry to space industry for Irish SME's.
- Provide access to world class, high quality, space & business related skills training.





Through the creation of enterprise-led Learning Networks, Skillnets supports groups of firms to come together and devise training and development initiatives to meet their collective skills needs.

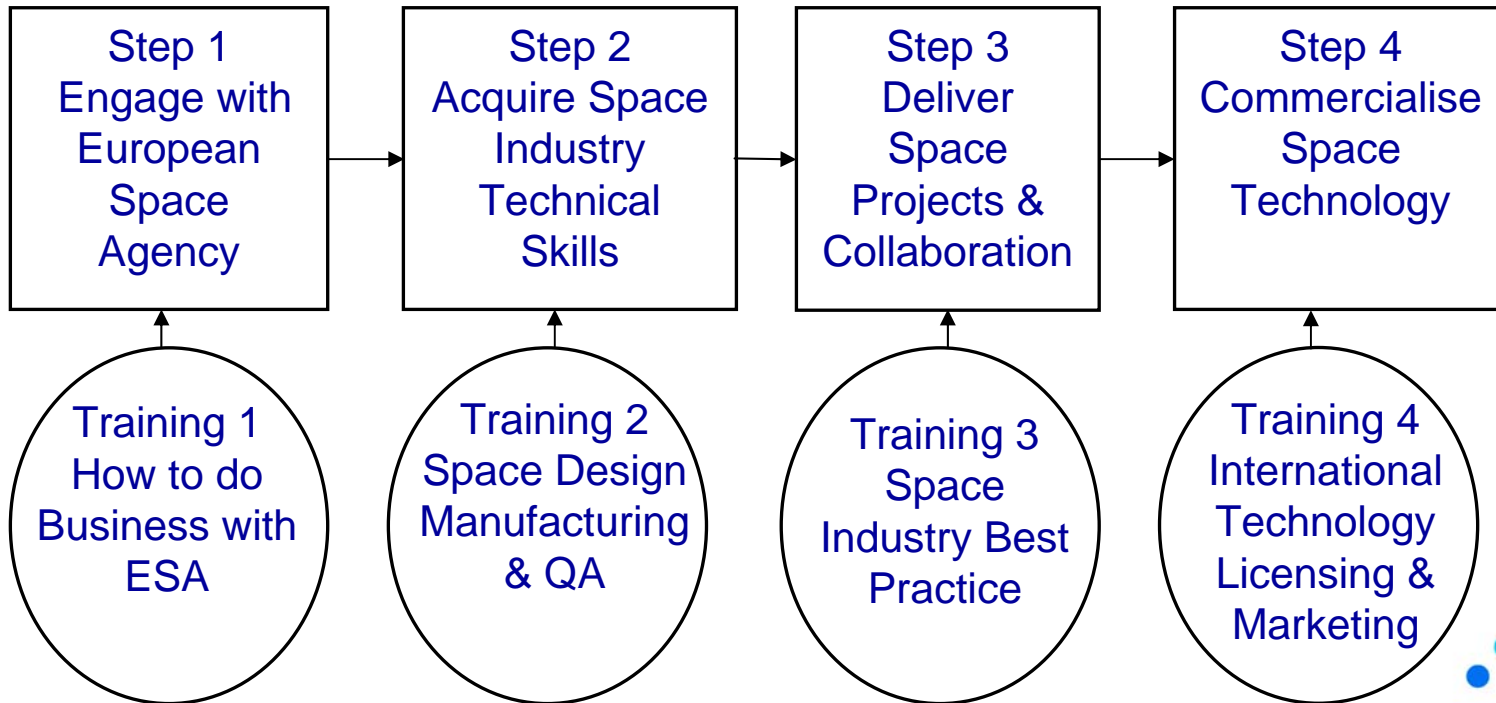


Between 1999 - 2005, Skillnets supported the activities of over 6,100 companies & 35,000 trainees in Ireland, from all sectors with a particular focus on the needs of small & micro-enterprises.

www.skillnets.com



What Does The Space Industry Skillnet Do?



Who are the Network Members?

The Space Industry Skills Network is aimed at companies who are or who want to be involved in the delivery of technology and services to the European Space Agency.



Farran Technology Limited

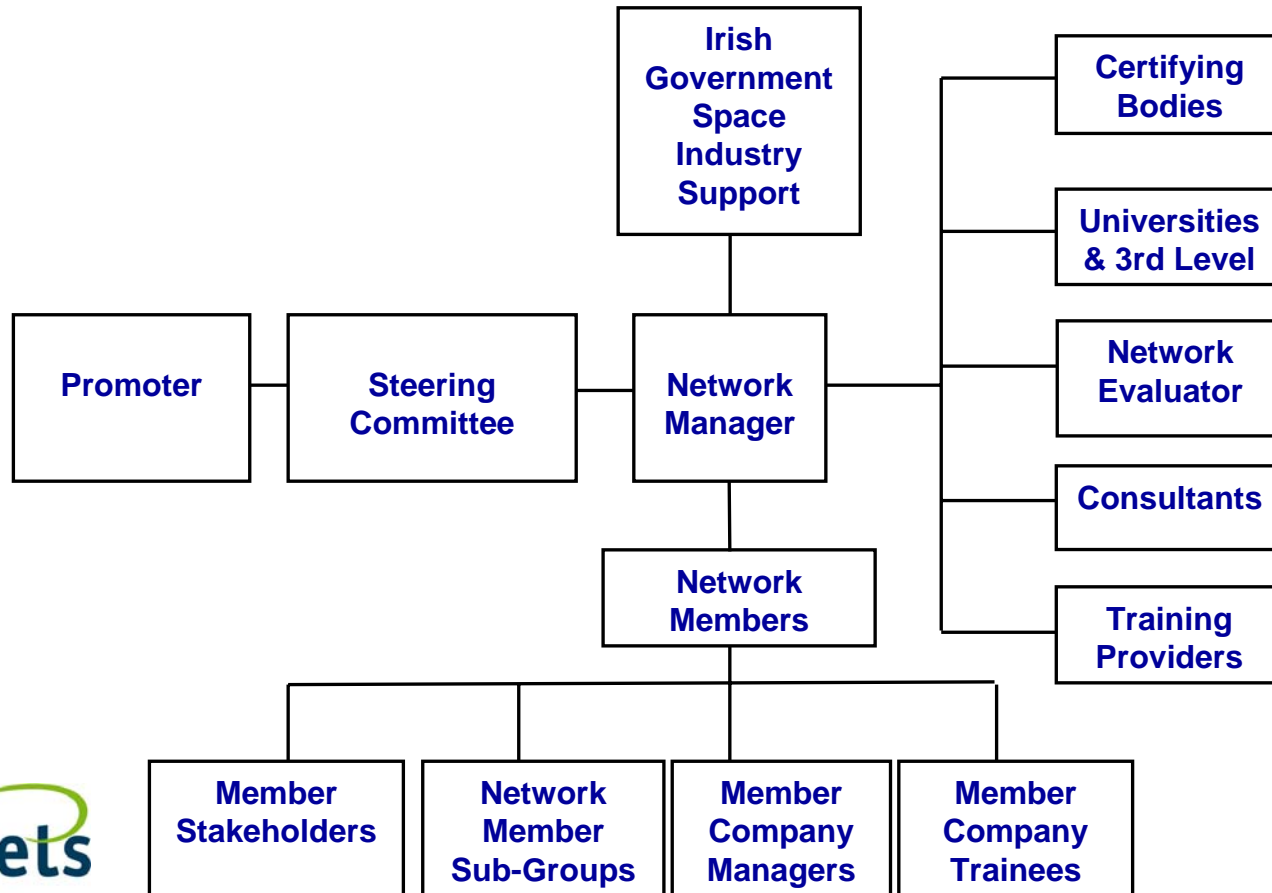


BetaTHERM Sensors
TEMPERATURE SOLUTIONS



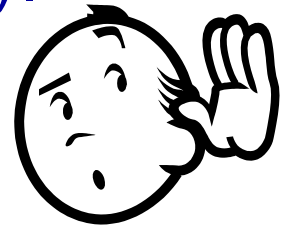
SINEQUANET : (Space Intelligence Engineering & Quality Network)

How does the Network Operate?



How Does The Network Operate?

- Training & development needs of the network members are collected in a training needs analysis regularly.
- Space Industry Skillnet facilitates the training by sourcing the training/consultancy provider & venue & ensuring quality & accreditation.
- Companies pay a small network membership fee.
- Companies then choose suitable training courses & pay fees in advance with up to 50% discount.



How Does The Network Operate?

- The feedback from participants is carefully monitored to improve provision & measure impact of training on business (Return On Investment).
- There are also informal networking events where members share information, form partnerships & receive briefings from experts.
- The network website carries all training & network event information. www.spaceskills.net



Benefit of Networking

- Sharing Best Practice with other members
- Developing new business opportunities
- Enabling greater buying power for specialised training
- Access to greater range of training topics
- Stimulates collaboration for Innovation and R&D



Access to High Quality Training – Space

- How to do Business with ESA & Writing ESA proposals
- Quality Assurance in the Space Industry
- Software in the Space Industry
- Space Qualified Soldering & Electronic Assembly
- International Technology Acquisition & Licensing
- Composite Materials



Access to High Quality Training – Business

- Management Skills
- Project Management
- Information Technology Skills
- Craft Technical Engineering Skills
- Interpersonal & Supervisory Skills
- Presentation & Report Writing Skills
- Sales/Marketing Skills



Experience to Date & Lessons Learnt

- Space Industry Skillnet has 25 members & growing.
- We have to constantly gather feedback from companies.
- Members have already found complimentary partners for joint space project proposals.
- Momentum needs to be maintained through regular events to bring members together.
- Only the highest quality, world class training providers should be used.



**International Association for the
Advancement of Space Safety**



Relationship with SINEQUANET

- SINEQUANET can facilitate access to space specific training providers & expertise for network members.
- Space Industry Skillnet can fund exchanges of training & expertise between Irish companies & SINEQUANET.
- Space Industry Skillnet training events are open to all ESA & EU member states (non-discounted).
- Training is a good opportunity to increase pan-European networking between SME's in the space industry



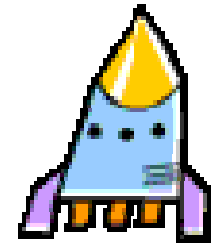
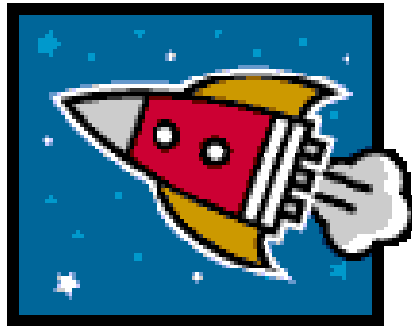
Future Plans

- Increase range & depth of space training topics.
- Increase contact with European space training providers.
- Develop & deliver new learning models (e.g. e-learning) for space training topics.
- Increase pan-European inter-company networking.
- Become a self-sustaining Space Industry Training Network after 2010.

Contact Details

www.spaceskills.net

Space Industry Skillnet
Midlands Innovation & Research Centre,
Athlone IT,
Dublin Road,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath,
Ireland.



Tel.: +353 90 6476332

Fax.: +353 90 6489457

E-mail: danny.gleeson@gltechnology.ie