

CASE STUDY

FMZ Workshop

Bringing UK SMEs together with industry, local and central government

WHO WE ARE

The Connected Places Catapult (CPC) is an independent, trusted, expert broker operating at the intersection between the public and private sectors and between local, regional and national decision making. We promote UK innovation and broker relationships between government, academia and industry providing support and solutions for innovators to commercialise their projects and research. With our deep expertise in technology, we bridge the gap between buyers, suppliers, innovators and industry. Our agile approach enables us to convene our partners to act rapidly to create new market collaborations responding to public funders and industry needs. We boost demand for innovation to unlock wider economic and environmental benefits.

Challenge

Transport is on the cusp of a revolution. The explosion in available data, focus on personal services and pressure on emissions reduction combine to drive the development of a new range of services that are zero-carbon, personalised and seamless across the whole transport network including air, water, rail, road and off-road transport. Previous research by Transport Systems Catapult (now Connected Places Catapult (CPC)) has projected that the global market for these new mobility services enhancing place could be worth £430 billion annually in 2030

The challenge is in helping local authorities understand what the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge means for them. Key to this is introducing them to technology innovators and encouraging them to bring emerging tech into local transport systems. However, for the UK to benefit from the impending transport revolution, the risks of innovation must be shared between the public and private purse.

Solution

In 2019 the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a funding competition of £90m to accelerate both the development and deployment of new transport services and emerging technologies, through setting up three to four Future Transport Zones (renamed after previously being called Future Mobility Zones). In these zones the risks of deploying new services are shared between the private sector, local authority and central government.

The DfT asked CPC to host an event for shortlisted applicants in the competition to help identify innovative mobility solutions that could be incorporated into their full proposals and to widen the network of potential collaborators. This event was held at County Hall, London on 25th July 2019. Over 80 enthusiastic stakeholders took part split equally between shortlisted applicants and potential innovation partners.

Attendees included the seven shortlisted applicants: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Derby and Nottingham Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Norwich, Portsmouth and Southampton Combined Authority, West of England Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.



The objective was to expose the applicants to innovative thinking, provide innovators with an opportunity to pitch their products/services for collaboration and to provide applicants with a forum to discuss details of the second phase of the competition. Nine innovative technology companies exhibited their products and services and seven innovators presented elevator pitches of their offerings.

In addition, applicants were given insights into DfT's expectations for the monitoring and evaluation activities within their programmes; an introduction to building a strong economic case plus an overview of the data standards available to support interoperability between different experiments in their own programmes and between different programmes. The day ended with a presentation of inspirational examples of transport and city based innovations from around the world giving applicants a taste of the art of the possible and throwing down the gauntlet for them to surpass these examples in their own aspirations.

These innovative technology companies and SMEs attended the event:

- ◆ **Alchera Technologies** (Cloud-based AI software for enterprise-grade intelligent mobility and intelligent infrastructure applications).
- ◆ **BlocDox** (Using the Internet of Things and advanced data science to interpret, drive and enhance building performance).
- ◆ **briteyellow** (Provide a complete end to end solution for positioning, navigation, and tracking in indoor environments).
- ◆ **City Science** (Exeter based new technology company).
- ◆ **Grid Smarter Cities** (Effectively managing and optimising cities' kerb space to deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes and sustainable revenues for the city).
- ◆ **Immense** (Platform providing mobility intelligence and insight, enabled by powerful digital worlds, activity-based multi-agent simulation and advanced data analytics).
- ◆ **Moovit** (Israel-based mobility as a service provider and journey planner app).
- ◆ **Passenger Technology Group** (Bournemouth based Digital technology for transport operators).
- ◆ **Podaris** (Real-time collaborative online transport planning).
- ◆ **Red Ninja** (Creates innovative and disruptive design and technology for Health, Transport and Smart Cities).
- ◆ **The Floow** (Designs the world's most advanced and low-cost telematic systems to make vehicles safer and cheaper for all).
- ◆ **Tomorrow's Journey** (Developing a network of vehicles that can be utilised by any mobility service, the so-called 'sharable, neutral fleet').
- ◆ **Vivacity Labs** (London based Improving traffic insights with Artificial Intelligence).

Outcomes

Participants gave the event an average score of 4.67 (1 is very bad and 5 is excellent). Feedback comments included **"Informative. Good speakers. Excellent venue", "Great and very valuable", "Very informative and relevant" and "Well planned and good talks to support the bids"**.

CPC creates value

CPC is bringing a growing network of dynamic locally grown UK SMEs and start-ups together with industry plus local, regional and combined authorities to create the scalable technological transport solutions of the future.

Benefits

- ◆ Participating SMEs have an increased understanding of requirements and investment priorities of the combined authorities.
- ◆ More innovative mobility solutions embedded in Future Transport Zones applications, increasing the potential impact of the successful submissions.

Next steps

Participants highlighted that they wanted to spend more time meeting with innovative SMEs. CPC looks forward to liaising with DfT and BEIS about further opportunities to continue this effective cross-sector engagement.

To find out more about the Connected Places Catapult and how we can help you develop the future skills that address the needs of your organisation please contact info@cp.catapult.org.uk