

University Spin-Outs – A Driving Force in the Northern Ireland Economy

Dr Des Blair	<i>Principal, Blair Associates</i>
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The two universities share the vision that they become a driving force in the local economy.

Professor George Bain
Vice Chancellor
The Queen's University of Belfast

The economic survival of Northern Ireland in a competitive world requires us to leverage the top-flight skills and knowledge available in our universities and harness them for the future.

Professor Gerry McKenna
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Ulster

the Company in 1980. SLS is now recognised as an essential component of the NI legal world. It produces a range of legal practitioners' textbooks and publications, including the Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law. Conference courses and seminars are also organised.

The majority of staff are graduates and comprise six full-time staff and fifteen part-time sub-editorial staff.

UNITE Solutions Ltd

UNITE Solutions provides internet software development and services, with an emphasis on 'dynamic' web sites. The Company is also the longest established internet Service Provider (ISP) in Northern Ireland.

Three entrepreneurs from the Queen's Computer Centre, Centre for Computer-based Learning and the Library were involved in setting up the Company and were soon joined by other members from the Computer Centre in 1995. The founder, Dr George Munroe, is now full-time Managing Director and Professor George Kernohan (Medical Informatics, UU) is Chairman of the Board,

Ten people are now employed and turnover – a large portion of which is for clients outside Northern Ireland – is increasing rapidly.

Vinifer Ltd

Vinifer, which is owned 51% by QUBIS Ltd and 49% by its management, produces chemical monitoring systems for testing laboratories. The need was recognised for quantitative measurement of markers in rebated hydrocarbon fuels, e.g. red diesel fuel. These tests are required as a matter of routine, for example, by customs offices and oil refineries.