



IRELAND'S FIRST PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS (STEM) ACADEMY OPENS FOR BUSINESS IN THE NORTH WEST

Ireland's first private international Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) School - the Academy for International Science and Research - is to be officially launched today (**Tuesday, March 6th**) by former Minister for Employment and Learning, Dr Stephen Farry.

AISR has been established in response to a clear market need to address the decline in the interest, enjoyment and uptake of STEM subjects among young people. It is different because it offers more meaningful teaching approaches to students, is great for career preparation and also of immense value in plugging the skills gap for business.

Located in the historic city of Derry~Londonderry, AISR's new Clarendon Street campus is now offering local students vocational training to the highest standards (technical professional level) in areas such as engineering, science, mathematics, IT and interactive media and cyber security.

The brainchild of CEO, Dr Terry McIvor; AISR will develop and deliver new local, national and global study programmes and initiatives that will help train up the talent of the future and presents a persuasive case to students about the multiple benefits associated with studying STEM.

Speaking at today's launch, Dr McIvor said: "In the post-Brexit era, a skilled workforce across the island of Ireland has been highlighted as a major necessity in developing our economy with performance of STEM subjects playing a vital role to the overall health and wealth of our society."

"It has been my ambition for some time now to bring this intervention to market because I believe STEM is of immense importance in driving our economic ambitions, supporting innovation and providing the foundation for future prosperity."

Central to the AISR offer and enabled by digital innovation; it is also Dr Mclvor's vision to break down geographical barriers by exporting STEM courses of high educative and economic value to enhance the progression of student education throughout the world. In particular, developing countries such as India, Nigeria, Cameroon and Burma.

Dr Stephen Farry said: "I am delighted to formally launch this new, privately owned STEM Academy and would like to praise Dr Terry Mclvor for tackling the international marketplace from his home base in the North West and for using the skills he has developed here in NI to meet international demands for this type of practical technical training.

"Already, he has established overseas bases in India, Nigeria, Myanmar and Cameroon and has his sight set on further overseas markets. Terry is a role model for local businesses. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Invest NI for supporting his ambition."

With AISR now officially open for business, it is reaching out to local school leavers, international students and life-long learners, encouraging them to study STEM in new and innovative ways and through partnership working opening up new entry points to industry, commerce and business.

It promises to provide students with a first class education with expert tutors offering blended learning; an engaging mix of traditional (classroom) and non-traditional (online and interactive) teaching methods to excite and ignite curiosity in STEM subjects.

Dr Mclvor said: "Our classes and courses will open up a whole new spectrum of opportunities in areas such as gamification, animation, apps, data science, media, cyber security, ethical hacking or pioneering the way in artificial intelligence among others. All our programmes are hands on, favour practical application and have been designed to reflect the needs and requirements of professional organisations."

AISR's STEM courses are geared towards Level 2 to Level 5 school leavers (age 17-20) although they can also be accessed by life-long learners, overseas students or those considering a career choice.

It will confer Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas accredited by OCN; the Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) which is a UK Regulated Awarding Organisation.

For further information or to interview Dr McIvor/keynote speakers contact: Una Carlin, Carlin Creative Events and Communications on una@carlincreative.co.uk or on (07764) 354917 www.carlincreative.co.uk

Note to editors

Dr Terry McIvor is an academic professional and entrepreneur, passionate about fostering innovative science and maths programmes through national and international organisations and has extensive experience in curriculum development to degree level. He holds a BSC Honours Degree in Applied Biochemical Sciences with a Diploma in Industrial Studies from the University of Ulster. From there he pursued higher degrees in teaching and post-secondary education leading to PHD's in Chemistry and Chemical Education (Physical). For further biographical detail <https://www.aisr.org.uk/>

Dr Stephen Farry is Alliance Party Deputy Leader and MLA for North Down since 2007. Currently, he is the Alliance Party Spokesperson for Finance and the Economy and was formerly the Minister for Employment and Learning between 2011 and 2016. Dr Farry holds a PhD in International Relations from Queen's University Belfast.

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