

## Queen's University Belfast - School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (SMAE)

### Offer to host CDIO Fall Meeting 2015



QUB – Lanyon Building



Ashby Building, SMAE

Questions for potential conference organizers:

#### 1. Why are you interested in hosting a CDIO Fall meeting or International conference?

- To reinvigorate the UK & Ireland region by facilitating a more geographically convenient opportunity for regional collaborators to attend an international meeting. Hosting such an event will bring expertise from around the world to our doorstep.
- To demonstrate that the [School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering](#) (SMAE) has a continued commitment to the CDIO Initiative. The School has been involved in the CDIO Initiative since 2003 and currently co-chairs the UK & Ireland regional group. We want to demonstrate that we are still passionate about the Initiative and as an experienced member of the CDIO community would provide a live case study of how CDIO has influenced teaching practice.
- To showcase the extensive (CDIO inspired) refurbishment of our teaching, project and laboratory workspaces in the Ashby Building complex. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final phase of which will be completed in November 2014.
- Due to recent growth in student numbers the School has been able to expand its number of academic staff. Over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the 41 current academic staff have been in post less than 2 years and hosting the regional meeting would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce and induct them into CDIO.
- We want to bring people to Belfast so that they can see what a great place it is, to challenge any preconceptions and to highlight the rich heritage and tradition of engineering in the region as well as showcase some of our current world class companies.

#### 2. Please tell us why your school and city would make a good place to hold a CDIO meeting/conference. (e.g., is there good quality accommodation near to the conference venue/campus?)

- Queen's University Belfast (QUB) is a member of the Russell Group of 24 leading UK research-intensive universities, providing world-class education underpinned by world-class research.

Founded as Queen's College in 1845, it became a university in its own right in 1908. Today, it is an international centre of research and education rooted at the heart of Northern Ireland. In 2012 the School marked the centenary of the first engineering graduates from Queen's

but we are not seeking to rest on our laurels, rather to be at the centre of what is new and good about engineering and engineering education.

- Queen's University is a city campus which is only a 20 minute walk (1 mile) from the city centre.
- There are 13 hotels within 1 mile (1.6 km) of the university campus of 3, 4 or 5 star status. Special rates for CDIO Fall meeting delegates will be negotiated for us by "Visit Belfast", priced from approximately £50 per night.
  - Belfast has 4,522 hotel bedrooms in the greater Belfast area with 7,000 bed spaces across all accommodation types. There are big brands and local treasures with all major hotels within 5-10 minute walk of each other.
  - There is also a good selection of quality accommodation directly adjacent to Queen's University including:
    - Malone Lodge Hotel (4\*, 119 bedrooms) [www.malonelodgehotelbelfast.com](http://www.malonelodgehotelbelfast.com)
    - Wellington Park Hotel (4\*, 75 bedrooms) [www.wellingtonparkhotel.com](http://www.wellingtonparkhotel.com)
    - Dukes at Queens (4\*, 32 bedrooms) [www.dukesatqueens.com](http://www.dukesatqueens.com)



Welcome Reception – Belfast City Hall / QUB Great Hall



Gala Dinner –Titanic Belfast ([www.titanicbelfast.com](http://www.titanicbelfast.com))

- A social programme to include a drinks reception, either hosted by Belfast City Council at the historic Belfast City Hall on the evening before the 2 day meeting or in the Great Hall at Queen's.
- The gala dinner on the first night of the meeting could be held at the Titanic Belfast visitor attraction. A pre-dinner gallery tour of the world's largest Titanic visitor experience and a "must see" visit in any tour of Belfast and Northern Ireland. It is located in Titanic Quarter, right beside the historic site of this world famous ship's construction. Housed in an iconic 6-floor building, this state-of-the-art visitor experience tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

- Optional industrial visits to some of N.Ireland's leading companies can be organised based on demand e.g. Bombardier Aerospace, Wrightbus:



Composite wing and aircraft fuselage manufacture at Bombardier Aerospace (Belfast)



Wrightbus— Manufacturers of hybrid-electric driveline buses including the New Routemaster “Boris bus” for London

### 3. What facilities do you have on campus for the meeting? Do you have space for both plenary and breakout sessions? Can meeting attendees have wireless access? Do you have computer projection? Other?

- There are a number of venues around the university campus which can host conferences during the Fall period. All offer the same level of computing / audio visual / WiFi connectivity. Final choice of venue would depend on the number of confirmed delegates but provisional bookings for Riddel Hall have been made for 4 -6 and 11-13 November 2015.



Riddel Hall and Conference Suite



The Isdell Courtyard

- Riddel Hall is a grade 2 red brick listed building, set in its own attractive landscaped grounds with ample onsite parking. It has been sympathetically renovated to retain many of the original features including fireplaces, wood panelling, bannisters and iron work. Originally founded in 1913 as a residence for female students at Queen's, thanks to a donation by Eliza



and Isabella Riddel, it is now home to Queen's University Management School and the William J Clinton Leadership Institute.

Internally, the venue is ideal for a wide range of events and offers a range of modern facilities including conference rooms (capacities 120 – 290), nine syndicate rooms and four larger meeting rooms (capacities 22 – 40 set out as boardrooms & 40 – 80 as theatres).

The Isdell Courtyard, enclosed by a glass roof, is a multi-functional space with a capacity of 200 theatre style or 150 for banqueting. It is the central catering space in Riddel Hall with a variety of menus available to suit all occasions, from finger and fork buffets to lunch and evening banquets.

#### **4. Do you have previous experience hosting international meetings/conferences? Please describe.**

- The School has hosted a number of international conferences including ESAFORM 2011, the 7th AIAA Aviation Technology, Integration and Operations (ATIO) Forum and IMC19
- The university also has its own events and conferencing unit (Eventus) which is very experienced in organising conferences (<http://www.queenseventus.com/>)
- Recent testimonials regarding conferences managed by Eventus:
  - *Dr Eamonn Hughes, Chair of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures Conference 2013*  
“I organised the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures conference at QUB in the last week of July 2013 with about 230 delegates from across the world. Looking back over the two years that this took, my single best decision was to involve the staff from Eventus from the start, when they made provisional bookings of venues for me. From then on they were involved at every stage: no task was too big or small; no question or problem too trivial or overwhelming. More than that, they provided wise counsel and cool heads, and did so with unfailing courtesy, tact and flexibility.”
  - *Professor Ian Montgomery, Chair of the 11th International Mammalogical Congress 2013*  
“As Organiser of the 11th International Mammalogical Conference at Queen’s in August 2013, I was very pleased and relieved to attract over 650 delegates from 45 countries especially since this was towards the end of a prolonged, global economic recession. IMC11 was able to keep costs down but nevertheless still managed to come out the right side of break even without a single complaint from any delegate. This would not have been possible but for the excellent support of Eventus staff and many other parts of Queen’s administration - from estates to catering, and accommodation to audio-visual aids. The main assets of Queen’s with respect to conferences are the site which combines character and history with diverse, modern facilities and great IT, and is able to cope with over 1000 delegates, 12 parallel sessions. Queen’s has an attractive, compact site close to the city centre and accommodation, and outstanding, friendly support staff who provide excellent service. I don’t know of any other UK or Irish university where the three essentials of a good conference – delegate accommodation, conference space and service – come together so effectively.”

- *Dr Sara Ramshaw, Co-Chair of the Critical Legal Conference 2013*  
 “In September 2013, QUB School of Law hosted the annual Critical Legal Conference (CLC), which welcomed close to 200 delegates to Belfast from all over the world. The organisation of this conference would not have been possible without the guidance and support of Eventus. Our conference manager was extraordinarily talented at organising conferences and guided us effortlessly through the process. Her years of experience proved invaluable as she advised us on everything from venue to catering to conference packs and entertainment for the conference dinner. Our conference manager worked tirelessly in the weeks and days leading up to the conference and was a constant presence throughout the event itself, taking much of the pressure off the organising committee and enabling us to enjoy ourselves. The feedback on the conference was unbelievable, with many saying it was not only the best CLC, but the best conference they had ever attended. This was largely due to the efforts of the Eventus team. We could not recommend them highly enough.”

**5. Who are the 3 key individuals who will be involved in planning and executing the conference?**

- Paul Hermon (Senior Lecturer – Education) p.hermon@qub.ac.uk
- Charlie McCartan (Senior Lecturer – Education) c.mccartan@qub.ac.uk
- Rachael Wilkinson (Eventus – Events and Conferencing Manager) r.wilkinson@qub.ac.uk

**6. Do you have support staff who can help with meeting organization (e.g., handling registrations, staffing the welcome desk, etc.)**

- Eventus, under Rachael Wilkinson’s management, will handle registrations and payments.
- Eventus will also provide administration services including visa letters, confirmation of acceptance, receipts, certificates of attendance etc.
- “Visit Belfast” ([visit-belfast.com](http://visit-belfast.com)) will provide support by providing an online hotel booking service, at preferential rates. They will also be involved in the organisation of social events (City Hall drinks reception, Dinner at Titanic Belfast [www.titanicbelfast.com](http://www.titanicbelfast.com) )
- School staff available for reception desk and for venue hosting and other administrative duties prior to and during the meeting.
- University IT support for computing and AV equipment

**7. How do international participants most effectively travel to your campus?**

- Belfast is served by two airports, one right in the heart of the city (George Best Belfast City Airport) and another just 30 minutes from the city (Belfast International Airport). You can fly direct to Belfast from 41 European and International airports, with a daily direct link to the US via Newark in just 6 hours with United Airlines. Both airports are serviced by excellent bus services directly into the city centre:

- Belfast International Airport (<http://www.belfastairport.com/en/destinationmap/>)
- Belfast City Airport (<http://www.belfastcityairport.com/Flight-Information/Destinations-and-Airlines.aspx>)

Once you have arrived in Belfast, the city centre is easy to get to. George Best Belfast City Airport is only a 10 minute drive into the centre with a taxi costing approximately £5. Airport bus £2.40 single and £3.60 return.

Belfast International Airport is a 25 minute drive costing around £20 by taxi. Airport Bus to Belfast International Airport is £7.50 (single) £10.50 (return).

- Dublin Airport is 1hour 50minutes away by non-stop express coach ([www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)) and if booked online in advance costs only £8 single, £16 return. Dublin Airport is one of Europe's busiest airports, with more than 55 airlines flying to over 117 destinations worldwide including two Middle Eastern and 11 North American routes:
  - Dublin Airport (<http://www.dublinairport.com/gns/flight-information/destinations-airlines.aspx>)