

NEWS RELEASE

The Town of Holyrood, Newfoundland and Labrador

Holyrood, Newfoundland signs Friendship Agreement with Galway City Innovation District

The Town of Holyrood in Newfoundland, Canada has signed a friendship agreement with The Galway City Innovation District, the non-profit company behind the successful PorterShed technology innovation hub in downtown Galway. The aim of the agreement is to support further growth in the marine and technology sectors within their areas.

The Galway City Innovation District's goal is to create an innovation ecosystem, one that creates a synergistic relationship between people, companies, and place, that facilitates idea generation, open learning, collaboration and accelerates commercialisation. The first step towards this goal was the PorterShed, opened in 2016.

In a similar vein, the Town of Holyrood provides a hub for research and development at the BeachHead, enabling technology innovation and incubation, and has also established the Oceans Holyrood Initiative. Holyrood is the location of the Fisheries and Marine Institute (MI) of Memorial University' Newfoundland, Labrador, Centres for Applied Ocean Technology (CTEC) and Off Shore Safety and Survival Training Centre (OSSC) at the Holyrood Marine Base (HMB).

Galway has a strategic advantage in relation to marine and ocean technology through the Irish Marine Institute, SmartBay Ireland, NUI Galway's Ryan Institute, SEMRU, Carna Research Station (CRS), AirSea Laboratory, Coastal Observatory Radar System (CODAR), and MAREL, GMIT's Marine & Freshwater Research Centre (MFRC), and Strategic Marine Alliance for Research and Training (SMART), with combined facilities which offer a range of marine services to all users and a cluster of marine-related companies and institutions.

Maurice O'Gorman, Chairman of the Galway City Innovation District, said: "We look forward to future harbour-side development which will reiterate Galway's differentiation as Ireland's research and innovation port, integrating with Galway's future harbour development, and take inspiration from the phenomenal marine development achieved by the Town of Holyrood over the past short number of years."

Mayor Gary Goobie stated, "It is an exciting time for Holyrood and we could not be more pleased with the signing of this agreement with GCID. Our residents can be assured that Holyrood is ready to take its place provincially, nationally and internationally in the ocean sector industry as an energetic, progressive and sustainable community."

Gary Corbett, Chief Administrative Officer at the Town of Holyrood, said: "Holyrood is proud to become an official member of NUI Galway collaboration network. We recognize the great accomplishments at PorterShed and we anticipate shared successes in marine research and innovation as we facilitate economic growth and development in both our regions through the marine sector. There is a lot of room to grow, and together through meaningful collaboration and exchange of ideas, we can realize phenomenal potential."

Dr John Breslin, NUI Galway, said: "We have had a great relationship with the Holyrood team since they first visited the PorterShed - which at that stage, was still a shell - in 2015. When we met, both parties expressed an interest in determining future collaborative opportunities and potential, and our agreement is to pursue continued engagement and collaboration toward this objective."



L-R: Gary Corbett, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Holyrood; Dr John Breslin, NUI Galway and GCID; Mr Conor O'Dowd, KPMG and GCID; Dr Rick Officer, GMIT

