

Invent's M2C mentors another INNOVACT finalist



Invent DCU is delighted to announce that DCU Fiontar student, Paul Mc Gee, has been selected for the finals of the European Forum for Innovative Start-ups, INNOVACT 2013. Mentored and supported by DCU academics and M2C (located in Invent), Paul and his company ICA SMART TELEMATICS are among 41 finalists selected from hundreds of entries across Europe.

In partnership with M2C, Paul has created a technology platform with many potential applications. His initial application of this innovation is for the blind or partially sighted. He has adapted this technology for use with walking sticks and the use of Bluetooth technology. His project is based on embedding intelligence electronics into a walking stick, monitoring the surrounding area and providing information to the person utilising the stick. By presenting multiple events to the blind person via Bluetooth, the customer can effectively navigate the surrounding area.

The key elements of this project are that it facilitates a retro fit device which enables it to be used with any walking stick. Other potential benefits include improved quality of life for the user and the potential to install an emergency response button as an added safety measure. This is a potential industry changing technology. It is particularly important in urban areas where traffic poses a continuous hazard to the visually impaired. This platform can be migrated to associated verticals with sensor changes in other sectors and walking aids for the elderly.

Paul developed the business plan as part of his final year project on the DCU BA i nGnó agus Gaeilge (Business and Irish). This is the second year in a row that Fiontar DCU students, in collaboration with mentor Michael Berry from M2C, have been selected for the finals of the INNOVACT competition.

More information on INNOVACT <http://www.innovact.com/en/rubrique2.html>

More information on M2C <http://m2c.ie/>

More information on Fiontar http://www.dcu.ie/fiontar/index_en.shtml