

Registers of Scotland**Registers of Scotland Board****Monday 9th September 2024****Geovation Scotland – Cohort 6****Purpose**

1. To provide an update on Geovation Scotland - an early stage business incubator and accelerator for Scotland's PropTech and GeoTech sectors.
2. In particular, to introduce the companies recruited to participate in cohort 6 of the accelerator programme in advance of meeting their founders and hearing their company pitches at a Board lunch on Monday 9th September.

Recommendation

3. Recommends that you:
 - Note the Geovation Scotland briefing and advise if you would like further information on any area in particular.

Background

4. Geovation Scotland is a collaboration between Registers of Scotland (RoS) and Ordnance Survey (OS). Its main aim is to support the acceleration of location, land, and property technology innovation in Scotland. Through an accelerator programme, Enterprise-in-Residence programme and active community, Geovation provides sector-specific support for business growth and development.
5. Geovation Scotland sits firmly within the wider tech, entrepreneurial, innovation and geospatial communities and works with other enterprise support and funding organisations (such as Techscaler and Location Data Scotland) to capitalise on wider opportunities for collaboration and start-up development across Scotland.
6. As a part of Registers of Scotland's newly-formed Business Development function, Geovation Scotland is focused on the development of the Scottish PropTech sector. PropTech is an established and growing sector in London, however in Scotland there is significant opportunity to grow the sector.
7. In five years of operation, Geovation Scotland has supported 31 early-stage startups to raise £4.2 million of investment and funding and create 74 full-time jobs. Geovation alumni work across a range of sub-sectors such as travel, decarbonisation, land management, emergency services and city navigation - with each of the companies which have received support considering land and property or location data

critical to their commercial success. **See Annex A** – Geovation Scotland development figures by cohort.

Cohort 6 - 2024

8. Following a period of recruitment, shortlisting and assessment, six early-stage startups have been selected for cohort 6 of the accelerator programme and are as follows:

- **VanFill Founder: Aleksandra Czech-Seklecka**

Vanfill Ltd's goal is to reduce transport costs, save time and cut carbon emissions through their mobile and web application. This will connect businesses and individuals looking to transport their goods with transport providers who have empty spaces in their vans and trucks.

VanFill Ltd aims to help utilise the full range of infrastructure to improve the efficiency of goods transportation, consolidate deliveries and improve route planning, giving customers access to a variety of available transportation options.

- **Emergency Locate Founder: Nick Sutton**

The EmergencyLocate platform provides solutions to emergency, search, and rescue functions by rapidly and accurately pinpointing exactly where assistance is needed using geospatial technology.

The platform includes a two-way fully translatable text messenger to help overcome any communication barriers and uses 3D satellite mapping to display the location of the person in need whilst also building a clear picture of the surrounding that leads to enhanced dispatch decision making. EmergencyLocate addresses and understands the real-life problems that are faced in the industry, using their innovative solutions to overcome them and improve rescue services.

- **EMCAI Founder: Ella Campbell**

EMCAI Solutions is an early-stage startup, which is creating software-based tools for the construction industry. Construction projects often face delays and budget overruns due to inefficient tender evaluation and inaccurate cost estimation processes, impacting profitability and operational efficiency. The industry's use of AI is hindered by the lack of up-to-date and location-adjusted data.

EMCAI uses AI and machine learning in their primary products, which are being developed for construction cost planning. These will help to streamline the evaluation of tenders and improve the quality and speed of early-stage cost advice.

- **Weavecentrix Founder: Mike Gill**

In the UK and International rail freight sectors, most freights wagons are not digital, and the condition of components is only discovered on periodic inspection. Environmentally, a typical freight train cuts carbon emissions by 76% compared to road haulage.

Weavecentrix are looking to increase the number of functioning freight wagons available for transport through their innovative geospatial solution. Weavecentrix solves this problem by providing rail freight operators with real time information about their wagons, using IoT (Internet of Things) devices, operational data and geospatial predictive modelling to inform rail freight operators about wagon problems, before they impact safety and / or availability, allowing rail freight operators to make timely, actionable decisions and resulting in less wagon down time.

- **[Optab](#) Founder: David Malcolm**

Real estate and infrastructure developers need efficient solutions for managing supply chain costs and quantities to mitigate cost and embodied carbon increases. Optab is designed to address recurring inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and transparency issues within the built environment and construction sector, promoting better utilisation of the limited resources and materials available.

Optab's SAAS platform allows construction teams to track trends, monitor carbon, and assess costs proactively, providing clients with actionable insights to manage costs and decrease their carbon footprint. Through the Optab platform, construction teams can optimise every aspect of the supply chain process for better outcomes, cost efficiency, and greener implementation.

- **[WFHere](#) Founders: Polly Wong and Perikles Maravelias**

WFHere is creating a world where anyone can work anywhere and feel like they belong! A marketplace connecting remote workers to businesses looking for footfall. WFHere aims to bridge the gap by establishing a nationwide network of work-friendly spots. Through WFHere, local businesses and owners of vacant space can connect with remote workers, boosting foot traffic while providing welcoming work environments beyond conventional options.

WFHere leverages geolocation technology to identify nearby work-friendly places and 'off-grid' options for remote workers. For businesses, WFHere serves as a powerful promotional platform and a new revenue stream. Local businesses can build a loyal customer base by tapping into the growing remote-working market. This innovative approach allows both users and businesses to find solutions that fit their needs without long-term commitments to renting office spaces or letting out vacant areas that might disrupt core operations.

2024 programme – next steps

9. Cohort 6 of the Geovation Scotland programme will run from July 2024 until June 2025. Companies participating in the programme will be asked to participate in a showcase event in month 9, where they will get the opportunity to pitch their business to an audience of potential investors, collaborators, and customers.

Strategic alignment

10. Geovation Scotland supports RoS Strategic Objectives:

- 2: Deliver more benefits to Scotland by providing innovative and accessible land and property data. and
- 6: Be a future focussed organisation

Conclusion and next steps

11. You are invited to consider this note in advance of meeting with the location, land and property startups on cohort 6 of the Geovation Scotland accelerator programme.

12. There will be an opportunity to hear a short pitch (approx. 3 mins) from each of the startup founders over lunch in the Geovation co-working space, followed by a brief networking session, where you will have the opportunity to ask the founders any questions you may have directly.

Job Title: Head of Geovation Scotland and RoS Innovation

Directorate: Customer and Business Development

Date: 26/8/2024