SMART CITIES Q&A

What is a Smart City?

Smart Cities are the integration of data and digital technologies into a strategic approach to sustainability, citizen well-being and economic development. So it's really about using information collected from sensors to help everything from easing congestion to knowing when to empty bins on the street.

How will Smart City technology help people living and working in the cities?

Through the Scottish Cities Alliance millions of pounds have been invested to make Scotland's cities smarter, using new technologies to accelerate and transform the delivery of city services. It is anticipated that Smart Cities technology will help improve air quality and traffic flow, cut pollution and allow planners to gain insight into the way each city works, allowing them to better prepare, which will in turn improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the city. This is why cities around the world – from New York to Tokyo - are engaging in Smart Cities programmes in various forms.

How can Smart Cities help the environment?

Using information collected it is anticipated that Smart Cities could, for example, eliminate congestion. By analysing traffic data collected using sensors, congestion can be reduced and, even eliminated, in some cases, as traffic flows are monitored and alternative routes provided. This prevents unnecessary traffic jams and congestion which contribute significantly to pollution levels.

How will Smart Cities Scotland help promote investment to Scotland's seven cities?

The Alliance is leading this work in Scotland, developing a programme of projects across all seven cities to make them internationally competitive and boost their economic growth.

Earlier this year, The Alliance launched its Smart Cities Scotland Blueprint which sets out the opportunities cities can use to advance smart cities initiatives, and to develop a programme of smart cities projects. View the Blueprint here http://www.scottishcities.org.uk/media/press-releases/smart-cities-scotland-blueprint-launch

Cities which adopt a Smart City approach make services more effective and so the cities become more attractive to investors.

There are huge benefits to be gained for Scotland's cities in working together on this emerging agenda in creating scale for investors and identifying common, transferable approaches and solutions. By working together Scotland's cities can position themselves to access investment, accelerate progress through learning and identify innovations.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Scottish Cities Alliance is a unique collaboration of Scotland's seven cities and the Scottish Government working together to deliver economic growth through investment in infrastructure. With a £7.5 billion Pitch Book promoting the great potential across the seven city regions, the Alliance aims to attract external investment, stimulate economic activity and create new jobs and business opportunities.

The body's ambitious plans range over the short, medium and long term to create the conditions to deliver expansion, by strategically focusing on infrastructure, low carbon and Smart Cities initiatives, aligned to City Investment Plans. By utilising the strengths of Scotland's seven cities, the Alliance engages with Scottish investors through events across the seven cities and beyond. By working together Scotland's cities can create projects of scale and achieve an economically stronger future for Scotland.

Visit www.scottishcities.org or to go straight to the Pitch Book www.scottishcities.org.uk/pitchbook

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