



Media release

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CENSIS appoints tech stalwart as new chief executive

CENSIS, Scotland's Innovation Centre for sensing, imaging systems, and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, has appointed entrepreneurial technologist Paul Winstanley as its new chief executive.

In a career spanning more than three decades, Winstanley has held senior positions across hi-tech organisations in the US and UK, covering sectors ranging from defence and security to medical and transport.

Winstanley began his career as a research scientist with the Ministry of Defence before rising through the ranks to become chief executive and president of QinetiQ's North American operation in 2007.

Since 2010, he has held a series of board and non-executive appointments at organisations such as the UK Defence Solutions Centre, Reliance High Technology, and BHR Group. In 2012 Winstanley co-founded big data consultancy Alazen, where he was chief executive. He has substantial international experience, along with skills in capital raising and realising value from technology.

Winstanley will take up his new role in January from Ian Reid, CENSIS's current chief executive. Reid is standing down after five years of leading the Innovation Centre, which was recently awarded £9.25 million in funding from its funding partners the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for its second five-year phase.

The public investment will seek to cement Scotland's position as a leader in cutting-edge technology and is expected to be supplemented by another £3 million in third-party income – ranging from competitive programme calls to contributions from industry.

Paul Winstanley said: "This is an exciting time to join CENSIS as the team embarks on its second phase with a reinvigorated focus and energy. The Innovation Centre's strength undoubtedly rests in the broad spectrum of sectors it touches, many of which play a crucial role in Scotland's economy and have huge potential – digital enablement and the growth of the Internet of Things, subsea and marine activities, manufacturing, and healthcare to name



but a few. Ian has done an excellent job of making CENSIS the go-to innovation partner for businesses of all sizes in Scotland and I look forward to building on that solid foundation.”

Ian Reid added: “The last five years have been about establishing CENSIS as a trusted partner which can bridge the gap between industry and academia – a fact reflected in the 150-plus projects we have brokered in that time. It’s been a memorable period in my career and I’m very grateful to the many businesses, researchers and public sector partners we have worked with over the years. With his breadth of experience, Paul is the ideal person to take CENSIS forward in phase two and I wish him and all of the team the very best for the future.”

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Notes to Editors

1. About CENSIS

CENSIS is the centre of excellence for sensing and imaging systems (SIS) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. We help organisations explore innovation and overcome technology barriers to achieve business transformation.

As one of Scotland’s innovation centres, our focus is not only creating sustainable economic value in the Scottish economy, but also generating social benefit. To do this, our industry-experienced engineering and project management teams work directly with companies or in collaborative teams with specialist university research experts. Working with us allows organisations to implement quality, efficiency and performance improvements and fast-track the development of new products and services for global markets.



2. About Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is an economic and community development agency implementing Scotland's Economic Strategy across a region that covers more than half the country. With around 300 staff, HIE supports hundreds of client businesses and social enterprises; strengthens communities, particularly in fragile areas; develops growth sectors, and invests in infrastructure to create a more competitive and low carbon region.

3. About Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's main economic development agency and aims to deliver a significant, lasting effect on the Scottish economy. Its role is to help identify and exploit the best opportunities for economic growth. Scottish Enterprise supports ambitious Scottish companies to compete within the global marketplace and help build Scotland's globally competitive sectors. It also works with a range of partners in the public and private sectors to attract new investment to Scotland and to help create a world-class business environment.

4. About the Scottish Funding Council

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is helping to make Scotland the best place in the world to educate, to research and to innovate. Investing around £1.8 billion of public money each year, SFC's funding enables Scotland's colleges and universities to provide life-changing opportunities for over half a million people and to help create a prosperous future economy.

5. About the Scottish Innovation Centre programme

The Scottish Innovation Centre programme, which was launched in 2013, brings together a network of Innovation Centres focused on different industry sectors or cross-cutting areas of innovation. Each Centre works to establish bonds between Scotland's universities, colleges and research institutes and industry sectors, translating academic knowledge and expertise into commercially valuable skills and improvements that benefit individual companies as well as Scotland's overall economy.

<https://www.innovationcentres.scot/>