

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



A season of momentum – delivery, partnerships and visibility

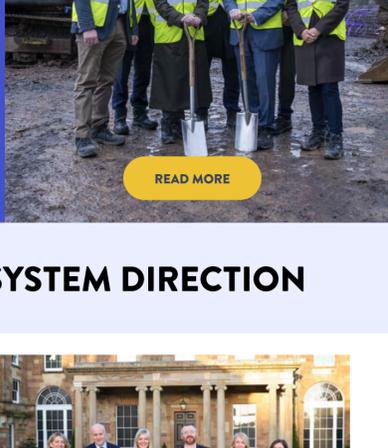
Spring has been about moving from “good conversations” to tangible progress: deeper partnerships, stronger ecosystem engagement, and clearer delivery pathways for industry across cybersecurity, AI and wireless.

MAJOR MILESTONE

Sod-cutting marks the start of the expanded M1.0 facility

One of the biggest moments this season was the sod-cutting to mark the start of construction on the expanded Momentum One Zero facility at Queen's Titanic Quarter. The milestone signals the next phase of Momentum: scaling the infrastructure, engineering capability and collaborative space needed to support industry-led delivery across cyber, AI and wireless.

We were delighted to be joined by senior government, civic, academic and industry leaders to recognise what this next phase means for Northern Ireland's digital economy – and to thank the partners making delivery possible, including Henry Brothers and the Queen's Estates team.



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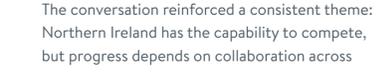
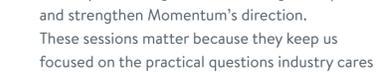
LEADERSHIP AND ECOSYSTEM DIRECTION

IAB: keeping delivery aligned to industry reality

Momentum One Zero's Industry Advisory Board (IAB) met this season to help steer the delivery of the City Deal investment – bringing experienced industry voices together to challenge, sharpen and strengthen Momentum's direction. These sessions matter because they keep us focused on the practical questions industry cares about: what will drive adoption, what reduces risk, and what creates measurable value.

NI Chamber CEO Circle

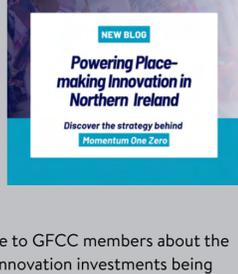
Momentum One Zero's Executive Director Stephen McCabe joined NI Chamber's CEO Circle, contributing to discussions on where Northern Ireland's innovation ecosystem is heading – and what it will take to convert ambition into delivery. The conversation reinforced a consistent theme: Northern Ireland has the capability to compete, but progress depends on collaboration across private, public and third sectors, and on making innovation easier to engage with in practice.



Global Visibility and Thought Leadership

Momentum One Zero was featured by the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) in a piece highlighting how place-based innovation can translate research strength into productivity, commercial value and high-quality employment.

The feature reflects a message we consistently stand behind: businesses bring the hardest problems; innovation centres bring the capability, engineering support and infrastructure to reduce early-stage risk and accelerate time to market. [Read more](#)



Stephen also spoke to GFCC members about the transformational innovation investments being delivered through Belfast Region City Deal, and why building depth in cyber, AI and advanced connectivity can give a small region a globally competitive position.

EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

NI-Blockchain: practical conversations on adoption, governance & sustainability

Momentum One Zero and CSIT were well represented at NI-Blockchain, where founders, researchers, investors and innovators came together to explore blockchain, AI and sustainable digital infrastructure.

Discussions cut through the hype to focus on real adoption: where readiness gaps still exist, how governance pressures are changing delivery, and where AI is adding value today. This kind of event is important because it brings together the people building, funding and regulating the next phase of digital infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

Connected Places Catapult: transport innovation and regional opportunity

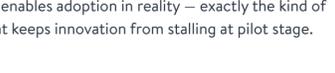
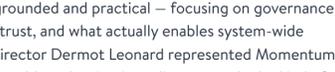
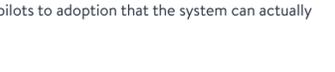
Our Commercial Director Dermot Leonard hosted a delegation from the Connected Places Catapult to discuss transport innovation – another useful touchpoint for Momentum as we continue to build relationships across the region's innovation and delivery ecosystem.



Academy of Medical Sciences/HIRANI cross-sector hub event hosted at Momentum

Momentum One Zero hosted Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI) and partners from the Academy of Medical Sciences during a cross-sector hub event focused on a tough but necessary question: how does Northern Ireland move from strong health innovation assets and pilots to adoption that the system can actually use?

The discussions were grounded and practical – focusing on governance, interoperability, skills, trust, and what actually enables system-wide uptake. Commercial Director Dermot Leonard represented Momentum in the session on what enables adoption in reality – exactly the kind of “pathway thinking” that keeps innovation from stalling at pilot stage.



CyberNI Conference: CSIT contribution to CyberNI Week

Our partners at CSIT contributed strongly to CyberNI Week, including perspectives on future directions in cyber research and the Cyber-AI Hub's real-world work at the intersection of AI and cyber defence. Events like these continue to reinforce the strength of Northern Ireland's cyber ecosystem and the importance of collaboration across academia and industry.

Digital Health webinar: cybersecurity for biotech, pharma and healthcare

Our Digital Health BD Manager Harshal Patil delivered a highly engaging webinar for cybersecurity companies focused on cybersecurity for biotech, pharma and healthcare – sparking strong discussion on how cyber resilience increasingly critical for patient safety, operational continuity, regulatory compliance, and the growing role of AI in biomedical sector.

Open Innovation Forum (IfM Engage)

Momentum One Zero supported the Open Innovation Forum with IfM Engage at Queen's University Belfast. Dr Stephen McCabe, M1.0 Executive Director, welcomed participants and chaired a fireside chat on supply chain resilience with Anne Richmond (Pilgrim's Europe, M1.0 IAB) and William McColgan (McColgan's Foods). Sessions also included Prof Paul Miller, M1.0 Director, on cyber security and resilience (including Cyber Essentials and Momentum's RISC+ work), Steph Brooks (FoodsConnected, M1.0 IAB) on deploying AI for food security, and Beth McEvoy on foresight and scenario planning for future supply chain risks.

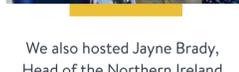
Queen's + UCD MoU: CeADAR and M1.0

A significant step forward this season was the new Memorandum of Understanding between Queen's University Belfast and University College Dublin, establishing a strategic cross-border partnership between CeADAR (Ireland's National Centre for Applied AI) and Momentum One Zero.

The partnership focuses on strengthening applied AI across the island – supporting joint bids, exploring shared infrastructure opportunities, accelerating industry adoption of digital technologies, and strengthening SME engagement and skills development. [Read More](#)

VISITS AND DELEGATIONS

We welcomed several high-profile visitors this season – each bringing a different perspective on what Momentum can enable for Northern Ireland's future economy.



Professor Orla Feely (President, University College Dublin) and Triona McCormack (Vice-President for Strategy and External Engagement, UCD) visited Momentum One Zero, providing a valuable opportunity to discuss shared priorities around applied innovation, resilience, and cross-border capability.

Kieran Donoghue (CEO, Invest Northern Ireland) and Paul McCoy (International Investment Manager, Invest NI) visited alongside Paul Murnaghan (Chair of M1.0 Industry Advisory Board), where we shared our delivery model and showcased our engineering capability across cyber, AI and wireless through tech demonstrations.

We also hosted Jayne Brady, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, for a thoughtful discussion on Momentum's role in supporting policy objectives across NI Government departments – and what barriers need to be removed to make impact scalable.



We welcomed an i3o (Improving Inclusive Innovation Outcomes) delegation with participants from Medellín (Colombia), Newcastle (England) and Pittsburgh (USA), exploring how innovation-led growth can deliver inclusion and long-term value.

Prof Máire O'Neill (CSIT's Director) and Judith Millar (CSIT's Ops Director) welcomed Minister Patrick to CSIT to showcase work across secure hardware, industrial control system security and trustworthy AI, alongside the impact of initiatives including the Cyber-AI Hub and Momentum One Zero.

Prof Mark Lawler, (OneHealth lead) and Prof Paul Miller (M1.0 Director), hosted a high-profile Nashville delegation, showcasing NI's strengths in secure connected intelligence, AI, and digital health. The visit sparked focused discussions on transatlantic collaboration, innovation partnerships, and scaling health technologies through industry-led programmes and world-class research.

Across these engagements, one theme came up repeatedly: how to move beyond infrastructure and pilots into adoption at scale – and how to do so in a way that strengthens competitiveness for Northern Ireland.

MEDIA AND COVERAGE

Sync NI feature: Momentum in print

Momentum One Zero featured prominently in a recent Sync NI issue spotlighting Northern Ireland's innovation ecosystem – including a cover feature and multiple articles across AI collaboration and deep-tech activity. It's a strong marker of Momentum's growing profile across the tech community and the broader business audience. [Read More](#)



Podcast spotlight: Trustworthy AI Chronicles

CSIT's Trustworthy AI Chronicles is worth a listen this season – especially the latest episodes, featuring Nell Watson (Author & AI Safety Researcher) and Michelle Simpson (Head of Pen Testing at Instil), in conversation with Dr Ihsen Alouani. [Listen Now](#)



A Note for the Easter Break!

Everything in this newsletter points in the same direction of travel: stronger infrastructure, clearer pathways for partners, and growing visibility for Northern Ireland's strengths in cyber, AI and wireless.

We're grateful to the ecosystem of partners, visitors and collaborators who continue to shape Momentum One Zero – and we're looking forward to the next quarter as delivery ramps up further.

As we head into the Easter break, we hope you get the chance to pause and recharge. We'll be back after the break with more updates as projects progress, partnerships deepen, and the next phase of Momentum continues to take shape.

Wishing you a joyful, restful, and re-energising Easter break!
–from all of us at Momentum One Zero.