

Visionary talk at TSSG's first Industry Open Day



Tracey Browne and Christine O'Meara of WIT trying out the Oculus Rift, Virtual Reality Headset, also pictured is David Whelan of Immersive VR Education at the TSSG Open Day | Photo: Patrick Browne

A FUTURISTIC tech start-up supported by Waterford Institute of Technology's globally renowned Telecommunications Software and Systems Group (TSSG) is facing into a landmark year and is launching its first virtual reality experience to the market shortly.

Immersive VR Education confirmed it will bring its Apollo 11 moonlanding Virtual Reality (VR) experiences to market this year and anticipates that such VR experiences will be the biggest seller for the Christmas market of 2015.

It announced the exciting news at the TSSG's Industry Open Day, a day-long think tank which saw TSSG assisted start-ups share their experiences with industry leaders, academics and members of the public and the business world with tech ideas and tech problems that require solutions.

Company CEO Dave Whelan told delegates that they're on the verge of huge change in education and says the reaction from schools to their virtual reality headset has been astounding.

"We're getting some revenue together from Kickstarter, we're building our team, selling hard and will be ready by Christmas," he revealed.

Mr Whelan also revealed plans to launch to the US market next year with a major showcase planned at former astronaut Buzz Aldrin's hometown in New Jersey.

TSSG CEO Barry Downes said everything the companies do at the incubation hubs in Waterford and Kilkenny is based on the model of breaking new ground, inventing new things, creating new things and having an economic impact not just on the region but on Ireland as well.

"We've got 65 companies based in Kilkenny and Waterford incubators over the past 10 years. We have 23 client companies based between the two counties employing 130 staff. We've supported 5 spin-outs over the past 5 years, including FeedHenry

Ltd; we've 15 licences, 19 innovation partners and 365 Innovation Vouchers.

“Waterford Institute of Technology’s ArcLabs centre has delivered more innovation vouchers to companies regionally and nationally than any other 4th level Institute in Ireland. We have a heavy consultancy income coming in - over €1m contributed by industry to projects over the past year as well.”