



Accelerate Initiative Moves from Awareness to Deepening Engagement Across the Sector

When the partnership between Skillnet Ireland and industry body Construction IT Alliance (CitA) delivered Skillnet MMC Accelerate in 2024, the ambition of the national initiative was to support the accelerated adoption of Modern Methods of Construction by connecting industry, education and policy through a single, accessible platform and a programme of regional business support events. Now, entering its next phase, the focus is shifting from awareness to deepening engagement and further implementation across the sector.



Dr Alan Hore

SPEAKING to Irish building magazine, Dr Alan Hore, Director, Skillnet MMC Accelerate, outlined how the programme has evolved since its early development phase and its launch in May 2025, and where it is headed next, as industry appetite for MMC continues to grow.

“It’s been very positive,” he said. “2024 was about establishing the initiative, designing the platform and organising our first business support events. 2025 involved developing, creating and launching the platform and organising further industry engagement through our business support events. Establishing the initiative also involved us working closely with our partners Construct Innovate, Mount Lucas, MMC Ireland and the Smart Off-Site Association.

This continuous engagement included working closely with a large number of MMC companies, government support and research providers and other contributors to our platform content and industry events.

Skillnet MMC Accelerate engaged with MMC companies nationwide and delivered 12 events between Q4 2024 and the end of 2025. This year, the focus is on deepening that engagement through our events and driving more traffic to the platform, but also continuously improving the user experience.

So increasing engagement and platform usage is a key priority in 2026. That means working with a broad range of stakeholders such as government, industry bodies, universities and Education and Training Boards to ensure the platform is seen as a national business support lever that accelerates the wider adoption of MMC.”

The response from industry has been very encouraging. Early data showed strong uptake within the first five months of launch, with over 5,000 users accessing the platform and traffic recorded from 45 countries. Education and Upskilling, Career Pathways and Business Support events emerged as the most visited sections, while gender engagement remained close to parity.

Alan said that feedback and increased traffic continues to reinforce the positive response to the platform and wider initiative. “It’s been very well received, with almost 10,000 user sessions captured to date. Feedback from right across the sector has been very complimentary. It’s been an uplifting experience, to be honest. We’re constantly adding content and reviewing new courses.”

To support that, the initiative has invested heavily in communications and storytelling. “We have a dedicated team, including social media and communications support. We recently released a 2025 summary video thanking MMC companies who hosted us last year. That took a lot of work, but it matters.”

Content development is increasingly focused on real-world insight. “We’re producing day-in-the-life videos, case studies and sector profiles. Government initiatives like Building Heroes are designed to encourage young people into construction and show the range of opportunities that now exist. We’re also going on a journey with a number of companies through our business support events.”

“Mount Lucas is one. O’Reilly Precast

the platform. That includes growth in unique users, longer average time spent on the site and, critically, evidence that more businesses are upskilling in MMC.

We want to see a significant increase in micro SMEs and house builders engaging. For example, house builders need to be convinced that MMC can be quicker, provide higher quality and deliver better outcomes for the end user. That’s the challenge.”

The long-standing relationship between CitA and Skillnet Ireland will help execute that ambition. “CitA has been working with Skillnet Ireland for over 20 years. Through our CitA Skillnet in 2026 we will continue to support industry-led training through our upskilling programmes, including support for postgraduate education. This year we are



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The breadth of that learning ecosystem is expanding. Skillnet MMC Accelerate already signposts over 350 national training programmes supporting lean, green and digital construction, advanced manufacturing and MMC-specific career pathways. The Skillnet MMC Accelerate initiative is also aligning with wider national initiatives such as the Government’s MMC Action Plan.

Government policy is also shaping momentum. “The Government is really committed to MMC as part of a wider solution to delivering housing more rapidly,” Alan said. “The Department of Housing is gathering data on the use of MMC across public and private housing. There’s a strong policy signal there.”

“For SMEs, the conversation is increasingly practical. We’re seeing a shift from awareness to implementation. For smaller companies in particular, it’s about understanding where MMC works for them and how to take the first steps without excessive risk.”

is another. We have other upcoming manufacturing visits throughout the year which are important because that sector is benefiting significantly from off-site solutions. We’re in discussions with other companies and continuing to work closely with MMC Ireland, promoting and supporting their events too.”

Alongside this, Skillnet MMC Accelerate maintains a strong physical presence across the industry calendar. Over the past year, the team has participated in around 20 conferences and exhibitions nationwide, with further participation in national events planned throughout 2026. Its own business support events throughout the country have attracted more than 700 attendees from over 200 companies, reinforcing regional engagement across Ireland.

For Alan, success is not measured solely by reach, but by behaviour. “By the end of 2026, success for us would be a significant increase in companies actively engaging with

seeing an increasing interest in AI-related courses. There’s strong demand there. AI is the next big disruptor and one that will need careful governance by the sector.”

“We’re also working on future-focused initiatives around Future Dynamics Co-creation. That includes developing new micro-credentials in MMC in collaboration with MMC Ireland and a number of Higher Education Institutions.”

The evolution of Skillnet MMC Accelerate mirrors the broader shift happening across the construction sector, moving from conversation to meaningful collaboration and partnership.

“This isn’t about telling people what to do,” Alan concludes. “It’s about providing a platform where industry can see what’s possible, learn from peers and take practical steps forward. MMC is no longer theoretical. It’s happening, and our role is to support that journey. Collaboration and working together is the key, and this is what CitA has always been good at.” ■