



SKILLNET MMC ACCELERATE INITIATIVE ADVANCES TO DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Upon its launch in 2024, Skillnet MMC Accelerate was designed to accelerate the adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) by connecting industry, education, and policy through an online platform supporting upskilling in MMC and regional business support events. With the initiative entering its next phase, the focus is now on deepening engagement and furthering implementation

across the construction sector. Speaking to Civil & Construction magazine, Dr Alan Hore, CitA Director and Project Lead of Skillnet MMC Accelerate, outlined how the programme has evolved since its development phase and 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 online platform, and promoting industry engagement through our business support events. Establishing the initiative also involved collaborating with partners Construct Innovate, Mount Lucas, MMC Ireland, and the CIF Smart Off-Site Association. This continuous engagement also included working closely with a number of MMC companies, Government support and research providers, and other contributors to our platform content and industry events. The positive results are plain to see: Skillnet MMC Accelerate has engaged with MMC companies and industry stakeholders nationwide on populating our online platform with relevant MMC content and delivered 12 business support events between Q4 2024 and the end of 2025.

"This year, the key priority is on deepening engagement through our events and driving more traffic to the platform while continuously improving the user experience. That means working with a broad range of stakeholders such as Government, industry bodies, universities, and Education and Training Boards to ensure the online platform and business support events continue to accelerate the wider adoption of MMC."

The response from industry has been very encouraging. Early data showed strong uptake from industry within the first five months of launch, with more than 5,000 users accessing the online platform and web traffic recorded from 45 countries. Education & Upskilling, Career Pathways and Business Support Events are 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 online platform and wider initiative. "It's been very well received, with more than 11,000 user sessions captured to date. Feedback from right across the sector has been very complimentary. It's an uplifting experience. We want to keep that momentum going by constantly adding new content and reviewing courses to include."

The breadth of that learning ecosystem is expanding too. Skillnet MMC Accelerate already signposts to more than 350 national training programmes supporting career pathways in lean, green and digital construction; advanced manufacturing; and primary MMC skills. The Skillnet MMC Accelerate initiative is also aligning with wider national initiatives such as the Government's MMC Action Plan, further shaping momentum. "The Government is very committed to MMC as part of a wider solution to delivering more housing rapidly," Alan said. "The Department of Housing is gathering data on the use of MMC across public and private

housing. That's a strong policy signal." "For SMEs, the conversation is increasingly about practicalities shifting from awareness to implementation. It's about understanding where MMC works in their day to day and how to take the first steps to adoption without excessive risk."

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 the MMC companies who worked with 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 profiles on the work that SMEs do. Other Government initiatives such as Building Heroes are designed to encourage young people to join the construction sector and show the range of opportunities that exist. We're also working with the companies that attend our business support events to identify and share their unique stories."

"O'Reilly Precast in Co. Cavan is one. Kirby Group in Co. Laois is another. We have other upcoming visits to manufacturing facilities throughout the year, which are important because the sector is benefiting significantly from offsite solutions. We're in discussions with other companies around the country to host our business support events and continue to work closely with MMC Ireland promoting their events too." To date, Skillnet MMC Accelerates business support events have attracted more than 700 attendees from around 200 companies, reinforcing regional engagement with MMC and upskilling across Ireland.





Alongside hosting these business support events, Skillnet MMC Accelerate maintains a strong physical presence across the industry events calendar. Over the past year, the team has participated in around 20 conferences and exhibitions across the country, with further participation in national events planned throughout 2026.

For Alan, success is not measured solely by reach, but by real behavior. “By the end of 2026, success for us would be a significant increase in companies actively engaging with the platform. That includes growth in unique users, a longer average time spent on the platform and, critically, evidence that more businesses across Ireland are upskilling in MMC. We want to see a significant increase in micro-SMEs and house builders engaging.”

The long-standing relationship between Cita and Skillnet Ireland will help to execute that ambition. “Cita has been working with Skillnet Ireland for more than 20 years. Through our Cita Skillnet network, in 2026 we will continue to support industry-led training through

our upskilling programmes, including support for SMEs to take part in postgraduate education. This year we have already seen an increasing interest in AI-related courses. There’s strong demand there. AI is the next big disruptor, across all industries, 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 teaching 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 around MMC. “This isn’t about telling people what to do,” Alan concludes. “It’s about providing opportunities for industry leaders to see what’s possible, learn from peers and take practical steps forward to upskill. MMC is no longer theoretical. It’s happening, and our role is to support that journey. Working together is the key and is something Cita has always been good at.”



**ACCELERATE YOUR
MMC EXPERTISE**
Build the skills to shape
your future in construction.



Share your MMC story or find out more:



info@skillnetmmcaccelerate.ie



Cita
Construction IT Alliance