

Shannon Development

Shannon Development is a regional development authority in the West of Ireland. The E-Towns project it has initiated at Miltown Malbay, County Clare is the first of four throughout the Shannon Region which will become showcases for how technology can facilitate the establishment of high value enterprise clusters in rural areas.

www.shannon-dev.ie

Need

Rural locations are being excluded from much economic opportunity due to the lack of information infrastructure. Communications service providers see rural areas as unprofitable investment. Local authorities and governments are failing to capitalise on the superior quality of life available in these locations due to the absence of a sufficient business infrastructure.

Solution

SONAS Innovation partnered with Ennis Information Age Town and delivered:

- Local market analysis compared to national benchmarks.
- A high level technical design was devised for efficient delivery of services
- Call for proposals from service providers drafted and issued.
- A high number of competent bidders made proposal, their solutions were compared and recommendations were made to Shannon Development

Outcome

The best solution model and provider was selected. Miltown eTown is now being marketed for Foreign Direct Investment opportunities. €10 - €20m of investment is being put in place. Regional economic investment has thus been consolidated and secured. More eTowns are now being announced.

Further Reading Material

<http://www.electricnews.net/news.html?code=9544173>

<http://www.shannon-dev.ie/press/2004%20Press%20Releases/20041004.htm>

http://eirepreneur.blogs.com/eirepreneur/2004/07/etowns_in_the_s.html