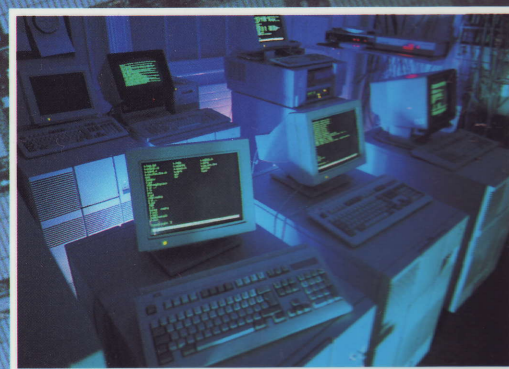
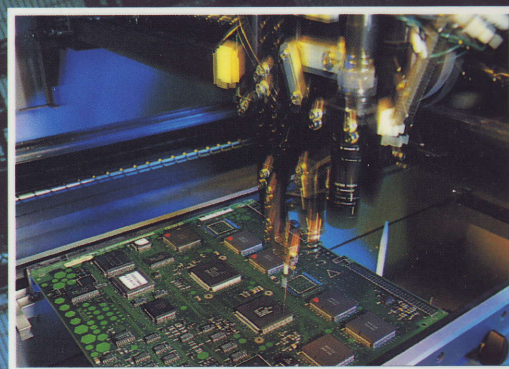
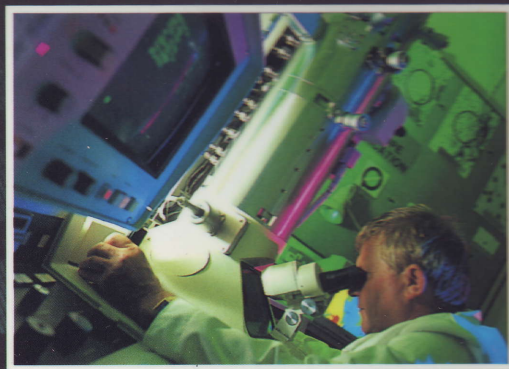


*Research & Development Capability
in Northern Ireland*



 **irtu**
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY UNIT

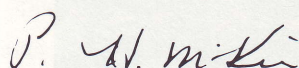
Northern Ireland offers its industry a supportive technological infrastructure. This booklet illustrates

some - though not all - of its key features. It shows high quality basic research in two Universities; close collaboration between Universities and industry in applied or developmental research; extensive networking within the European Community (EC); and technology transfer. Such strengths provide an attractive economic resource for both inward investors and established business.

Collaboration, networking and technology transfer are crucial to the region's own market-driven Research and Development (R&D) strategy. That strategy is developed and delivered by a dedicated Government unit - the Industrial Research and Technology Unit (IRTU). It provides an extensive range of financial and professional support services for industrial R&D.

These services have contributed to the facilities described in this booklet. Its selective examples illustrate close and effective collaboration between government, academia and industry. The shared aim is to increase economic competitiveness by developing, and profitably marketing, new products and processes.

As Chairman of the Board of IRTU I hope that this booklet will prove useful to all those considering investment in Northern Ireland, and to our indigenous and established industries.



PROFESSOR PETER MCKIE

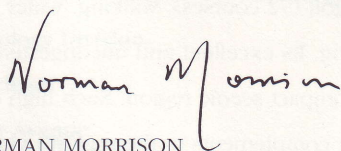
Chairman of the Board of the Industrial Research and Technology Unit.

Chairman of Du Pont (U.K.) Limited



As Government's Chief Engineer and Scientist in Northern Ireland, and Chief Executive of the Industrial Research and

Technology Unit, my priority is to promote the use of R&D for increased industrial innovation and wealth creation. This publication contains some examples of Northern Ireland's R&D capability. That capability rests on our excellent supply of highly qualified graduates; strong industry/academic links; close networking within the EC and beyond; and active technology transfer mechanisms. These add value to our strong technological infrastructure; provide support for existing and incoming industry; and increase Northern Ireland's attractions as an inward investment location.



NORMAN MORRISON

Government's Chief Engineer and Scientist in Northern Ireland, and
Chief Executive of the Industrial Research and Technology Unit.

Chief Executive's Statement





*Professor A Hashim
The University of Ulster*

1. The Interactive Systems Centre (ISC) is located within the University of Ulster at Magee College, Londonderry. It is committed to the enhancement of Northern Ireland's multimedia interactive systems. It has close links with Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) which supports the Centre.

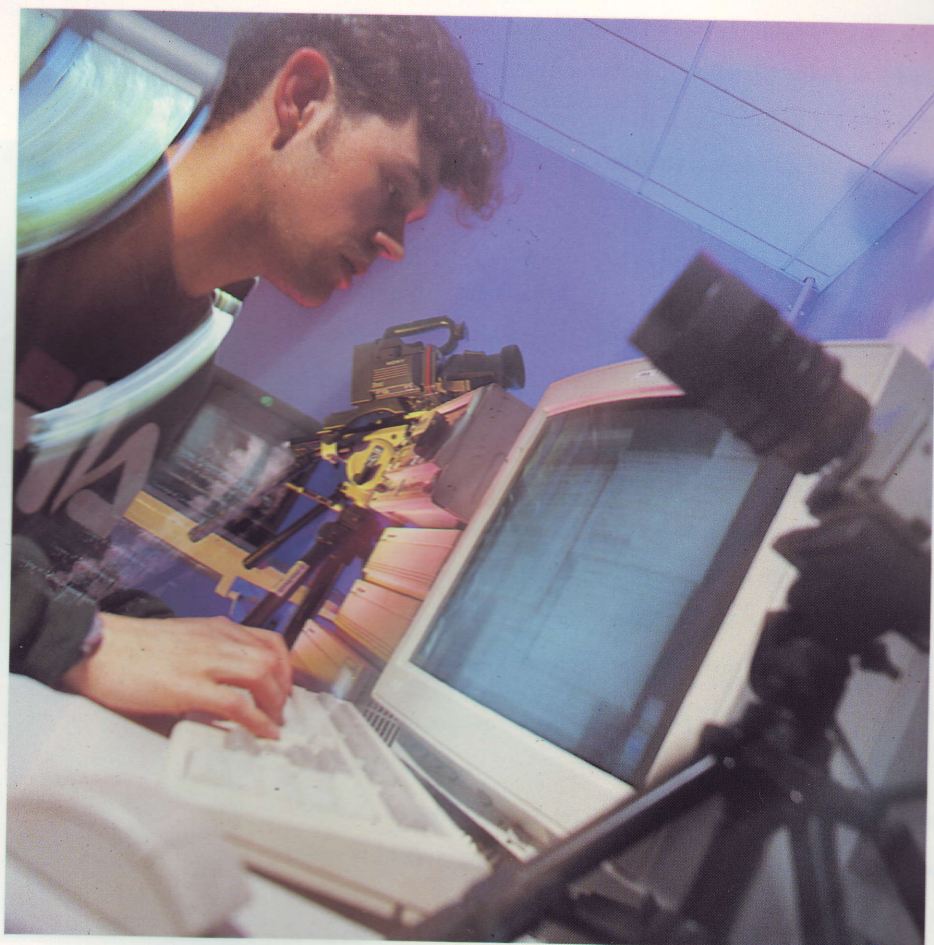
2. The Centre provides infrastructure, technology transfer, advice and development expertise. Its multi-disciplinary team includes computer scientists, engineers, psychologists, educators, product designers and business managers. These are divided between four disciplines:

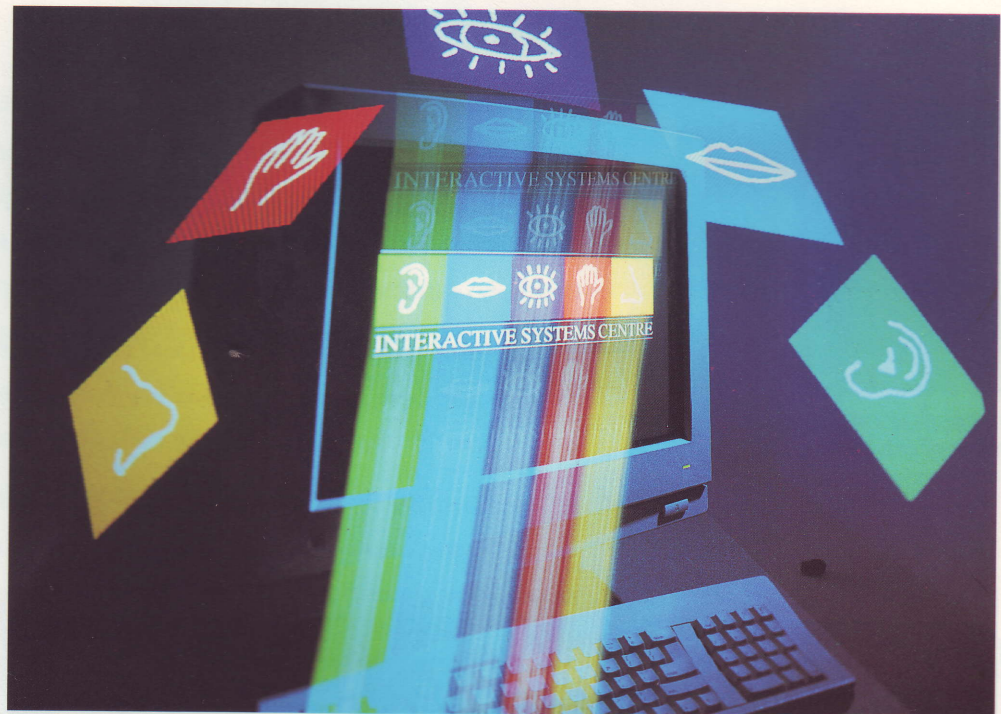
COMPUTING:

- the computing team investigates, inter alia, techniques for the separation of the user interface from the functional components of the computer system.

This enables rapid prototyping of interfaces with a high level of end-user involvement in their design.

Interactive Systems Centre





MULTIMEDIA:

- the multimedia team integrates an increasing range of peripherals and tools which include video, CD-ROM, speech and gesture.

PSYCHOLOGY:

- the psychology team studies socio-organisational and contextuality issues. It is concerned with all aspects of design and evaluation of all systems used by the Centre.

DESIGN:

- the design team studies industrial design concepts, methodologies, tools and information presentation skills to improve product success.

3. The Centre has a number of exemplar projects which utilise skills from all four teams. Application areas include: manufacturing information systems, decision support systems, tourist information systems and computer-aided learning.

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