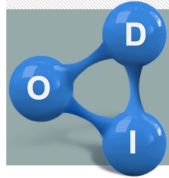# Making The UK More Competitive

The Open Data Institute

The Open Data Institute (ODI) will be a global first: a collaboration between our leading businesses and entrepreneurs, universities and researchers, government and civil society to unlock enterprise and social value from the vast amount of Open Government Data now being made accessible.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has put Open Data at the heart of his agenda for government and in his Autumn Statement last November Chancellor George Osborne announced the intention to launch the ODI to stimulate innovation and enterprise. The ODI, an independent organisation led by Professors Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Nigel Shadbolt, will be formally opened in October.

The first objective of the ODI, in its pre-launch phase, is to identify partners who wish to become founding members of the organisation – in commerce, the public sector and academia. This meeting for business leaders is to provide a briefing on the programme and to investigate with key commercial partners their appetite for collaboration.

From health and life sciences to education, transport and central government spending data, government is releasing far more data than ever before. The ODI will work with entrepreneurs to help them build their capabilities to exploit the potential of this national asset. It will help the public sector use its own data more effectively. It will engage with developers, the private and public sector to build supply chains and commercial outlets for public data. It will foster and train a generation of Open Data entrepreneurs.

The ODI will have its primary physical presence in Shoreditch around the Tech City initiative. This positioning will immediately give it access to the various networks that comprise the Silicon Roundabout phenomenon. With hundreds of active start-ups – many looking to exploit and use Open Data, this existing network will be an essential part of ensuring that the ODI is surrounded by innovative talent eager to collaborate and use the outputs and resources of the ODI. These start-ups many staffed by recent graduates have a natural affinity to the research and development ethos of Universities. As such Tech City offers an environment that will straddle business and academe.

It will receive £10 million over 5 years from Government (via the Technology Strategy Board) and over that time will seek matched funds. The ODI will be designed around the power of the **Network Effect** – the network components are data, people and organisations. Within these networks the ODI will be a key node - a **Focal Point** that will coordinate, convene, link and integrate other network components. The ODI will embody and exploit the **Power and Promise of Open** – it will support open standards, open data, open licences and promote wherever feasible open source software. The ODI will promote Open Government Data as a **Platform** for

transparency and accountability, efficiency and improved service delivery, innovation and value creation – a data platform to support Government, Business and Research.

The ODI will provide a focus for the exploitation of Open Government Data by businesses of all types and sizes, across all sectors. It will encourage and support the publication of Open Government Data by the Public Sector. This will help provide (i) a source of Open Government Data for commercial exploitation (ii) Open Government Data for internal efficiencies and benefits with and between public sector bodies and departments.

The ODI will support a wide range of early stage, start-up companies, micro-businesses and SMEs to exploit Open Data through provision of a range of specialist, technical and commercial services. It will help those with high-growth potential exploit and access public sector Open Data.

During the course of its initial funding the Institute will deliver focused support to small businesses in selected domains that show greatest promise for the exploitation of Open Data in a business or public sector context. These businesses will be selected by annual open competitions run by the ODI.

The ODI will train a cohort of linked and open data technologists and entrepreneurs. It will also provide places for ODI Fellows – they will come from the public and private sectors and join the ODI to gain an understanding of Open Government Data opportunities. It will run a similar scheme for the placement of ODI Facilitators in public and private sector organisations. Their explicit role will be to create sustainable knowledge and understanding of Open Government Data exploitation within the organisations in which they are placed. All of this will be to support capability building and best practice.

The ODI will look to develop and promote the emerging Linked Web of Data as a means of delivering the vision of Open Government Data. The ODI will identify those areas that require research in methods, tools and techniques for the publication and life cycle of Open Government Data exploitation. It will seek to commission such work if needed.

The ODI will provide a source of expert advice to Government on the best way to realise the value of Open Government Data and to ensure that policy and public technology is capable of delivering a continued flow of Open Government Data. It will undertake research to assess the impact of Open Government Data releases.

The ODI will work with standards bodies such as W3C and OASIS to ensure that Open Data standards are available and fit for purpose. The effective exploitation of Open Data whether from public or private sectors is best realised through the adoption of open standards that enable and support interoperability. It will promote best practice in their use and deployment.

The ODI will serve as a locus for International engagement. It will seek collaboration with Open Data initiatives at all levels of granularity – for example at national, regional, city and institutional levels. There will be opportunities to work with other non-governmental agencies that support Open Government Data around the world.

Following a commissioning phase to begin as soon as possible it will commence its main activity lines during September 2012 with a formal opening by the Prime Minister or a senior member of Government in October 2012.

The Open Data Institute – Partnership Opportunities

The announcement of the ODI in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement created excitement in many quarters, and builds on the success of data.gov.uk. The Government announced funding for the ODI of £10m over 5 years with the ambition of securing matched funding of £10m.

The Offer

- Access to the world's first one-stop shop for technical and business advice around Open Data with the specific aim of extracting value, creating new networks of opportunity and maximising business profits using the rapidly emerging Linked Data technologies
- Placement of ODI staff into businesses for highly intensive periods to identify projects and offer guidance in Open Data improvement both within the organisation and to the outside world, ensuring the UK maintains its leading position in Open Data globally
- Commissioned research into new product development, tools, service delivery with the premier academic institutions specialising in Open Data
- Undertake project work at the ODI to explore areas where Open Data can bring benefits – either through internal efficiencies, marketing research, or new products and services
- Access to the most innovative start ups in the United Kingdom building business models around Open Data
- Ability to shape and influence Government policy by providing input, evidence and guidance on the impact of Open Data releases.
- Opportunity to place fast tracked staff with the ODI for intensive training leading to a post graduate certificate
- Work with the ODI to explore what other public sector data assets could be made public
- Commissioned consultancy regarding standards, tool development and service creation in Open Data and access to international collaboration
- ….. and a drop in centre located at the heart of technology innovation in the UK where people can meet to network and explore new ideas

The Ask

- Commission the ODI via projects and engagements to demonstrate the opportunities of Open Data within an organization
- Fund projects and research to support and develop the Open Data agenda, and the mission of the ODI
- Placement of staff on secondment to the ODI who will thereby gain deep experience and knowledge of Open Data
- Host ODI Fellows and interns within the organisation
- Enrolment of staff on ODI training programmes
- Provision of Open Data projects for the Post Graduate Training element
- Sponsorship of events, appathons, conferences etc.
- Contributions in kind to support the day to day operation of the ODI
- Corporate donations
- Places on the ODI Advisory Panel
- Launch Event marketing presence and founder member status