MEDIA RELEASE

25.04.16

Electric Corby joins delegation to European Commission

After a busy and productive year Electric Corby returned to Brussels with the CloudOpting project partners from across Europe for what was the second annual review of the project at the European Commission.

CloudOpting is developing an 'App Store' for public services allowing governments to download software and applications much like a user downloads applications to their smartphone. This 'App Store' will bring financial savings across Europe and the UK through reduced ICT infrastructure and administration costs, allowing local governments to put funding into critical services, such as health, education and safety.

The reviewers, comprising an expert panel of Europe's best and brightest, noted the projects potential to deliver real and lasting change across Europe, putting Electric Corby, and Corby itself, at the heart of ICT innovation and the digital revolution in this €6.5 million project. This continued success has attracted over €4m (£3m) in European funding to Corby through a series of innovative and pioneering research projects.

Nick Bolton: "*Digital innovation is driving economic growth globally and Electric Corby's involvement in this successful EU funded project ensures Corby is positioning itself to secure*

a share of that growth. CloudOpting is supporting some seriously switched on thinking in the delivery of future public services"

Electric Corby CIC set out to establish Corby as a leading community scale centre for new sustainable ways of living, working and traveling. The EU grants are making this a reality.

There will be four experiments trialled in Corby, utilising open data to increase transparency and innovation in local governments across the UK. With Electric Corby's support CloudOpting will encourage new digital markets and growth opportunities across Northamptonshire, attracting globally leading services from across Europe to Corby. The four experiments to be trialled will be:

- Bus Portal – *Provides live bus data using Traveline API for all buses in Northamptonshire, enhancing the quality of service offered to users. This pilot can be found at catchabus.co.uk*
- Energy Dashboard – *Provides instant analysis on consumer energy, enabling users to lower their bills, and protect the environment.*
- Business Portal – *A portal which can contain all the SME initiatives and sources of funding available to the area supporting local businesses to network, collaborate and grow.*
- CKAN – *A web portal which improves the accessibility of local data and information, rendering new insight into local and public activities.*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR

Electric Corby CIC - www.electriccorby.co.uk

Electric Corby is a Community Interest Company formed in part to attract world leaders in clean engineering and technology to Corby by becoming the UK's practical, community scale test centre for energy efficient living, working and travelling. Aiming to generate new employment opportunities with a low carbon, low energy focus to match the high levels of population growth in the area, Electric Corby will help the town become one of the most environmentally and economically sustainable areas in the UK.

Community Interest Companies (CIC's) are limited companies, with special additional features, created to conduct a business or other activity for community benefit.

CloudOpting - http://www.cloudopting.eu/

CloudOpting is a three year project receiving €6.5 million in funding from the European Union ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework. CloudOpting is a virtual platform that operates as an 'app store' for public services to drive down ICT infrastructure and software application costs.

The project commenced March, 2014 and comprises of a pan European consortium consisting of 10 partners (Barcelona City Council, CSI-Piemonte, Electric Corby CIC, Netport, SDG Group, Wordline, Wellness Telecom, Smart Partners, Profesia and Teamnet) spanning five countries (UK, Romania, Spain, Italy and Sweden). It is estimated to bring €170,000 of European funding directly into the area, as well as providing four software applications for use by its residence.