Visit to CodeBase

5 December 2016

Meeting hosted by: Steven Drost, Strategy

Members in attendance: Gordon Lindhurst and Ash Denham

CodeBase is the UK’s largest incubator, and one of Europe’s fastest-growing tech hubs providing office space for start-ups ranging from 2 to over 100 staff. The CodeBase incubator does not take any equity in any of the start-ups.

Employment

A quarter of those using CodeBase are from other EU nations (mainly Spain, Portugal, central and Eastern Europe), they would find it hard to replace these developers should they leave. There is some concern about what will happen. Fewer than 5% of incubates are from outside the EU. CodeBase users have an average income of £50,000.

There is the potential to create thousands of new digital technologies jobs but investment in connectivity, skills, research will be needed to ensure that Scotland can take advantage of this. It is estimated that 11,000 jobs in the sector are created each year, many cannot filled locally.

Scotland could create 70,000 tech jobs by 2020

Investment

CodeBase act as a bridge for investors from other traditional investment areas. Business Angels (who provides capital for a business start-up) that pay tax in the UK have access to important Tax relief schemes. Start-ups also receive significant financial assistance from the European Union in the form of grants, ERDF H2020 and other funding sources. Much of the current enterprise activity is entirely dependent on these sources.