# NI6 partners: products and services

The NI6 is an informal grouping of publicly funded bodies that exist to help businesses across the UK with design, innovation, intellectual property (IP) measurement and standards. This electronic leaflet brings together some of their key services and offers, relevant to a wide range of businesses using the Business Link website and its equivalent services in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Please look through the categories below to see how they can add value to your business:							
•••••	• • • • • • • •	•••••					
•••••	• • • • • • •	•••••					
•••••	• • • • • • •	•••••					
••••••		• • • • • • •	•••••				

Guide to branding	A Design Council guide to help businesses better understand the value of branding and how it can improve products and services.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources-and-events/Business-and-public-sector/Guides/The-power-of-branding/#	Design Council	Website section
Innovate and Grow tool	A tool to help design-led businesses that want to innovate and grow find the advice and support their business needs.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources-and-events/Designers/ Innovate-and-Grow1/#	Design Council	Website tool
Design Council case study content on Design Council website and syndicated on Business Link (Exploit Your Ideas)	The Design Council's case studies demonstrate how investing in design can solve business issues, improve efficiencies, add value, generate profit and gain competitive advantage.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/case-studies/#	Design Council	Website section
Article on return on design investment	Businesses that use design or are looking to invest in design to understand the importance of return on design investment can use this Design Council article as a handy reference tool about how proceed.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/about-design/measuring-design/#	Design Council	Website section
What design is and why it matters (article on Design Council site)	This reference article by the Design Council's Chief Design Officer helps business that are new to design better understand the role of design in business and how it facilitates innovation.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/about-design/What-design-is-and-why-lt-matters/#	Design Council	Website section
Public services by design	This is a Design Council mentoring service for public sector managers that helps them use design tools and techniques to innovate and deliver more effective, more efficient and more customer focused services.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/support/Public-Services-by-Design/#	Design Council	Mentoring
Design Council mentoring services	A business support programme from the Design Council that helps SMEs to become more innovative, more competitive and more profitable through design.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/support/#	Design Council	Mentoring
Innovate for Universities	A Design Council mentoring service for technology transfer offices and scientists and innovators in UK universities to use design to develop new applications for their research and commercialise new technologies.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/support/innovate-for-universities/about-Innovate/#	Design Council	Mentoring
Design Council web content	The Design Council website is an excellent resource to access services, support, and case studies to help business that are interested in how design and design thinking can help them become more innovative and profitable.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/#	Design Council	Freestanding website
Design Council corporate comms	Sign up to the Design Council's newsletter to find out more about their latest opportunities and resources on design.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/support/#	Design Council	Newsletter
Website resources	Design Guides for Business is a series of guides for SMEs to help them learn more about how design can help innovation within their business.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources-and-events/Business-and-public-sector/#	Design Council	Website section

# Adding value to your business through better knowledge of intellectual property

IP Healthcheck Tool on IPO website, Business Link and others.	This tools helps businesses that are own and use intellectual property to better understand how to make the most of their intellectual assets.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/iphealthcheck.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Website tool
Patent database search	This free IPO database helps businesses seeking patent information in a specific field to find out about the details of previously filed patents.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/p-os/p-find.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Website tool
IP booklets (patents, trade marks, designs & copyright)	The IPO provides free booklets aimed at helping businesses that are planning to file an IP right gain, giving them a better understanding of IP.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/p-basicfacts.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
IPO Masterclass	To help business advisors gain a detailed understanding of all aspects of IP, the IPO runs a 3 day Masterclass training course.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/business-support/business-masterclass.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Consultancy - advice
IPO patent, trade mark and design databases	The IPO provides businesses with a database for searching the IPOs patent, trade mark and design information.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/os.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Website tool
IPO Awareness Seminars	Business that are considering filing patent, trade mark or design applications can find out more about how these IP rights can be used in their business by attending free IPO awareness events.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/events-calendar.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Consultancy - advice
IPO Supply Chain Toolkit	Using this free toolkit can help businesses avoid accidentally getting counterfeit goods into their supply chain.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipctoolkit.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
IPO/UKTI IP Primers	Businesses that intend to trade in Brazil, India, China, Korea, USA or Vietnam can get advice by using country specific online IP guides offered by Business Link and the IPO.	http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1096768713	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
IPO Workshops & IP Masterclass	The IPO Masterclass training event helps owners and managers of SMEs who are creating IP better understand how to manage their IP.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/business-support.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Consultancy - advice
IPO Awareness Seminars where the IPO explains what the it can offer and IP attorneys explain their role in supporting businesses	To help businesses that want to know more about intellectual property, an offering of free advice from an IP attorney using one-to-one sessions at the IPOs regional seminars.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/business-ipa.htm	Intellectual Property Office	Consultancy - advice
Licensing Intellectual Property	This guide helps businesses that are intending to allow 3rd parties to license their IP or are intending to license IP owned by others, to better understand the principles of licensing.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/licensingbooklet.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter

IPO Non-Disclosure Agreements	These help businesses that are working with 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties, enabling them to share confidential information using the IPOs non-disclosure agreement booklet and examples of non-disclosure agreements.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/nda.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
Intellectual Asset Management for Universities	The IPOs guide to help businesses improve the way they work with universities works by ensuring that they understand how universities manage their intellectual assets.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipasset-management.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
Choosing the Right IP Advisor	This guide provides advice to help businesses looking to appoint an IP advisor, giving them guidelines about how to choose the right advisor.	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipadviserbooklet.pdf	Intellectual Property Office	Printed publication/ leaflet/ newsletter
IP guide for designers	The Design Council's intellectual property guide helps design business that require information on intellectual property to understand different IP rights, contracts, and their impact in the day to day running of their business.	http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources-and-events/designers/guides/legal-issues/#	Design Council	Other

### Adding value to your business through better knowledge of regulations

Legislative Policy-UK weights and measures legislatuion	Some business need information on quantity to make informed purchasing decisions with confidence. To help them, this NMO service provides them, their representative organisations, trading standards departments and other stakeholders with necessary advice on policy and regulation in the areas of weights and measures, and gas and electricity meters across the UK.
NMO Enforcement Authority - responsible for enforcing RoHS,Batteries, ERP and Energy Labelling	This service helps businesses comply with regulations aimed at improving energy consumption, protecting health and preserving the environment. The enforcement authority does this through combining market surveillance with product testing and business support.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement/About-Us

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/regulation

National Measurement Office

National

LGC

LGC

LGC

Measurement Office

Other

Other

**Directives The Government Chemist Function** 

This online newsfeed helps businesses that produce or use chemical measurement to keep abreast of key emerging legislative and regulatory developments.

www.governmentchemist.org.uk/News.aspx?m=2&amid=1318

LGC (formerly Laboratory of the Government Chemist)

Website section

Restriction of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS)

Enforcing these regulations, which prohibit hazardous substances, such as lead and mercury, from being used in electrical equipment, the NMO enforcement authority works with business to ensure compliance through direct investigations and by providing business support through dedicated information resources and confidential enquiry

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement/rohs-home

Enforcement/ Information resource

**Batteries and** Accumulators (Placing on the Market)

Enforcing these regulations, which control the use of mercury and cadmium in batteries and ensure appropriate markings and removability for end of life disposal, the NMO enforcement authority works with business to ensure compliance through direct investigations and by providing business support through dedicated information resources and confidential enquiry services.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement/batteries-home

Enforcement/ Information resource

**Ecodesign for Energy Related Products** 

Enforcing these regulations, which reduce the environmental impact of products by establishing minimum ecodesign requirements, the NMO enforcement authority works with business to ensure compliance through direct investigations and by providing business support through dedicated information resources and confidential enquiry

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement/ecodesign

Enforcement/ Information resource

**Energy Labelling Framework** 

Enforcing these regulations, which ensure complex energy consumption and performance information of certain domestic appliances, is accurately communicated, allowing consumers to make informed purchasing decisions, the NMO enforcement authority works with business to ensure compliance through direct investigations and by providing business support through dedicated information resources and confidential enquiry

http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/enforcement/elf-home

LGC Enforcement/ Information resource

## Adding value to your business by improving your processes, measurements and data

Quality management Systems Certification	This certification helps businesses conform to internationally recognised management systems standards and quality improvement. It works by offering a quality management systems certification service via a team of highly skilled auditors, who work closely with businesses to help them to achieve their goal of quality management systems certification.	http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/certification-services/qms-certification	National Measurement Office	Certification
Analytical Quality Training	Businesses that produce or use chemical and biological measurements can be helped to ensure that the quality of their data meets current accreditation and regulatory requirements through attending analytical quality training courses.	http://www.lgc.co.uk/our_expertise/training_and_education.aspx	LGC	Training
Advice	This helps businesses that produce or use chemical and biological measurement by providing access to expert advice on a range of analytical, chemical and biological technologies and related quality assurance topics.	nmshelp@lgc.co.uk	LGC	Consultancy - advice
Good Practice Guides	Businesses that produce or use chemical and biological measurement can be helped to produce accurate and reliable results by these using good practice guides and other downloadable training resources.	http://www.nmschembio.org.uk/GenericHub.aspx?m=33	LGC	Downloadable Publication

POET-Process & Operational Efficiency Team	Businesses that carry out laboratory and office based operations can improve processes and reduce costs by using process mapping and LabSmart process modelling tools.	poet@lgc.co.uk	LGC	Consultancy - advice
Good Practice Guides	These good practice guides help businesses that need to produce reliable data on their products.	http://www.npl.co.uk/publications/guides	National Physical Laboratory	Downloadable publication
Measurement training for users	Businesses that need to make measurements to lower scrap rates and improve the quality of their products can be helped through a range of measurement training courses delivered nationally and internationally.	http://www.npl.co.uk/training	National Physical Laboratory	Training
Kaye and Laby handbook of physical and chemical data	Technical and engineering businesses have access to trustworthy data using Kaye and Laby on-line.	http://www.npl.co.uk/reference/kaye-laby	National Physical Laboratory	Website tool
Technical advice	Businesses that produce or use measurements can access confidential technical expertise help using this free enquiry service.	http://www.npl.co.uk/contact-us/free-advice-from-npl	National Physical Laboratory	Advice service
Consultancy	Businesses that produce or use measurements can use this service to access confidential, technical and expert help for up to 10 days at a set, subsidised rate.	http://www.npl.co.uk/technology-innovation-fund	National Physical Laboratory	Consultancy
Research clubs	Businesses that would like to join with others to investigate a solution to a technical problem can do so using NPLs research capability.	http://www.npl.co.uk/technology-innovation-fund	National Physical Laboratory	Contract research
Measurement Network	Businesses that produce or use measurements can join the Measurement Network to exchange information with other members and leading experts.	http://www.npl.co.uk/measurement-network	National Physical Laboratory	Networking
Accreditation, Auditor, and Laboratory Training	Business that provide testing or evaluation services can use these courses to learn about laboratory management, accreditation requirements, and auditing.	http://www.ukas.com/services/Training	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Training and advisory
Online database of accredited organisations	To help businesses find the relevant competent testing service, inspection body, or certifying body.	www.ukas.com	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Website tool

### Adding value to your business through standards and accreditation 1. http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/certification-services/product-certification **Product Certification** NMO product certification helps manufacturers of National Other weighing and measuring equipment gain type approval Measurement of their prototype equipment. This adds value by helping 2. http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/certification-services/calibration Office minimise their time to manufacture, and, by offering them a customer focused and efficient type approval service, to help sell in their desired target markets. Calibration This helps businesses and trading standards departments 1. http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/certification-services/product-certification National Consultancy who use reference standards in their work to ensure Measurement advice accuracy, reduce waste or comply with quality assurance. 2. http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/certification-services/calibration Office It works by offering them an efficient and customer driven calibration service for mass, length and volume standards NMO provides policy support to ministers on hallmarking National Consultancy Hallmarking http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/regulation/hallmarking issues and took over sponsorship of the British Measurement advice Hallmarking Council (BHC) in 2007. The BHC are Office responsible for overseeing the independent testing and marking of articles of precious metal to indicate they conform to legal standards of purity (fineness), and advises the secretary of state on hallmarking matters. It also ensures there are adequate facilities for hallmarking in the UK and directs the assay offices as to the standards, practices and procedures to be adopted by them in the testing and marking of precious metal items. **Consultation and** NMO offers consultation and representation to help http://www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/Consultations National Consultancy manufacturers of weighing and measuring equipment, Measurement advice representation control systems, calibration/test labs, quality control Office and assurance divisions/organisations avoid barriers to trade. It also works to ensure satisfactory legislative outcomes by helping these manufacturers to influence measurement and standardisation activities internationally by offering clear and effective channels of consultation, representation and engagement. http://shop.bsigroup.com/en/ProductDetail/?pid=00000000030214064 BS 8538:2011 Specification A published standard meeting (British Standard Intellectual Other 8538:2011), helps businesses that offer intellectual Property Office for the provision of property advice attain the right standard of service. services relating to the ommercialization of intellectual property rights Businesses that need to make measurements in order National Calibration http://www.npl.co.uk/commercial-services/measurement-services Calibration Physical to meet buyer specifications and trade internationally service can make traceable measurements using this calibration Laboratory Businesses that use or produce measurements can Calibration **Calibration and** 1. http://www.lgcgroup.com/divisions\_science\_technology/science\_ LGC get values assigned, purity determined and obtain innovation/mass\_spectrometry/uk\_chemical\_calibration\_facili.aspx and validation measurement measurement calibrants and reference materials. service 2. <a href="http://www.lgcgroup.com/divisions/lgc\_standards.aspx">http://www.lgcgroup.com/divisions/lgc\_standards.aspx</a> Different categories of membership are offered for different British Membership **BSI Membership** http://www.bsigroup.com/membership sizes and types of organisation, from sole traders to Standards large organisations, in both public and private sectors. Institute Each category pays a different yearly subscription rate, based on the number of employees and turnover of their organization. Benefits include: •50% off British Standards, British Standards Online (BSOL) and BSI conferences •Discounts off foreign standards (40% off ISO, 10% off DIN, ASTM and others) Access to a dedicated knowledge centre enquiry service •Current awareness services to keep you up-to-date

•Free p&p and credit facilities

BSI PLUS (Private List Updating Service)	A tailor-made service for members ensuring that the most up-to-date standards in a given interest area are automatically provided.	http://www.bsigroup.com/plus	British Standards Institute	Standards awareness service
BSI shop	Online access to free information on the entire catalogue of British Standards, plus the opportunity to buy standards in hard or soft copy.	http://www.bsigroup.com/shop	British Standards Institute	Website section
BSI Committee membership	BSI's standards are written by committees of interested stakeholders. These committees are also responsible for advising on the UK line to be taken in European and international standardization, and so are fundamental to the process of developing standards.	http://www.bsigroup.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/Committee-Members/	British Standards Institute	Other
Standards development information	Information on all proposed new work, standards in development, published standards and the committees who develop those standards is published by BSI on a freely accessible website.	http://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/	British Standards Institute	Freestanding website
Commenting on draft standards and online standards proposals	In order to become a British Standard, a draft is available for public comment. There is an online commenting tool, where anyone can comment on draft standards. It is also possible to view proposals for new standards (and make proposals for standards).	<ol> <li>http://www.bsigroup.com/drafts</li> <li>http://standardsproposals.bsigroup.com/</li> </ol>	British Standards Institute	Other
Self-assessment tools	BSI has a series of online self-assessment tools that help users assess their own progress in working with a number of popular standards on systems for quality management, energy management, data protection, business continuity and health & safety.	http://shop.bsigroup.com/Navigate-by/Assessment-Tools/	British Standards Institute	Website tool
Conferences on standards as business improvers	BSI uses conferences to gather leading experts and respected professionals to present the latest news on key issues, to discuss solutions, share best practice and debate the future. They range from the launch of a new standard to addressing the business needs of a specific sector. They are often accompanied by relevant workshops which go into detail on particular topics in a practical learning environment.	http://www.bsigroup.com/conferences	British Standards Institute	Conference
Eurocodes PLUS	This is an online tool that makes working with the Structural Eurocodes simple, and which have been developed in collaboration with leading engineering firms. The Eurocodes have been described as 'the biggest single change in construction standards ever', but less than 30% of organizations are adequately prepared for the Eurocodes.	http://www.bsigroup.com/eurocodesplus	British Standards Institute	Website tool
British Standards Online	British Standards Online (BSOL) is a bibliographic, citation and full-text database of more than 50,000 standards, available on subscription.	http://www.bsigroup.com/BSOL_	British Standards Institute	Website tool
Accreditation of testing laboratories	Busiiness that carry out testing or sampling can become accredited to demonstrate their compliance to meet regulatory requirements.	http://www.ukas.com/services/accreditation-services/Accreditation-Services.asp	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Website section
Accreditation of medical testing laboratories	Medical testing and diagnostic laboratories can seek accreditation to demonstrate competence to commissioners, patients and other interested parties.	http://www.ukas.com/Library/Media-Centre/Promotional-Materials/ Brochures/CPA%20Brochure.pdf	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Printed material
Accreditation of inspection and surveying organisations	Businesses that carry out inspection activites, surveying and risk assessments can become accredited to demonstrate independence, integrity and competence to their customers.	http://www.ukas.com/Library/Media-Centre/Promotional-Materials/ Brochures/UKAS%20Inspection%20Brochure.pdf	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Printed material
Accreditation of certification bodies	Business wishing to provide management systems certification, product certification and personnel certification can seek accreditation to demonstrate their competence and impartiality to their customers.	http://www.ukas.com/Library/Media-Centre/Promotional-Materials/ Brochures/Certification%20Brochure.pdf	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Printed material
Development of accreditation schemes	To help businesses or associations develop and design an accreditation scheme to demonstrate confidence in the market.	http://www.ukas.com/services/development-services/development services.asp	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Website section
Accreditation of proficiency testing schemes	Businesses that provide proficiency testing schemes can seek accreditation to demonstrate their competence and impartiality.	http://www.ukas.com/Library/Media-Centre/Promotional-Materials/ Brochures/ILAC%20PT%20brochure.pdf	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Printed material
Accreditation of reference material providers	Businesses that produce reference materials can seek accreditation to demonstrate their competence.	http://www.ukas.com/services/accreditation-services/Accreditation- Services.asp	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Website section
International advice	Online links to international testing, inspection, and certification agreements for businesses seeking to import or export.	http://www.ukas.com/technical-information/international-role/ International-Role.asp	United Kingdom Accreditation Service	Website section