



# WOMEN IN TECH

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021

FRIDAY 26TH MARCH



Women in Business NI is delighted to bring together a collective of Northern Ireland's leading Tech companies and organisations to host the 4th Women in Tech Conference sponsored by MCS Group.

This year's conference theme will be **The Virtual Revolution**.

This empowering one-day virtual event will gather role models who innovate, challenge and embrace technology. Inspirational women who have achieved great success within the sector and influential entrepreneurs will share stories of their journey.

The event will feature speakers and panellists who will provide delegates with a day of industry-focused learning as well as access to high calibre education and development experts.

With global and local perspectives on the days topics this will be a fantastic thought-provoking day.

## Conference Running Order

- 09.30 Welcome from **Emer Maguire**
- 09.35 Sponsors message from **Louise Smyth**, Managing Director of MCS Group
- 09.40 Opening keynote speaker - **Inmaculada Martinez** – The Virtual Revolution
- Inma Martinez is an industry recognised technologist for having pioneer A.I. personalisation and creating other disruptive digital technologies since the 1990s. Having lead successful exits and growth in a number of high-profile tech start-ups in the UK and Finland, Inma is a venture partner at Deep Science Ventures and an internationally recognised female tech entrepreneur making her the perfect speaker to educate corporate audiences on the emerging digital trends.
- Q&A
- 10.10 Hear from our forum members part one.
- 10.20 **Panel discussion – Flexible working: myth or reality?** – an open discussion on whether the introduction of flexible working really does lead to a happier, more effective, more productive workforce.
- Panellists
    - **Rosie Williamson**, Rating Team Leader from Allstate NI
    - **Jackie Wishart**, Acting Head of Information Assurance and Cyber Security in the NICS
    - **Emma Proctor**, IT & Cybersecurity Manager from Sensata Technologies
  - Live Interaction with online audience via Q&A and polls will be conducted during the panel session to hear feedback from the audience.
- 11.00 Virtual networking session / comfort break
- Attendees have the option of taking part in virtual networking rooms or take a break.
- 11.20 15-minute Breakout Sessions - attendees can choose which 2 breakout session to watch:
- **Non-traditional career route into tech** – representatives from Aflac, B-Secur and Version One will discuss their paths into the tech sector. An opportunity to also hear about Press Refresh – a free supportive return to work part-time Data Analytics 17-week training programme with mentor support from female role models in Tech. The breakout will be an opportunity for attendees to hear more from WIB and Belfast Met on the programme.
  - **Where does tech innovation go from here?** Talent working with innovation – are we now looking at different/new skill sets when hiring new staff? Does this increase the talent pool?
  - **Lee Millen** – an engaging, energising, and powerful sessions on boosting workplace confidence and importance of mentoring.
- 12.00 Hear from our forum members part two.

- 12.10 **Panel discussion – How will immersive tech transform our world?**  
 Predicting future tech trends for an immersive intelligent digital world. This panel discussion will be an opportunity to hear from panellists who will discuss how augmented reality and immersive technologies are transforming our day-to-day lives and what the future may hold.
- Panellists
    - **Ruth McGuinness**, Director of Business Development for the AI Practice at Kainos
    - **Lester Kelly**, Senior Staff Innovation, Automation & Control Engineer from Seagate Technology
    - More panellists to be announced shortly.
  - Live Interaction with online audience via Q&A.
- 12.50 Closing keynote speaker **Priya Guha**
- Priya is a member of the Innovate UK Council. After diplomatic postings took her to Asia and Europe, Priya was appointed British Consul General in San Francisco. That in turn led her to the tech sector, where she led start-up incubator RocketSpace and is now a venture capital partner. Covering ideas of innovation and leadership from Silicon Valley, she also discusses the intersection of technology and politics, and what a Western-centric view of both could mean. Priya is on the Advisory Board of Tech London Advocates and Chairs the Board of Trustees of Modern Muse, a charity empowering girls to make more informed career decisions, to increase diversity in the workplace, and close the gender pay gap. Priya has also been named in the Top 50 Most Influential Women in UK Tech.
- 13.20 **Sara Lyons** from Bring IT On – an opportunity to hear about the programme.
- 13.25 Close of conference by **Roseann Kelly MBE**, CEO of Women in Business NI
- 13.30 End

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