

OPT2VOTE – Improving Ballot Processes

Derry-based company OPT2VOTE Ltd supplies election software and services, both nationally and internationally. It specialises in providing choices to improve participation in the democratic system by delivering bespoke solutions to address specific election requirements.

Using an Invest NI Innovation Voucher, OPT2VOTE contacted the University to explore ways of minimising the manual processing of queries from processed ballot papers.

Dr Joan Condell, lecturer, School of Computing and Intelligent Systems, undertook an evaluation of intelligent character recognition (ICR) software. Tests were carried out using specified character sets and following extensive testing and evaluation, presented recommendations on how OPT2VOTE could adopt their current system.

Siobhan Donaghy, chief technology officer, OPT2VOTE, said: *“The Innovation Voucher scheme was a great opportunity for OPT2VOTE to avail of expert advice from the University sector in the further development of one of our products.”*