

## **Platform @ The Pixel Mill FAQs**

### **When can I apply for Platform?**

Applications open on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and will close at 5pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **When does Platform commence and how long does it run for?**

**Platform** starts on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and runs for up to 12 months until the end of March 2023.

### **How much funding is available?**

Companies may be awarded up to £60,000 in funding across the **Platform** accelerator programme. This is dependent of meeting agreed milestones.

### **How long will Platform companies have access to The Pixel Mill?**

**Platform** companies will be given desk space for 6 months initially with a further 6 months pending performance review.

### **Does Northern Ireland Screen take any ownership of IP created during Platform?**

The terms of the funding provided through **Platform** are Northern Ireland Screen's standard development funding agreement terms. Northern Ireland Screen takes a recoupment position once a game is launched. Northern Ireland Screen will not take equity in a company.

### **We have a company and want to apply but don't want to work out of The Pixel Mill?**

Companies accepted onto **Platform** will be provided with desk space at The Pixel Mill but do not need to base themselves out of The Pixel Mill full time. However, there will be an expectation that companies will need to attend certain workshops/meetings in person. There is also flexibility to work from home if government Covid-19 guidance needs to be met.

### **My company is not based in Northern Ireland, can I still apply for The Pixel Mill?**

Yes, however your company needs to be based out of The Pixel Mill. The company also needs to be registered as a limited company in Northern Ireland. Your team members need to be residents in Northern Ireland, i.e. living in Northern Ireland and paying tax.

### **For companies relocating to Northern Ireland will Northern Ireland Screen provide any support?**

Northern Ireland Screen will not be providing any relocation support for companies moving to Northern Ireland.

### **I am an individual developer, can I apply?**

**Platform** is aimed at video game companies. The company must consist of at least 2 full-time members of staff. However Northern Ireland Screen has development funding opportunities which may be more suitable. Please contact Rory Clifford, Interactive Manager by email at [rory@northernireland.co.uk](mailto:rory@northernireland.co.uk).

**Our company has an idea for a game already, can we apply with it?**

Companies may have an idea for a game before joining **Platform** however all companies are expected to take part in each stage. If companies have an idea for a video game and are interested in development funding please contact Rory Clifford, Interactive Manager by email at [rory@northernireland.co.uk](mailto:rory@northernireland.co.uk).

**Our company is not set up yet. Can we still apply to be on Platform?**

Yes, as long as the company is registered at Companies House and has a bank account set-up in the company's name before the start of the programme so you can still apply. However, it is important to demonstrate the track record of individual teams if the company has no history of publishing games.

**We are a student/graduate team, can we still apply?**

Graduate teams that are not in full-time education can apply for **Platform**.

**I'm not interested in Platform but would like to be able to work out of The Pixel Mill. Is that possible?**

Yes, however desk space within The Pixel Mill is limited and requests are dealt with on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in learning more contact Rory Clifford, Interactive Manager by email at [rory@northernireland.co.uk](mailto:rory@northernireland.co.uk).

**What markets will Platform companies attend?**

It is expected that **Platform** companies will attend Gamescom and EGX. This is dependent on travel restrictions due to Covid-19.

**What will the company be expected to deliver by the end of Platform?**

It is expected that companies will have at least self-published their game in some format by February/March 2023 (i.e. soft launch, early access, demo). However, there are a number of milestones/deliverables during the course of the programme, relative to each stage.

**When will we hear if our application has been successful or not?**

You will find out w/c 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 if you have made it through to the interview stage.

**Where will the interviews take place?**

The interviews will either take place at Northern Ireland Screen's office in Belfast or online via a Zoom call dependent on government Covid-19 guidance.

**When will the interviews take place?**

The interviews will take place on w/c 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

**Who will be on the interview panel?**

Applicants will be assessed by Northern Ireland Screen team and mentors from The Pixel Mill.

**What is Northern Ireland Screen looking for?**

We are looking for teams that have a passion for the video games industry, the ability to generate ideas and the ambition to run a video games company.