

Newsletter

technology transfer initiative

an innovative support structure for indigenous companies in the west, midwest, and southwes

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Up & Coming Seminars

Supply Chain Management
17th Oct '07

IP Mentoring Sessions 15th
Nov '07

Pro Engineer Seminar
Nov '07

1 TTI Networking Event
18th Dec '07

Another successful year for the TTI

The past twelve months (Sept'06 – Aug'07) has witnessed considerable success across a number of fronts in the Technology Transfer Initiative (TTI) programme here at NUI Galway. The focused efforts of the TTI Team has supported SMEs and MNCs in a number of key supporting roles – engaging them in R&D programmes, making them aware of technology development and commercialisation, organising information sessions and enterprise education through specialist technology seminars, and in the up-skilling of their staff through involvement with the TTI programme.

A key target for the TTI Team is to make industry aware of the Innovative Partnership collaborative research programme. The number of collaborative research projects for the past year increased 3-fold in comparison to other years, leading to over €2M in R&D funding and progression of vibrant, collaborative research programmes with industry. A key aspect of many of these programmes is R&D collaborations with SMEs, thus further facilitating SMEs in developing their R&D capabilities, investments and outputs. SMEs are becoming more and more aware that linkages to the university is a key factor in their business and involvement in R&D and Innovation is critical to their success and survival.

In the past year almost 100 company visits were carried out under the Industry Outreach function of the TTI team. Whereas 74% of these company visits were in the Connaught region, the TTI programme also witnessed an increase in visits to companies located in the Leinster (17%), Munster (8%), and Ulster (1%) region. We believe that supporting such companies in their R&D capabilities and R&D investment is critical in the further growth and expansion of the knowledge economy of Ireland.

The mentoring, consulting and specialist seminar programmes organised by the TTI Team during the past year were also seen to be vital in assisting companies in their internal R&D activities and in decision making on pursuit of new R&D initiatives. As a follow on to the very successful IP, Patents and Licensing seminar held earlier this year, there will be another opportunity for SMEs to meet with the legal experts on a one-to-one basis – see Notice Board for details.

For the coming year there are two main challenges for the TTI team: (a) to maintain the momentum and number of deliverables achieved during the past year and (b) to manage and support the myriad of R&D collaborative projects progressed over the past two years, in particular those projects which have resulted (and which will result) in new intellectual property (IP), new patent filings, new technologies suitable for productisation and commercialisation.

The TTI team would like to thank all the companies and academics that have supported the initiative over the last number of years and look forward to many more successful years collaborating together.

If you would like to collaborate with NUI Galway on a research Technology project, would like a visit by the TTI Team or if you have any ideas for a future Technology seminar/workshop please don't hesitate to contact the TTI.

Introducing HPSU Skillsnets your new BMW network under development

A number of region-wide HPSUs have worked together over the past six months with the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), NUI Galway to form 'HPSU Skillsnets' in the BMW Region. This network was successful in securing a development grant for the Training Networks Programme (TNP) from Skillsnets, the enterprise-led support body. Skillsnets is funded through the National Training Fund.

HPSU Skillsnets seeks to service the needs of the BMW regional HPSU community by:

- ▶ Providing One Regional Voice & forum
- ▶ Developing the networking experience across HPSU peers & developing a buddy system
- ▶ Inviting business leaders and professional experts into the forum
- ▶ Recognising that HPSUs require specialist training & mentoring
- ▶ Accessing relevant, tailored and professional training on-site, overcoming the unnecessary time and resource drain on limited company resources
- ▶ Forging links with international networks

The network currently has 18 members spread across four different geographical hubs – Galway, Mayo, Sligo/Donegal & the Midlands. The sectoral profile of these members includes ICT, Biotechnology, Telecommunications & Renewable Energy. The network recently met in Castlebaldwin, Co. Sligo, for the first networking event with Tom McEnaney addressing the group on 'How to get your business noticed by the media'. The first networking meeting was a great success and represented valuable input to the network members:

"Tom McEnaney was excellent. Really enjoyed the day. Thank you." - HPSU in Galway region

"Thanks for yesterday - it was worthwhile and very enjoyable. I especially enjoyed Tom's talk." –Sligo HPSU

On September 24th 2007 the network achieved a major milestone where a grant application, which included the Training Needs Analysis, the Training Plan and the Network Strategy, was submitted to the Skillsnets organisation in Dublin. For updates, please refer to www.hpsuskillnet.com

If you are a HPSU and would like to join this network, please contact Clodagh at clodagh.barry@nuigalway.ie



Left to Right: Tom McEnaney, Business Editor, Irish Independent and Marto Hoary, Embricon Ltd.

DERI – Pioneering the Semantic Web

The Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), based in NUI Galway, is dedicated to researching the technologies that will underpin the next generation of the World Wide Web – the Semantic Web – “an extension of the current web in which information is given well-defined meaning, better enabling computers and people to work in cooperation” (Berners-Lee, Hendler, Lassila). The DERI Institute aims to develop software that allows the Internet to become a platform where organisations and individuals communicate more easily with one another to carry out commercial activities and provide value-added services.

DERI’s key industrial partner is Hewlett-Packard and researchers from both NUI Galway and HP Galway are involved in aspects of the joint research. DERI has also joined in research collaborations with IBM and Storm as part of its CSET (Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology) programme and continues to expand its workforce and expertise with additional funding from Enterprise Ireland, the EU and SFI (Science Foundation Ireland). DERI’s goal is to create a global, self-organising information and service space enabling novel & flexible ways for businesses and humans to interact together and with their environment, as well as facilitating interactions among entities of the physical world (Internet of Things).

The success and growth of the Internet and especially the World Wide Web have brought significant changes to people’s everyday lives. This has irrevocably changed the way businesses and people communicate and how they interact with their environment. The wealth of available information and services has produced new opportunities and challenges for the digital society within Ireland, the EU and beyond. DERI aims to take on these challenges: Its mission is to develop technologies enabling people, organisations and systems to better collaborate and interoperate.

Research Clusters at DERI

Research at DERI is organised around clusters, representing DERI’s areas of expertise that are thematically interrelated and cooperate with each other. The two main research clusters are the Semantic Web and Semantic Web Services.

Semantic Web

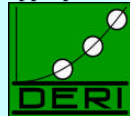
The Semantic Web is the idea of having data on the web defined and linked in a way that it can be used and “understood” by machines, and be used beyond display purposes in applications. Many ongoing projects and efforts require Semantic Web technology: *eScience*, *eGovernment*, *eCommerce* and *eSociety*. DERI’s Semantic Web research underpins the infrastructure required by all of these efforts.

Semantic Web Services and Distributed Computing

The Semantic Web Services and Distributed Computing cluster targets semantic middleware infrastructures to facilitate simple, yet expressive and powerful integration of information and services into Semantic Service-Oriented Architectures (SS-OA). Semantics is the key facilitator both for workflow integration between businesses as well as for integrating the virtual world to the physical world. The physical world will be represented in cyberspace and information on our real-world environment will become ubiquitously available on the Internet via services. This integrated information space has a wide range of applications in monitoring, manufacturing, health, telecommunications, logistics and planning.

Industrial Collaboration

DERI see the opportunity to work with Industry as being a key part of the ongoing growth and development of their research centre and today researchers work very closely with many SME and MNC companies within Ireland. Some of the technology ideas evolve into EI collaborative Innovation Partnership proposals and receive significant funding from Enterprise Ireland and other sources of funding. DERI has already set up a number of key application domains or verticals within their organisation which they are focusing on to apply their research. Currently these are: eLearning, eHealth, Financial Service/eBusiness, Telecommunications and eScience. If you think you would gain from collaboration with DERI or have a technological idea that you would like to pursue further in the area of the Semantic Web, then why not contact us at the TTI and we can put you in touch with the most appropriate expert within DERI.



A detailed description of the technologies in DERI can be found at www.deri.ie.



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Company Profile



Company

Founded in 2005 by Tony Fitzmaurice, ATFM Solutions provide product based solutions that meet clients’ business and data processing requirements. Simply put, ATFM’s product set allows clients to automate the data capture process from electronic forms to the designated target systems resulting in data being available with the business decision maker as soon as it is received. ATFM achieve this by utilising proven technologies in the areas of e-documents and e-forms. ATFM’s solutions are structured to provide frontline business with the maximum control of their systems’ data processing for minimum effort.

Mission

ATFM’s mission statement is to provide usable solutions which allow business people to quickly automate their paper-based forms processes.

Background

ATFM’s founder, Tony Fitzmaurice, was a participant of the 2006 IEDP program, an Enterprise Ireland sponsored programme for new high potential start-ups, provided in association with Lfionra in the Border Midlands and West region during 2006. Tony has worked in the Software Industry for over 17 years with leading Software Product & Services providers Adobe, Computer Sciences Corporation and leading Financial and Telecommunications companies.

Customers and Partners

ATFM’s current customers and partners in both Ireland and the UK are drawn from a number of sectors including government, finance and business collaboration. ATFM also works actively with partners who include its products as integral parts of overall solutions they deliver to their customers.

Products

DATAFLOW, ATFM’s own product suite, allows data captured using electronic forms (e.g. over the web) to be transferred automatically to both key internal business users and to specific back end systems, e.g. CRM, Sales Management, ERP etc.

The intuitive interface allows the business owners of specific data to decide its destination within the company and to maintain or modify these rules within a secure environment. This dramatically reduces lead times to process information and also reduces the time required for ongoing changes.

Future

Some key highlights of the past 12 months for ATFM Solutions are:

- Launch of the DATAFLOW suite.
- Successful completion of the first phase of a significant Product R&D program.
- Finalisation of an Enterprise Ireland equity investment.
- A number of successful implementations of solutions and systems for customers and partners.

Over the remainder of 2007 ATFM plans to:

- Continue with the next phase of its Product R&D program
- Extend its installed customer base in Ireland and the UK.
- Plans are underway for initial moves into the European market for 2008



Left to Right: Peadar McCaffrey Services & Support Manager, ATFM Solutions, Micheál Martin, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Tony Fitzmaurice, MD, ATFM Solutions at the Enterprise Ireland Class of 2006 Showcase

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