

Newsletter

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New Ignite Technology Transfer Office at NUI Galway

NUI Galway has launched the new Ignite Technology Transfer Office (formerly TTO NUI Galway) to provide expertise and guidance to researchers, businesses and entrepreneurs in the western region. The 15 members of the Ignite TTO team offer a range of programmes and services to support Intellectual Property Management and new Enterprise Development.

Dr Daniel O' Mahony, Consultant Advisor, TTO NUI Galway, said "NUI Galway's investment in research & technology commercialisation exceeded €46m in 2007. When people think of Ignite TTO we want them to equate it with the birth of new technologies, the emergence of new breakthroughs, an endless source of innovation, a fountain of future commercial prospects. It will excite the imagination and attract entrepreneurs to our sandbox of commercially viable offerings. In time it will represent a place of excellent research giving way to excellent technologies and thereafter to commercial success."

NUI Galway has a long standing involvement with the promotion of indigenous enterprise and the direct provision of services to locally based industry. More than 40 collaborative projects with industry were secured in 2007, generating over €2.3m, as well as the establishment of a new entrepreneurial forum with a view to providing researchers and emerging entrepreneurs with the fundamental knowledge and skill set required in the pursuit of enterprise development. The TTO team has a strong focus on market assessment and delivery of tailored solutions and technology offerings to market on time. In the same year, following the licensing of technologies and intellectual property, a number of start-up companies were formed from NUI Galway which include Eirzyme Ltd, Theta Chemicals Ltd. and Syncrophi Ltd. Numerous other spin-out companies are at late stage negotiation.

The team will build on existing technology transfer activities at the University, with a focus on the early stage identification and protection of intellectual property (IP), technology marketing, technology valuation and technology commercialisation.

Summary of some Key Achievements in 2007:

1. ~€46M spent on research in 2007
2. Twenty four Option & License Agreements executed in 2007
3. Thirty patent applications secured
4. Four spin-out companies in past 12 months
5. >40 collaborative projects with industry (start-ups, SMEs and MNCs)
6. Six bio-incubation labs and a core equipment lab for Life Science companies were established
7. Launch of Campus Commercialization Program (CCP) and Start-up-Solutions (SUS) to promote enterprise development
8. Funding for new graduate programmes in Entrepreneurship and Innovation



The Ignite TTO team can be contacted at Address:

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Photo : Ignite TTO team, NUI Galway



Notice Board: Up & Coming Seminars

LightForum Seminar
April 17th

Energy Research
Day
April/May

Do you have an
idea for a Seminar?

HPSU Skillnets – High Potential Start Up Network

HPSU Skillnet is an enterprise-led training network providing tailored training to member companies. Funding for this new network has now been secured from Skillnets funding agency and a dedicated network manager has been appointed. HPSU Skillnet has currently 16 members, across 3 different sectors and is focusing on growing the membership base while securing appropriate, relevant and tailored training solutions for industries in the BMW region. A significant need exists in companies in their start up phase for specific training to be delivered at an affordable price and timeframe that suits the company. If you are a HPSU that is in operation for longer than 12 months and would like further information on this new network, please contact gertourouke@hotmail.com

Success at IT@Cork R&D awards

4C (Cork Constraints Computation Centre) together with the Irish company TreeMetrics (www.treemetrics.com) won the it@cork Leaders Award in the R&D Project category. 4C's involvement in the project is led by Dr. James Little, an SFI funded staff member, and has support from an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership entitled TRIO: (Timber Recovery using enhanced Information and Optimisation). TreeMetrics and 4C are working together to develop a new set of forest planning tools based on the combination of several Artificial Intelligence and Optimisation technologies. Treemetrics delivers accurate scanning information of trees in a forest. 4C uses this as the input for a set of decision support tools to predict the shape of the whole tree, how to cut it, where to send the resulting logs, and when in the year this should be done. 4C's technology has increased the value of the information; turning it into key knowledge with which to make better decisions within forest management. Although Ireland is small in forestry terms globally, TreeMetrics software, developed in conjunction with 4C, gives it an opportunity to sell into the major forestry markets around the world.



Pictured: Prof. Gene Freuder (Department of Computer Science and Director of 4C), Dr. James Little and Conor Nugent (4C) and Enda Keane (TreeMetrics) receive the inaugural it@cork R&D award. The award was presented by Declan O Mahoney (Firecomms Ltd.) - Chair of the judging panel, and John Riordan, Smart Telecom (sponsor).



LightHouse is an initiative of the NCLA and Applied Optics Groups of NUI Galway. With a total staff complement of 50, it brings together the largest group of laser & optics scientists and engineers in the country in pursuit of new discovery and support for Irish industry.

LightForum, the Industry Outreach activity of LightHouse, provides a framework for professionals in industry and academia to explore and develop relationships and activities of mutual interest. The Forum hosts seminars, workshops, training courses, as well as a popular annual meeting.

Last years event attracted over 60 professionals to Galway for a very stimulating and informative event.

This year's meeting takes place on Thursday April 17th. The theme will be "Skills & Knowledge Development - Photonics in New Products and Manufacture" and will feature case-study presentations from industry representatives as well as speakers from state agencies on support for upskilling in industry.

Keynote speaker this year will be Eugene Arthurs, Executive Director of SPIE (International Society for Optical Engineering). Refreshments and lunch will be served, and attendance is free. For more information, or to reserve a place, please contact Mr. Tony Flaherty at tony.flaherty@nuigalway.ie

This event is supported by SFI and the ERDF via the BMW Regional Assembly and is most applicable to engineers and managers in industry with an interest in lasers and optics, or in developing skills in these technologies.



Pictured at the LightForum meeting in October 2007 are (L to R) Tony Flaherty, Outreach Manager, NCLA, Mr Mike Devane, Chairman, American Chamber R&D Group, Prof Nicholas Canny, VP of Research NUI Galway, Dr Pat Kelly, TTO

Energy Research Centre gets the Green light

The Energy Research Centre (ERC), established in January of this year, aims to engage in research, education and outreach in the fields of Energy and Environment. The perspective of the Centre will be a holistic life-cycle, multi-disciplinary, systems-oriented approach, which will underpin research projects investigating some of society's most challenging problems.

Ongoing and planned research, in areas such as biofuel production, energy efficient technologies and energy policy, will be consolidated into an integrated Centre, within the Environmental Change Institute (ECI). The ERC is the first such initiative nationally and will become a centre of excellence, while generating critical mass and international profile for NUI Galway in this key emerging field.

The medium-term research focus, nationally and internationally, will concentrate on accelerating the development of cost-effective technologies for a more sustainable energy economy and ensure that Irish and European industry can compete successfully on the global stage.

Future direction of Ireland's energy policy is based on the three pillars of:

- Security of supply;
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic competitiveness.

A 2010 target of 15% of electricity consumption to be met by renewable energy has been set by the Irish Government, with a further target of 30% penetration by 2020.

There is now widespread acceptance, nationally and globally, of urgent research and policy needs in the energy area. Despite this, the lack of national (and international) consolidation of research in the fields of technology development, policy and society implies that the formation of an integrating centre at NUI Galway is both timely and appropriate. This proposal brings together academic staff and researchers along with many key national and international collaborators to form an integrating Energy Research Centre, under the auspices of the Environmental Change Institute.

The centre is underpinned by ongoing and planned projects involving a life cycle approach to energy management across a range of industries that include energy production, manufacturing, ICT, Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Construction.

A key strategic goal of ERC is to encourage further industrial participation through the continuation of on-going activities and the development of new collaborations. Local and regional SMEs, in particular, will be the focus of outreach activities. Dissemination events and the identification of topics particularly suitable for SMEs will be a key feature of the Centre's activities e.g. participation in Energy Day, Innovation Partnership applications, work placements, etc.

If you would like to be involved or collaborate with the centre please contact:

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