



Welcome to the latest edition of the information sharing newsletter from the Maynooth University Commercialisation Office. Our goal is to share relevant market news and activities on the commercialisation of Maynooth University research. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

For more information visit: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/commercialisation

ASTP-PROTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

25 – 27 May 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark

“Making a difference through Knowledge Transfer”

ASTP-Proton is a pan-European association, promoting and professionalising knowledge transfer practice between universities and industry. The association aims to enhance the impact of public research on society and the economy. With 217 participants from 134 institutions, the 2016 ASTP-Proton Annual conference was well-attended with a wide variety of technology/knowledge transfer topics discussed. Peter Conlon of our office was one of these attendees. The conference centered on “**Making a difference through Knowledge Transfer**” and focused on three key themes: Managing Resources, Maximising Impact and Mobilising with Industry. A wide variety of speakers contributed at the conference including significant presentations by Arla Foods, Carlsberg and Nova Nordisk on the benefits to both industry and academic research of being involved in commercial knowledge transfer. Understandably the conference concentrated on demonstrating impact which has become a constant theme for state and EU funded projects.

However, at the same time, there was a plea from industry that academic research should continue to devote resources to “blue sky” or ground breaking research, emphasising that it is only by doing such research that significant steps forward in technology development can be made. Ultimately the conference was about networking with peers, hearing about challenges and how they were resolved, sharing best practice and developing a harmonised European approach to knowledge transfer.

Photo: Conference attendees in Copenhagen



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER STRENGTHENING INITIATIVE (TTSI) PHASE 3

Technology Transfer Offices in 3rd level institutes in Ireland are part funded and supported by Enterprise Ireland via Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) under the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative (TTSI). The funding is awarded to national consortia via a competitive process and is based in part on research income of institutes, metrics targets and metrics completion rates, and past commercial activities and achievements. The Maynooth University led consortium of MU, WIT, AIT and ITC has been successful in securing additional funding under TTSI phase 3, a five year programme to run from 2017-2021.

As the capabilities of the national network of TT offices continues to mature, the TTSI3 outcomes expected have also changed and now include a focus on value-add via: the creation of more high potential spin-outs with a greater proportion of spin-outs turning into High Performance Start-ups (HPSU); a greater proportion of new opportunities converting to licences; more commercially attractive IP and deeper IP portfolios; increased visibility for industry of commercial opportunities in 3rd level institutes; swift and simplified transactions between institutes and industry; and finally, increased revenue from industry to the research base. www.knowledgetransferireland.com

MANAGED CONSULTANCY PILOT PROGRAMME

In addition to TTSI3 and in conjunction with partner institutes AIT and ITC, Maynooth University will be awarded funds for a Managed Consultancy Pilot Programme, which is a new KTI initiative. The strategic objective of the pilot is to extend the range of ways in which industry (and other organisations) can benefit from access to the broad knowledge and expertise in our institutes and to have this managed in a way that ensures ease of access, ease of transaction and simplicity and consistency in the process. The programme is designed to drive the management of consultancy activity within 3rd level institutions leading to self-sustaining "managed consultancy" support that fulfils this strategic objective.

Outcomes expected from the pilot include: increased volume of academic consultancy activity with industry and other organisations; Increased revenue from academic consultancy activity with industry and other organisations; and repeat business with clients not just through further consultancy but leading through into other areas of engagement e.g. contract or collaborative research, student placement etc.

COMMERCIALISATION OFFICE INCENTIVE AWARDS INITIATIVE

The Commercialisation Office has launched an Incentive Award Initiative for any staff researcher or post-doctoral researcher who applies for either a Science Foundation Ireland Technology Innovation Development Award (TIDA) or an Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund (CF), before the end of 2016. If any application is successful in either of these two funding calls, a further award will be given to the applicant.

Three project applications submitted in the 2016 SFI TIDA call are outlined below;

- Dr Martina Schroeder: Development of a compound that targets DDX3's interaction with HIV-1; and which could have potential as a novel antiretroviral drug.
- Dr Sinead Migglin: Identification of Therapeutic targeting of Osteoarthritis.
- Pooria Varahram: Design and prototyping of a cost effective energy efficient OFDM modulator to enhance power amplifier efficiency for broadband wireless communication systems.

RTTP PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Our staff members are required to continually develop their expertise with a mix of formal training in addition to hands on experience of project management and knowledge transfer deal completion.

The Alliance of Technology Transfer Professionals (ATTP) comprises members of nine similar associations around the world. Most 3rd level institutes in Ireland are members of the European association of ASTP-Proton, which provides ongoing continuing professional development across Europe.

Technology transfer professionals are leaders in the complex process of moving valuable discoveries from universities and other research centres into the marketplace. The ATTP group confers the world-recognized Registered Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP) designation. RTTP status recognizes the accomplishments, roles, skills, knowledge, and deal-making expertise of technology transfer professionals. John Scanlan, Paul Tyndall and Peter Conlon were recently conferred with this professional qualification.

For more information visit www.attp.info