



**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
**Q3 2013**

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

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**EU HORIZON 2020 SUPPORT FOR SMEs**

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The European Union is currently rolling out "Horizon 2020", a new funding initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness and is an integrated funding system to cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the EU. It will focus on simplification, increased business engagement, innovation and commercialisation of research and societal challenges. Horizon 2020 has a proposed budget of €80 billion, runs from 2014 to 2020, and will support research and innovation programmes which contribute to new growth and jobs in Europe.

Horizon 2020 will tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed.

The proposed support for research and innovation under Horizon 2020 will: (1) Strengthen the EU's position in science. This will provide a boost to top-level research in Europe, including an increase in funding of 77% for the very successful European Research Council; (2) Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation. This includes major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs; (3) Provide resources to help address major concerns shared by all Europeans such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

As part of the approach to break down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation, small and medium sized enterprises will be encouraged to participate across Horizon 2020 programmes through a new dedicated SME instrument. It aims to fill gaps in funding for early-stage, high-risk research and innovation by SMEs as well as stimulating breakthrough innovations. The finer details of the framework are not yet published but there will be access for SMEs to direct EU funding under Horizon 2020.

The Commercialisation Office will send out relevant Horizon 2020 updates as they emerge to help keep you informed of funding opportunities for SMEs.

To learn more about Horizon 2020 click on presentation link below. Source: EU website.

[EU Horizon 2020 Slideshow](#)



Following the successful launch of six SFI Research Centres last year (AMBER, APC, INFANT, I-PIC, INSIGHT, MaREI and SSPC), SFI have published the research Thematic Areas which the next SFI Centres call will address. The call is expected later this year and will likely have the same format as the current centres.

The Thematic Areas include: Future Networks and Communications, Digital Platforms, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Sustainable Food, Smart Grids and Cities, Manufacturing Competitiveness, Software, Geosciences and Earth / Ocean Observation. Each proposed new Centre will build around a Centre host, collaborating institutes and a significant number of industry partners. The Centre will comprise "Platform Research" along a roadmap agreed by the institutes with SFI and specific "Targeted Research Projects" between one or more of the research institutes and one or more of the industry partners.

An important part of the SFI Centres is the requirement on industry to fund 30% of the overall budget, of which one third needs to be cash. Planning to be part of any such Centre should therefore include agreeing a joint research roadmap with collaborating researchers at other institutes and identifying industry partners with specific research topics that the industry partners will fund.



## INNOVATION VOUCHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Enterprise Ireland (EI) continue to support the Innovation Voucher Programme that provides funding support for small projects, completed in collaboration with the higher level institutes.

If you own or manage a small limited company with a company registration number and you have a business opportunity or problem that you want to explore, why not apply for an Innovation Voucher worth €5,000?

The objective of the Innovation Voucher initiative is to build links between Ireland's public knowledge providers and small businesses and create a cultural shift in the small business community's approach to innovation.

The call for innovation voucher applications is open from **Wednesday, 18th September to Wednesday, 9th October 2013.**

The online application is available from mid September at [www.innovationvouchers.ie](http://www.innovationvouchers.ie)

Please feel free to contact the Commercialisation Office with any queries you may have on this Enterprise Ireland funded programme (01) 708 6589 E: [Lorraine.kane@nuim.ie](mailto:Lorraine.kane@nuim.ie)



## COMMERCIALISATION TEAM GROWS

## NUI MAYNOOTH UPDATE

Peter Conlon recently joined the Commercialisation Office team which now has a staff of five. Peter is responsible for managing the identification, protection and commercialisation of NUI Maynooth research outputs within the broad area of information and communications technologies and for the development and negotiation of licensing opportunities with industry. Peter will also provide TT support to our consortium partner IT Carlow while Owen and Paul continue to support Athlone IT and Waterford IT, respectively.

Peter plays a key part in fostering the development of high-tech spin-out companies by supporting business plan and product roadmap development, by advising on how licensed University IP can have maximum strategic impact and by supporting companies through their various funding rounds.

Peter previously worked as Technology Transfer Project Manager with the Office of the Vice President of Innovation at University College Dublin. Prior to UCD Peter worked in various product development and management roles with Agilent Technologies. Before its acquisition by Agilent Technologies he worked for MV Technology a successful Irish start-up company. Peter also has over 20 years experience of working in global industry.

Peter graduated with a BEng in Electronic Systems from University of Ulster and is a professional chartered engineer (CEng).



## COMMENTS + QUESTIONS

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