

AIT open evening attracts IT and business experts

An open evening to highlight software research initiatives and collaborations at Athlone Institute of Technology attracted a large audience at the institute last week.

More than 50 representatives of start-up, small to medium enterprise (SME), and multinational companies, state agencies, local government, and research institutions were present to learn about opportunities for co-operation with the Software Research Centre at AIT. The open evening was organised by the recently formed IT Association Midlands in conjunction with the

centre, and was officially opened by Alex Campbell, Pareware and IT Association Midlands, and by Dr Joseph Ryan, AIT.

According to president of AIT, Professor Ciaran O'Cathain, the large attendance was indicative of the institute's capacity and capability for undertaking applied research. "AIT is one of the most successful third level institutions in the country in the area of applied research. This expertise in understanding the needs of research partners and forging successful solutions has positioned the institute as a collaborator of choice,"

said Professor O'Cathain.

"The Software Research Centre has been particularly successful in this domain. We anticipate that networking with IT and business experts and state bodies will generate fresh ideas on how the centre's expertise in networks, mobility, and software engineering can be harnessed by others."

Director of research at the institute, Professor Gabriel Crean, commented; "Intellectual capital is the primary driver of growth in this 21st century and underpins Ireland's future prosperity. Strong economic regions are the

backbone of national prosperity and AIT has a central role to play in ensuring a vibrant knowledge society in the Midlands region."

The Software Research Centre, which was established in 2003, has secured applied research and technology transfer funding in excess of €3.5 million and intends to increase its team of researchers to at least 50 in the next two years.

For further information about the SRC, contact Anthony Cunningham, project manager, on (090) 6483096 or by email to acunningham@ait.ie.



Pictured at the Software Research Centre open evening at AIT were: (L to r) Alex Campbell, Pareware and IT Association Midlands; Santanu Muzamander, SolanoTech; Arline Watson, RBK; John Mee, SolanoTech; and Anthony Cunningham, SRC. Photo: Pdraig Devaney.