

Midlands & West Enterprise Programme recruitment begins



Pictured above are Conor Gray, MotoLev and Austin Hanley, Head of School of Engineering at AIT.

The Midlands Innovation and Research Centre at Athlone Institute of Technology is now recruiting for the next Midlands & West Enterprise Programme commencing in March 2008.

The Midlands & West Enterprise Programme is a one-year programme that provides entrepreneurs with the business skills, networks, facilities and supports necessary to navigate the business start-up process. Participants receive a training grant of €6,600 and may also apply to Enterprise Ireland for CORD funding which could provide up to 50% of previous year's salary.

The MIRC is now inviting applications for MWEP 2008. Participants should have an innovative business idea with growth and export potential. They should be graduates (diploma level or higher) with a number of years' industry experience and have the enthusiasm and drive necessary to develop and grow a successful business.

Ten high potential entrepreneurs from the Midlands are participating on the current MWEP – products being developed include pharmaceutical gels, multimedia software, a biodegradable plastic, telecoms software and a high-yielding thermal solar panel.

Moyne-based Conor Gray's company, MotoLev, is developing a new type bearing-less electric motor. According to Conor Gray, "As a start up company, the MWEP provides us with state of the art facilities and a comprehensive business support programme while Athlone Institute of Technology provides a ready-made research capability for the development of our technology."

According to MIRC Manager, Michael Lonergan, "If you are a prospective entrepreneur with industry experience and an innovative business idea, the MWEP will provide you with the business skills and support necessary to transform your idea into a successful business." Michael Lonergan can be contacted at 090-6471882 or mlonergan@ait.ie.