

# Midlands and West Enterprise Programme 2008 now recruiting

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

The Midlands & West Enterprise Programme (MWEP) is a one-year business incubation programme that provides entrepreneurs with the business skills, networks, facilities and supports necessary to navigate the business start-up process. Eligible participants may apply to Enterprise Ireland for funding which could provide up to 50 per cent of previous year's salary.

The MIRC and Enterprise Ireland are now inviting applications for the 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 or be experienced business managers 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 devel-

oped include pharmaceutical gels, a bearingless motor, a biodegradable plastic, telecoms software and a high-yielding thermal solar panel.

John Mee's company, SolanoTech, specialises in the creation and deployment of IP Multimedia Subsystem based applications for broadband and mobile internet service providers. According to John Mee, "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. The Programme provides the time and space to carry out proper validation of the business idea."

According to Enterprise Ireland Regional Director, Barry Egan, "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."

For more information, please contact MIRC Manager Michael Lonergan at 090-6471882 or see [www.mirc.ie](http://www.mirc.ie).