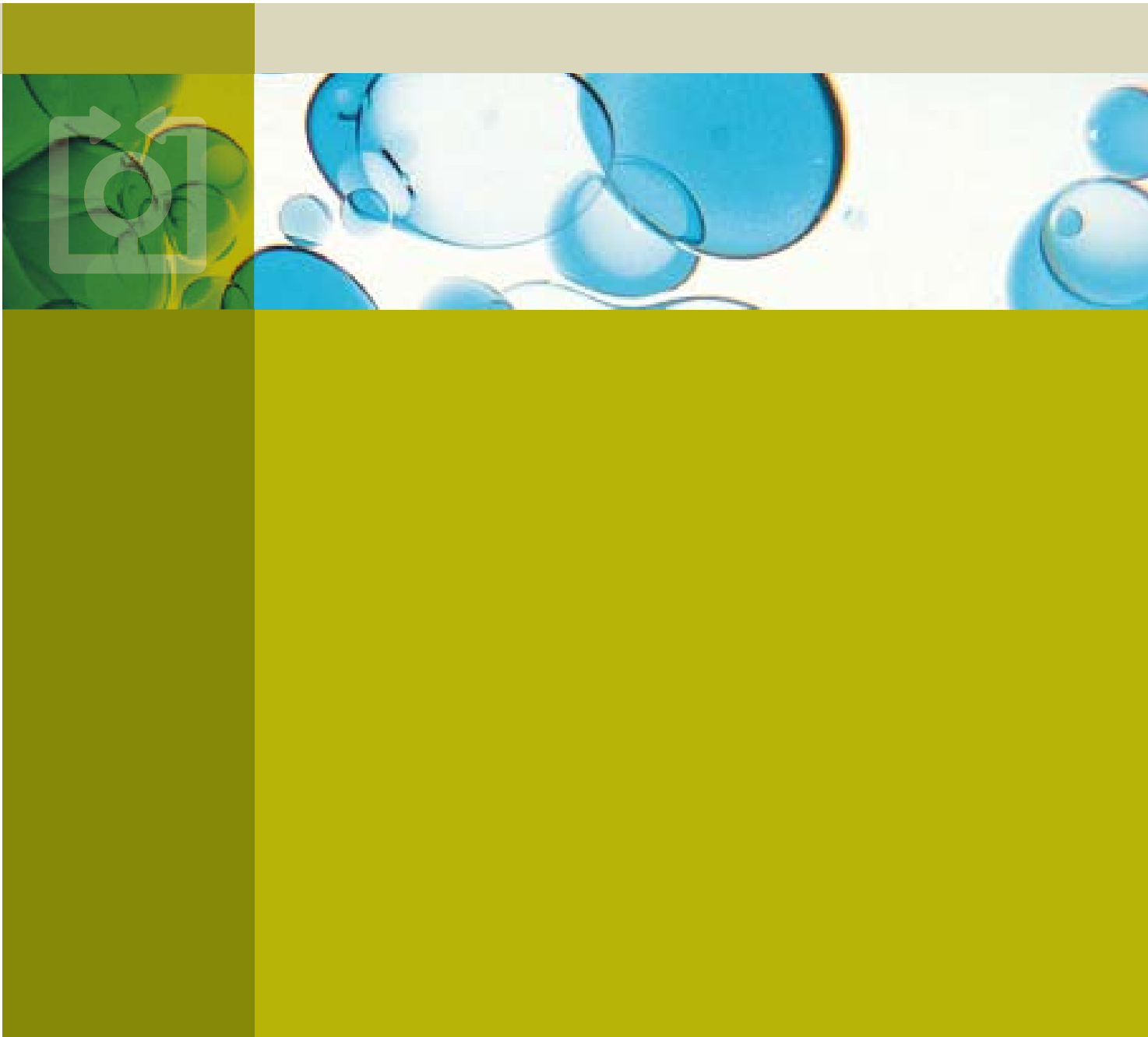


Innovation Partnerships: Collaborating for Future Success



Collaborate.





Companies and Colleges working together

The Innovation Partnerships (IP) Initiative is a non-competitive open call funding mechanism established to assist Irish Industry and Third Level Colleges to work together on cutting-edge research projects.

Collaboration between Companies and the third level sector is internationally recognised as a proven path to successful innovation. To-day's open markets demand new cutting-edge products, product enhancements and new services. Recognising that innovation is the key to achieving this, Enterprise Ireland has developed a clearly focused strategy of support, encouragement and assistance for companies.

ENCOURAGING INNOVATION

The Innovation Partnerships Initiative (IP) plays an important role in this strategy. It offers financial support to enable companies to undertake collaborative research with Universities and Institutes of Technology. The key to this programme is that Companies can avail of the opportunity to develop laterally driven new innovations, which will lead to greater market share and drive up profits.

For the College.

WHY APPLY?

As a researcher it provides you with the ideal vehicle to work with leading Irish companies on cutting edge research projects. The Innovation Partnerships Initiative supports and encourages the combining of the Third Level College sector's intellectual base, facilities and skills with the commercial know-how of industry.

Your involvement in such research projects assists you in ensuring that your expertise is current, relevant and also benefits your other knowledge transfer activities.

So, why apply?

- Assessment is non-competitive and typically more than 90% of eligible projects receive funding.
- A successful project will enhance both the Researcher's and the College's reputation and capabilities.
- It provides Researchers with opportunities to fully exploit their skills and can open the gates for other stimulating and rewarding projects.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

If you think that your College, you and/or your team are eligible for this funding, check the criteria below before you take the next step:

- Third Level College participants must be full and/or part-time researchers working in the areas of science, engineering and technology.
- The researcher's collaborating company(s) must be involved in manufacturing, processing, or internationally tradable services.
- The research outputs must have a commercial impact in Ireland.

GETTING STARTED

Further information can be obtained from your College ILO office staff, with whom you can discuss your participation and proposal process. You can also contact the Innovation Partnerships Manager at Enterprise Ireland, or submit your Outline Proposal by e-mail. All documentation is available on the Enterprise Ireland website at www.enterprise-ireland.com.



For the Company.

JOINING FORCES

Why go it alone? In Ireland there are more than 20 Universities and Institutes of Technology employing highly skilled and talented people offering you the benefit of their expertise and knowledge. These internationally recognised Institutions have established a wide range of specialist centres which are actively working towards tomorrow's scientific and technological developments.

You can tap into this valuable resource by participating in the Innovation Partnerships Initiative. It can facilitate linkage to a diverse range of research expertise including: electronics; engineering; biomedical; biotechnology; pharmaceutical; health care; food products and information technologies. The programme is ideal for Companies wishing to enhance their current capability and capacity to engage in research, development and innovation.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Financial assistance for the cost of third level research and development expertise.
- Access to a formidable knowledge and skills bank.
- A new perspective for your business through collaboration.

NO RED TAPE

The proposal submission and all of the routine project administration is handled by the third level colleges on your behalf. Applications are usually processed within 4-6 weeks.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

All manufacturing, processing and research Companies dealing with science, engineering, technology and internationally tradable goods and services are eligible to participate. Projects should have a scientific and technological emphasis.

Your project needs to be innovative and should lead to the commercialisation of a product or process and must not duplicate work already in the public domain. The results of your project should be suitable for implementation into your Company operations, or you may need to pursue final commercial/market development in order to launch it into the market place.

GETTING STARTED

You can contact your Enterprise Ireland Development Adviser or you can contact the Innovations Partnership Manager whose details are on www.enterprise-ireland.com



HOW IT WORKS

In most cases the collaborating partners jointly define the research project. Enterprise Ireland can offer assistance at this stage to make connections with your project partner. The College submits the proposal for funding and if successful, College and Company jointly manage its progress together. Favourably evaluated proposals are submitted to the National Research Support Fund Board for the final approval. Throughout the process applications are dealt with in an accommodating manner with full dialogue and feedback provided.

All possible steps are taken to protect confidentiality and commercial sensitivity throughout the project. The structure of the funding criteria is non-competitive and extremely flexible. As a consequence the level of successful applications is very high.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of requirements your project must meet if it is to qualify:

- The objective of the project should be to develop innovative new products and/or processes, for Irish based industry, through the application of new technologies.
- The project must be in the area of science, engineering and technology.
- The aim of the project should be to bring the research to a pre-commercial phase of market readiness.

Please note that eligible projects cannot duplicate work already in the public domain. Routine testing, routine software development and consultancy do not qualify for funding.

OUTLINE PROPOSALS

To optimise the preparation time in defining project proposals, the submission of an Outline Proposal is an important step. It enables us to provide you with a quick assessment of project eligibility and recommendations for the formulation of your research proposal. Enterprise Ireland may also recommend that an application for a Technical Feasibility Study should be submitted first.

All applications for full proposals are subject to a technical and commercial peer evaluation. Comprehensive feedback is provided giving you the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the evaluator. All possible steps are taken to protect the confidentiality and commercial sensitivity of applications.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Enterprise Ireland's core aim is to encourage and assist Irish Companies to become more innovative and therefore more competitive and profitable.

In order to encourage and facilitate your participation in the Innovation Partnership Initiative the Third Level College can conduct an initial Technical Feasibility Study to explore the technological issues involved in realising your innovative products and processes. The Technical Feasibility Study will be no longer than 6 months and is 100% funded by Enterprise Ireland.

FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

Collaboration can be supported for up to two years. Grants under the Innovation Partnership Initiative are available for the research and development aspects of your project and will primarily go towards the cost of employing research staff in third level institutions. This funding is structured on a shared cost basis between Enterprise Ireland and the Companies involved in the project.

The extent of the funding is dependant on three factors:

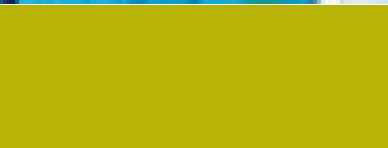
- the location of the Company;
- the size of the Company;
- the number of partners in a consortium.

A research consortium can involve multiple Colleges/ Companies and will qualify for a better grant rate.

Please note that eligible projects cannot duplicate work already in the public domain. Routine testing, routine software development and consultancy do not qualify for funding.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Enterprise Ireland makes no claim on the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) developed in the course of the research. It is strongly advised however, that the collaborating parties establish an IPR agreement before the commencement of the project.



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