



Competence Centres

A new dimension in industry-led research

Objective

"To achieve competitive advantage for industry in Ireland by accessing the innovative capacity of the research community".

Definition

Competence Centres are collaborative entities established and led by industry and resourced by highly capable researchers associated with research institutions who are empowered to undertake market focussed strategic research for the benefit of industry.

Target Groups

Irish companies with technology focus and R&D strategy or vision

MNCs in Ireland with technology focus and R&D strategy or vision

Non-profit research organisations, including third level institutions.

What is a Competence Centre?



Benefits

Opportunities to *engage in higher-risk, longer term research* into market problems that, once solved, can offer a competitive edge;

Direct input into the strategic direction of the centre's research;

Access to intellectual property and early influence on its exploitation;

Chance to ***recruit highly-skilled graduates***;

Networking with senior and influential researchers that could lead to involvement in EU, State and other R&D initiatives.

Selection Process

Expression of interest >

Prioritisation >

Definition of needs >

Call to participate >

Evaluation >

Final negotiation.

Expected impacts

Break-through products & processes for companies

Higher export levels, spin-offs, patents & licences

Increased company expenditure typically leveraging other funding streams on more relevant R&D

Plus, less tangible impacts like two-way transfer of knowledge between markets and research community, training of researchers, transferring to industry with improved skills and networks.

Description of Needs

- **numbers of companies involved,**
- **commercial and economic impacts,**
- **research and training plans,**
- **description of structure,**
- **chair, director, location,**
- **framework for IPR**
- **business plan**

Next Steps;-

- **form a group of companies involved,**
- **evaluate the suitability of the Centre model**
- **consider research needs and priorities,**
- **quantify and describe impacts and benefits,**
- **submit Expression of Interest at next call,**
- **continue to work on your collective needs and engage with the Agencies,**