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United Kingdom

The Innovation Relay Centre (IRC) Network and Thematic Group Environment (TGE)

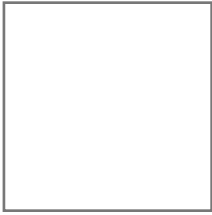
European support network for the promotion of research, technology transfer and innovation



Innovation Relay Centre Network

ZENIT - Zentrum für Innovation und Technik in Nordrhein-Westfalen GmbH

Founded in 1984 as a Public Private Partnership to support the structural change in North Rhine-Westphalia



ZENIT Zentrum für Innovation und Technik in Nordrhein-Westfalen GmbH

Shareholders

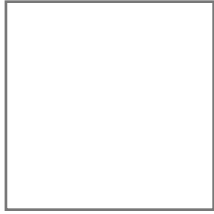
ZENIT Trägerverein e.V.,

interdisciplinary interest grouping of over 250 primarily small and medium-sized enterprises from all sectors in NRW

Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Consortium of banks

comprising NRW.BANK, WGZ Bank and the Banking Association of NRW



Services of ZENIT

- Services to Business
- Services for Ministries
- National Contact Points
EU Networks METTTES,
EIC and IRC



Birth of the IRC Network

- EC perceived a weakness in the exploitation of R&D
- In 1995 EC established the IRC network to facilitate the transfer of innovative technology to industry
- Today the IRC network is the largest technology transfer network in the world

The IRC network

- A network that increases the competitiveness of European SMEs
- With :
 - An integrated, personal brokerage service giving access to new European markets and partners
 - A searchable database weekly updated with around 2.500 new technologies to be exploited and commercialised and with over 500 technologies requests

The IRC Network : a European Network with international contacts

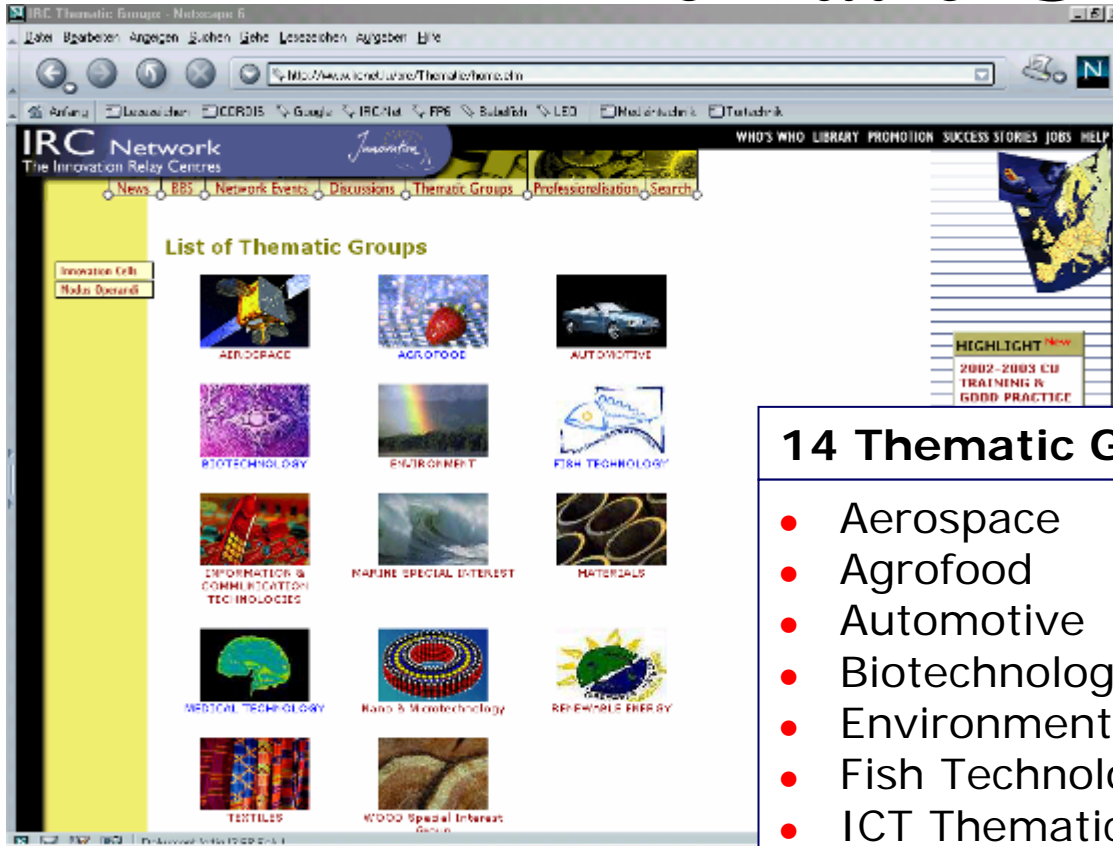
✦ **71 IRC consortia** with 230 partner organizations and 2.000 IRC staff

✦ **33 countries:** EU, Turkey, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland

Mission statement

As a trans-national network
the IRC network drives
innovation and competitiveness
by connecting
knowledge, technologies and people.

Thematic Groups



14 Thematic Groups of the IRC:

- Aerospace
- Agrofood
- Automotive
- Biotechnology
- Environment
- Fish Technology
- ICT Thematic Group
- Marine special interest
- Materials
- Medical Technology
- Nano- & Microtechn.
- Renewable Energy
- Security & Defense
- Textiles

What are the TGE's objectives?

- ✦ To promote the European environmental technology sector
- ✦ To provide European environmental technology enterprises with a platform from which to promote their innovative products, processes and services
- ✦ To demonstrate opportunities for transnational TT in the environmental sector
- ✦ To support transnational transfer projects in this sector in terms of strategy, partner mediation, IPR, legal issues

Current status

- ✦ 34 Full Members (from 15 EU/Associated States)
- ✦ 69 Observers (from 21 EU/Associated States)

Key features

- ✦ Commitment Agreement
- ✦ Strategy of joint events
- ✦ Process of ongoing development and improvement, e.g. sub-groups
- ✦ Exploitation of additional opportunities, e.g. METTTES

TGE past events 1/97- 06/07

- ✦ ENTSORGA-ENTECO, ENVITEC, IFAT (Germany)
- ✦ POLLUTEC (France)
- ✦ PROMA (Spain)
- ✦ RICICLA/ECOMONDO (Italy)
- ✦ EcoPartners (Netherlands)
- ✦ IFEST (Belgium)
- ✦ ECO-TECH (Poland)
- ✦ Waste-to-Energy (Ireland)
- ✦ Ökotech (Hungary)
- ✦ Waste Management (Malta)

Selected Success Cases of IRC NRW

- Germany – Spain: Energy generation from coal mine gas
- Germany – Spain: Biological in-situ soil decontamination
- Belgium – Germany: Environmentally friendly products for odour treatment
- Germany – Hungary: Compaction technology and compactor for communal waste compacting
- Germany – Austria: On-site Storm Water Retention/Infiltration System with Innovative Pollution Control Filter

Further information

Visit the IRC Network's **website** at

<http://innovationrelay.net/>

Visit **ZENIT** at

<http://www.zenit.de/e/>

Thank you for your attention

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