

Research Funding in Ireland

- Historically – relatively small budgets, subject to cuts
- Economy focused on bulk manufacturing (12% corporation tax) – little research base in industry
 - Multinationals focused on bulk manufacturing
 - Indigenous sector servicing multinationals or focused on non-research active sectors (tourism, agriculture, food....)
- Industry led research very applied and short term – significant investment during 1980s and 1990s
- Lowest patents per head in EU

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 1



Research Councils

- IRCSET and IRCHSS: bringing realistic funding to postgraduates (€12,700/pa)
- 'Organic' approach to growing research – 150 studentships to be awarded this year by IRCSET, similar number by IRCHSS + senior awards (fellowships)
- PG salaries are rising rapidly
- Structured PhD programmes developing
- Student Centred programmes – application is via the student, not the supervisor
- Brings significant resources to the Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences
- Emergence of a team-based research structure in the arts

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 2



Enterprise Ireland

- **BASIC Research Programme (IRSET involved in co-funding)**
 - Broadly based in terms of subject typically €100K-€150K over 2-3 years
 - 100+ awards
 - Important for sustaining a broad level of basic research activity
- **Applied Projects** – focused on indigenous sector (existing and campus high-tech spinoffs) e.g. ATRP and RIP; can provide significant levels of funding; objective is to develop a company or product

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 3



Other Sources (targeted funds)

- **National**
 - Department of Agriculture and Food
 - Marine Institute
 - EPA
 - HRB/Department of Health
 -
- **International**
 - Foundations e.g. Wellcome
 - US Agencies – NIH, NSF, DARPA/ONR, NIST...

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 4



Major Change – PRTLI & SFI

- **HEA – PRTLI programme (1999-2005)**
 - Infrastructural in Nature
 - Not restricted in terms of discipline
 - Major investments made in cycles 1&2
 - Cycle 3 currently paused due to alternative budget prioritisation by Department of Education
- **SFI Programme (2000-2006)**
 - Focused on Biotechnology and ICT (economically important) – funding through Dept. of Enterprise and Trade
 - Emphasis on team building – attracting big players from abroad is an important target (Fellowships)
 - Budget protected in recent announcements
 - Various measures – Walton visiting scholarships, Fellowships, Investigators, Research Professorships, Workshops....

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 5



SFI – CSET Programme

- Objective is to grow a strong industry research ethos – linked to emerging strengths in the universities
- Rigorous peer review of the scientific quality and management structure of proposed centres
- Multinationals will play a key role in the early stages
- Seen as vital for the development of long-term sustainable wealth in Ireland
- Tension between Basic vs. Applied remit of publicly funded research
- Relationships need to be developed between IDA and SFI, and IDA/SFI and Enterprise Ireland (Indigenous Sector)

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 6



Expert Group on Future Skills Report

- Demand for researchers qualified to PhD level will rise sharply
- Supply predicted to fall considerably short of demand
- HEA should provide appropriate levels of support for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers, promote research as a career option, and develop research career structures
- Third level colleges should develop and implement strategies to attract postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers

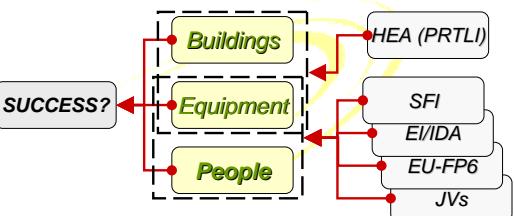
(Source: IT, Feb 20th 2001)

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 7



Research Strategy

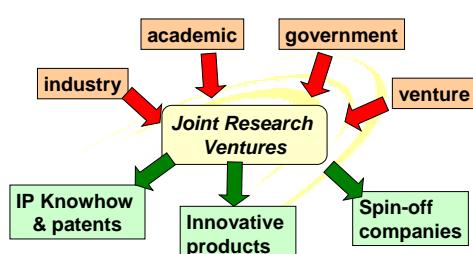
- Objective: to become the **world leader** in targeted areas of emerging research prominence



Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 8



Joint Research Ventures



Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 9



Intellectual Property

• Variety of Models

- Industry partner takes all – significant overheads
- Shared - continuum
 - ◆ Royalty – exclusive (sectoral) basis
 - ◆ Non-Royalty – non-exclusive
- University takes all – Government funded; industry has minimal contribution; similar to NSF model in USA (Governed by the Baye-Dole Act)

Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 10



Tech-Transfer/Spin-offs

- Localised space (Lab based) in Centres
- Dedicated space in INVENT
 - State-of-the-art €10.5 million innovation centre
- Other On-Campus or Off-Campus ventures



Office of the Vice President for Research Slide 11

