

Minster Fahey Hosts Regional R&D Road-shows at NUIG

Galway, April 10 – Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of State, Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, today hosted a conference at NUI Galway aimed at boosting Ireland's research and development capabilities.

The conference focused on ground-breaking research being conducted at the university, specifically the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) and the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI).

The two institutes are part of a seven-strong group of Government-supported Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSETs). Funded by grants of up to €25 million from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), CSETs link scientists and engineers in partnerships across academia and industry and are at the forefront of scientific research in the country.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Fahey said the Government shares NUI Galway's commitment to research and that such industrial-academic collaborations are central to the Government's long-term economic strategy.

He added: "Ireland's sustained economic growth and prosperity depends upon establishing a culture of scientific and technological innovation, a high level of research and development, and a globally competitive knowledge-based economy."

DERI is dedicated to researching the technologies that will underpin the next generation of the World Wide Web. REMEDI is bringing together the technologies of gene therapy and stem cell therapy that will greatly increase the capacity of both to treat human disease.

Other speakers at the conference included Dr Chris Horn, chairman and CEO of Iona Technologies; Professor Patrick Fottrell, executive chairman of SFI; and Nicholas Canny, vice president of research at NUI Galway.

Speaking in support of CSETs, Dr. Horn said: “It is essential that industry and government come together to pool resources and expertise, allowing Ireland to remain at the fore of science and technology research.”

Attendees comprised leading businessmen, academics, politicians and industry bodies from Galway and the surrounding region.

Minister Fahey pointed out that CSETS are working with Enterprise Ireland to develop research and development in indigenous Irish industry and with IDA Ireland to attract and retain foreign direct investment and participation in the Irish research community.

Ends

SFI-Funded CSETs

- Digital Enterprise Research Institute, at NUIG
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructure & Nanodevice, at TCD
- Regenerative Medicine Institute, at NUIG
- Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain-Driven Research, at TCD
- Lero - Irish Software Engineering Research Centre, at UL
- Biomedical Diagnostic Institute, at DCU
- Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, at UCC.

Notes to Editor

AGENDA OF SPEAKERS

- Professor Patrick Fottrell, SFI Executive Chair.
Welcome & Overview of CSET Programme and Objectives
- **Mr. Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of State, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform**
Opening Address
- Professor Nicholas Canny, Vice President for Research, NUI Galway
NUI, Galway welcome
- Dr. Chris Horn, CTVR Chair
CSET Overview – Opportunities for Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Professor Manfred Hauswirth, DERI
Making Semantic Web Real

- Mr. Rory O'Connor, Hewlett Packard
Mr. Karl Flannery, Storm Technology LTD
CSET – An Industry Perspective
- Professor Timothy O'Brien, REMEDI
Opportunities for Leverage and Further Funding
- Mr. Ronan Thornton, Senior R&D Manager, Medtronic
Lessons Learned – An Industry Perspective
- Panel Discussions – *Reshaping Ireland's Economy Through Science*