

Press Release  
25 November 2005

## Turning Knowledge into Value

### Code to foster enterprise / academic research partnerships launched by Advisory Science Council

The Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (Advisory Science Council) today (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November) launched the **National Code of Practice for Managing and Commercialising Intellectual Property (IP) from Public-Private Collaborative Research**. This Code of Practice outlines the national policy position relating to managing and commercialising intellectual property from collaborative research between enterprise and academic partners. It provides practical guidelines and an overarching framework under which parties to an IP agreement may negotiate.

The key objectives of the Code of Practice are to foster collaborative research between enterprise and academia in Ireland and the commercialisation of research output.

Speaking last week, at a meeting with the Chair of the Advisory Science Council, Ms Mary Cryan and the Task Force Chair, Dr Ena Prosser, Minister Michael Martin welcomed and endorsed the Code of Practice. "I am confident that this Code will contribute to strengthening Ireland's international reputation as a location of choice for collaborative research." he commented.

The Minister extended his gratitude to the wide range of stakeholders who contributed to its development - research funding agencies and public research organisations, enterprise and representative bodies. He noted also the important work of the research funding agencies in the development of operational guidelines to implement the Council's Code of Practice.

The Government has increased its investment in research five-fold under the National Development Plan, 2000-2006 to €2.5 billion, and is committed to Ireland's development as an innovation and knowledge driven economy recognised for the excellence of its people and research. The challenge is to ensure that this investment in knowledge underpins the technological capability and future competitiveness of enterprises in Ireland and is translated into economic growth and wealth creation.

This can be successfully achieved by fostering collaborative research and effective technology transfer from the public research base to enterprise. Such linkages are critical in building technological capability in enterprise and in providing direction and focus for academic research.

"The level of linkage between enterprise and academia in Ireland currently, is low. In the highly competitive and rapidly changing environment in which technology firms operate, competitive advantage is achieved by firms that can react quickly to market trends and draw on knowledge and developments by research teams outside their own organisational boundaries. Collaborative research is fast becoming a critical tool in the search for new technology. If Ireland is achieve its

goal of becoming an innovation and knowledge driven economy it must ensure that it becomes the location of choice for collaborative research among international public research organisations and enterprises. We need to continue to invest in excellence in the public research base and in parallel promote a strong pro-commercialisation culture," said Mary Cryan, Chair, Advisory Science Council.

"The Code of Practice will help to achieve these objectives by providing clarity, certainty and predictability for all parties in the negotiation of collaborative research projects on their respective rights and expectations in the management of IP," continued Cryan.

Also speaking at the launch Dr Ena Prosser, Chair of the Advisory Science Council Task Force which developed the Code of Practice commented, "Ireland offers great potential to enterprise for innovation and wealth creation. The recent substantial public investments in the public research system means companies large and small can benefit from the knowledge, expertise and facilities of public research organisations to help build their technological capability and create the technologies that will underpin future products and services."

The Advisory Science Council advocates the speedy implementation of the Code of Practice by public research organisations and enterprise.

"The Advisory Science Council strongly encourages enterprises and the public research base to step up their levels of collaboration to develop the innovative solutions and next generation products and services that will sustain the growth and competitiveness of the enterprise base in Ireland," concluded Mary Cryan.

Feargal O Móráin of Enterprise Ireland said at the launch that the Funding Agencies welcomed the development and publication of the Code. He said that the Funding Agencies would shortly be issuing guidelines on IP management, jointly agreed between them, to the research organisations to support the implementation of the Code of Practice and facilitate maximum commercialisation of IP which is developed in the course of enterprise/academic partnerships.

**Ends**