

Press Release

26 April 2007

Good Governance Essential for Excellence in Collaborative Research

Forfás today (26 April 2007) launched a report entitled *“Review of Governance Options for Collaborative Research Ventures”*. This report sets out a series of guidelines for research institutions and enterprises to use in the preparation of collaborative research ventures, and highlights issues to be considered by the partners that will be essential for the success of the venture.

At the launch of the report Martin Cronin, Chief Executive of Forfás highlighted the growing importance of partnerships and collaborations between public research institutions and with the private sector in developing a world class research system in Ireland. “Increasing collaboration between public research institutions and the enterprise sector is a key objective of the Government’s *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation*. Collaboration can help to build critical mass, maximise excellence in research, and support research commercialisation. Collaborative research initiatives can be complex to organise and manage, particularly where they involve multiple partners, and good governance arrangements are therefore essential to their success. The guidelines set out the range of potential establishment models for collaborative research, the benefits and limitations of different models and legal requirements”, said Mr Cronin.

The release of the guidelines is timely in the context of the recent launch, by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Micheál Martin TD, of the call for proposals for new ‘Competence Centres’, which are to be industry-led collaborative research entities.

“The development of industry-led Competence Centres is an important instrument to encourage companies to increase their investment in R&D and to increase collaboration with the public research sector. Putting in place good governance arrangements that provide for the joint management of such initiatives by the public and private sector partners will be important to their success”, said Mr Cronin.

Ends

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The guidelines are based on a review of best international practice, current practice in Ireland and extensive consultations with the public and private sector research stakeholders.

About Forfás

Forfás is Ireland's national board responsible for providing policy advice to Government on enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation in Ireland. Among Forfás' functions are: industrial policy development and co-ordination of State bodies such as IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland; the promotion of scientific research and innovation in close association with Science Foundation Ireland and the Advisory Council on Science, Technology and Innovation; and research, analysis and policy advice on competitiveness and economic development, through the National Competitiveness Council and the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs. <http://www.forfas.ie>