

Innovation in Enterprises in Ireland

The Statement of the Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (ICSTI) on Innovation in Enterprises in Ireland is enclosed for information.

The Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation advises Government on the strategic direction of science, technology and innovation (STI) policy. The role of the Council encompasses all aspects of STI policy including primary, second and third level education, scientific research, technology and R&D in industry, prioritisation of State spending and public awareness of science, technology and innovation issues.

The Council believes that an innovative industrial sector, encompassing both manufacturing and services activities, plays an essential role in our economy, which is increasingly becoming more globalised and open to competition. Enterprises must be equipped to transfer and develop new products and processes in a knowledge-based society. They must be able to manage rapid technological change if they are to remain competitive. The proposals made here are intended to ensure that the maximum number of both foreign and indigenous

firms will become and remain innovative in their strategies and performance.

The Council Statement is enclosed for the information of both yourself and your colleagues. In Innovation in Enterprises in Ireland, the Council makes focussed recommendations for actions by government departments and agencies that have a role in encouraging and facilitating industrial innovation, on the clear understanding that enterprises themselves have the main responsibility for managing their own competitive situation and resources.

The Statement was approved at the Council meeting in July 1998 and its circulation is coming at a time of critical institutional and other changes for science, technology and innovation in Ireland - not least the pending negotiations on the National Plan/Community Support Framework for the years 2000-2006. If you require further copies of Innovation in Enterprises in Ireland, please request them from the secretariat at the address below.

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