

9-Apr-2001

ICSTI Statement on Commercialisation of Publicly Funded Research

Commercialisation of Publicly Funded Research is increasingly important to national economy – ICSTI

The transfer of research and development results from universities, institutes of technology and Government research institutes to the commercial market place for public benefit - the commercialisation of research - is an activity of increasing importance in modern industrialised economies - knowledge-based economies. Ireland is on track to becoming such a knowledge-based economy, an economy in which reliance on knowledge is the key feature. This was stated by Dr. Edward M. Walsh, Chairman of the Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation at the launch of the Council's Statement *Commercialisation of Publicly Funded Research* (Monday, 9 April 2001).

Dr. Walsh said the Statement highlighted the opportunities for future increased commercialisation of research undertaken in third level and research organisations. The Council has made recommendations aimed at improving the means, circumstances and conditions for the transfer and commercialisation of non-commissioned, publicly-funded research activities and outcomes.

Specific recommendations for the effective exploitation of commercialisation opportunities include:

- Government Departments should make a clear statement of intent and set specific objectives, should ensure that agencies under their aegis have adequate procedures in place and should commit sufficient resources to commercialisation of research;
- Funding agencies should encourage commercialisation of results of research they sponsor, driving forward the process of commercialisation and allocating funds for the initial stages of commercialisation of research and development;
- Universities, institutes of technology and public research institutes should see commercialisation of R&D as an essential mission, designating both sufficient personnel and adequate resources and encouraging it as an option for all researchers in third level institutions and research institutes;
- Resources for the technology transfer/commercialisation function should be substantially increased through the relevant funding authorities, resulting in an increase in commercialisation activity;
- Proof of concept funding, to bridge the gap between scientific discovery and the prototype stage thus enabling a well informed judgement to be made on the commercial prospects, should be provided to third level institutions, research institutes and small and medium-sized enterprises on a competitive basis and
- Training in commercialisation activities should be provided as an option for all researchers and research programme managers, both in third level and in research institutes.

“Through these actions, it will be possible to provide a favourable environment, with a positive culture, a supportive framework and

incentives, in which entrepreneurs can bring research outcomes to the market place. The Council believes that these actions will bring about a substantial increase in the commercial exploitation of publicly funded non-commissioned research and development to the benefit of the research community and the economy", said Dr. Walsh.

(ENDS).

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