

Energy Research Opportunities with SFI

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*Ocean Energy Researchers'
Workshop
2 October 2009*

Outline



- **Introduction**
- **SFI Energy Remit & Strategy**
- **SFI Strategic Research Cluster - Energy**
- **Q&A**



Strategy for Science Technology & Innovation (SSTI) (2007 - 2013)



VISION

Ireland by 2013 will be internationally renowned for the excellence of its research and will be to the forefront in generating and using new knowledge for economic and social progress within an innovation driven culture.



Role of SFI in Research Investment



MISSION

SFI will build and strengthen scientific and engineering research and its infrastructure in the areas of greatest strategic value to Ireland's long-term competitiveness and development.



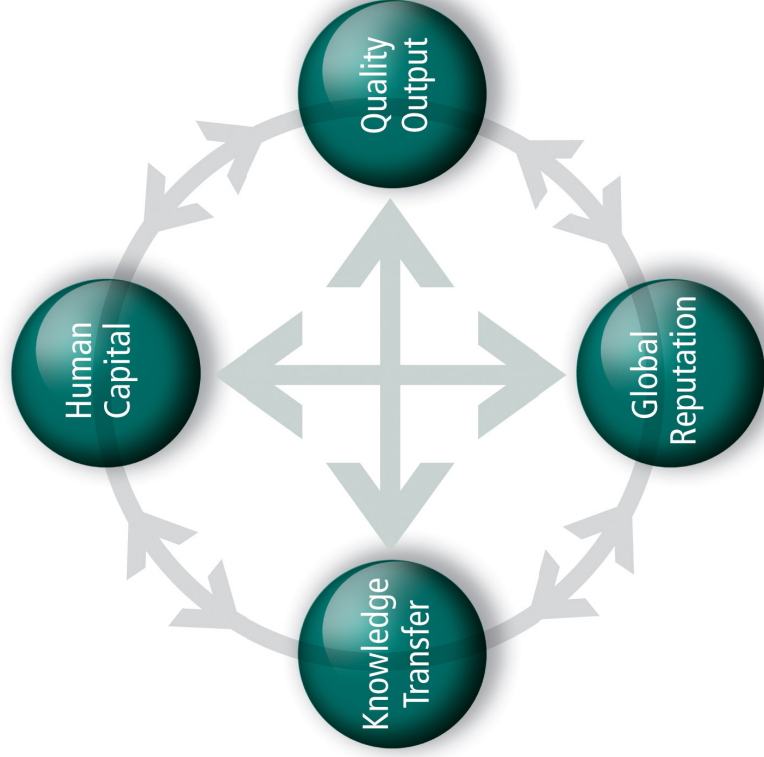


Research for Ireland's Future

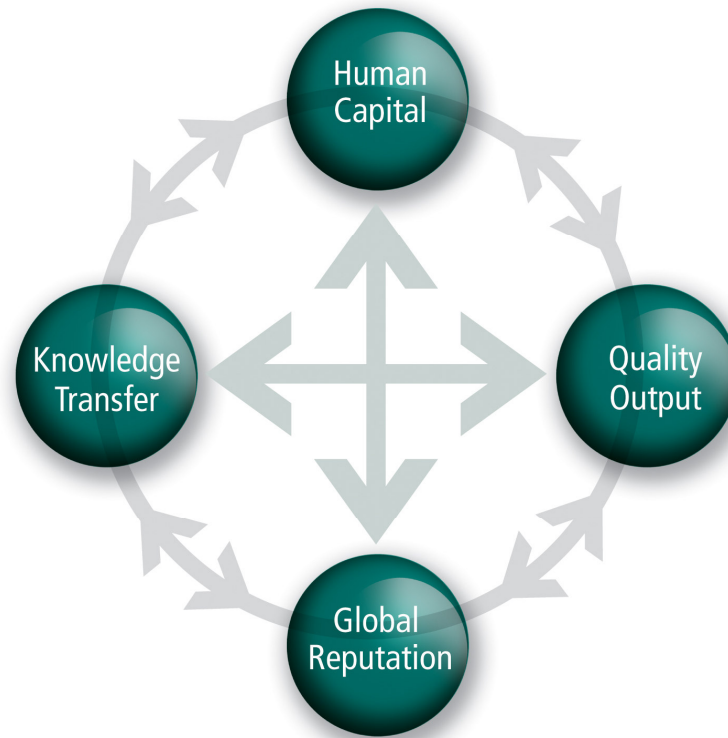
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Powering the Smart Economy

Science Foundation Ireland Strategy 2009-2013



Powering the Smart Economy



The strategy for the next five years increases the emphasis on linkages between scientific excellence and economic impact. SFI's programmes will be focused more directly on developing and sustaining the underpinning components of the Smart Economy in the *areas of greatest strategic value to Ireland's long-term competitiveness and development.*

Energy Remit



- SFI established in 2000, with mandate to fund in areas of **Biotechnology** and **Information & Communications Technologies (ICT)**
- In May 2008, a third pillar was added to SFI's remit - **Sustainable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies ('Energy')**
- Two Directorates remain - IC&ET and Lifesciences
- Responsibility for development of 'energy' related activities lies within IC&ET
- Energy research straddles many technological bases - applications & awards will be administered within the two SFI Directorates
- SFI has chosen not to overly prescribe eligible activities - applicants must make case as to why their research is within 'energy' remit
- SFI will engage appropriate international experts to assist in the assessment process
- No 'ring-fenced' allocation within overall SFI budget for 'energy' (unless for energy specific Calls)



SFI Energy Strategy (July 2009)



- Framework: Irish Energy Research Council - *“An Energy Research Strategy for Ireland”*
- Informed by Energy Symposium, Oct 2008 and agency & industry consultations
- Implementation:
 - Integrate ‘energy-related’ research into existing portfolio of SFI’s Programmes
 - Strategic Research Cluster Programme - Energy Call
 - Targeted recruitment Programmes*
 - Supplementary funding Programme to facilitate interdisciplinary research*

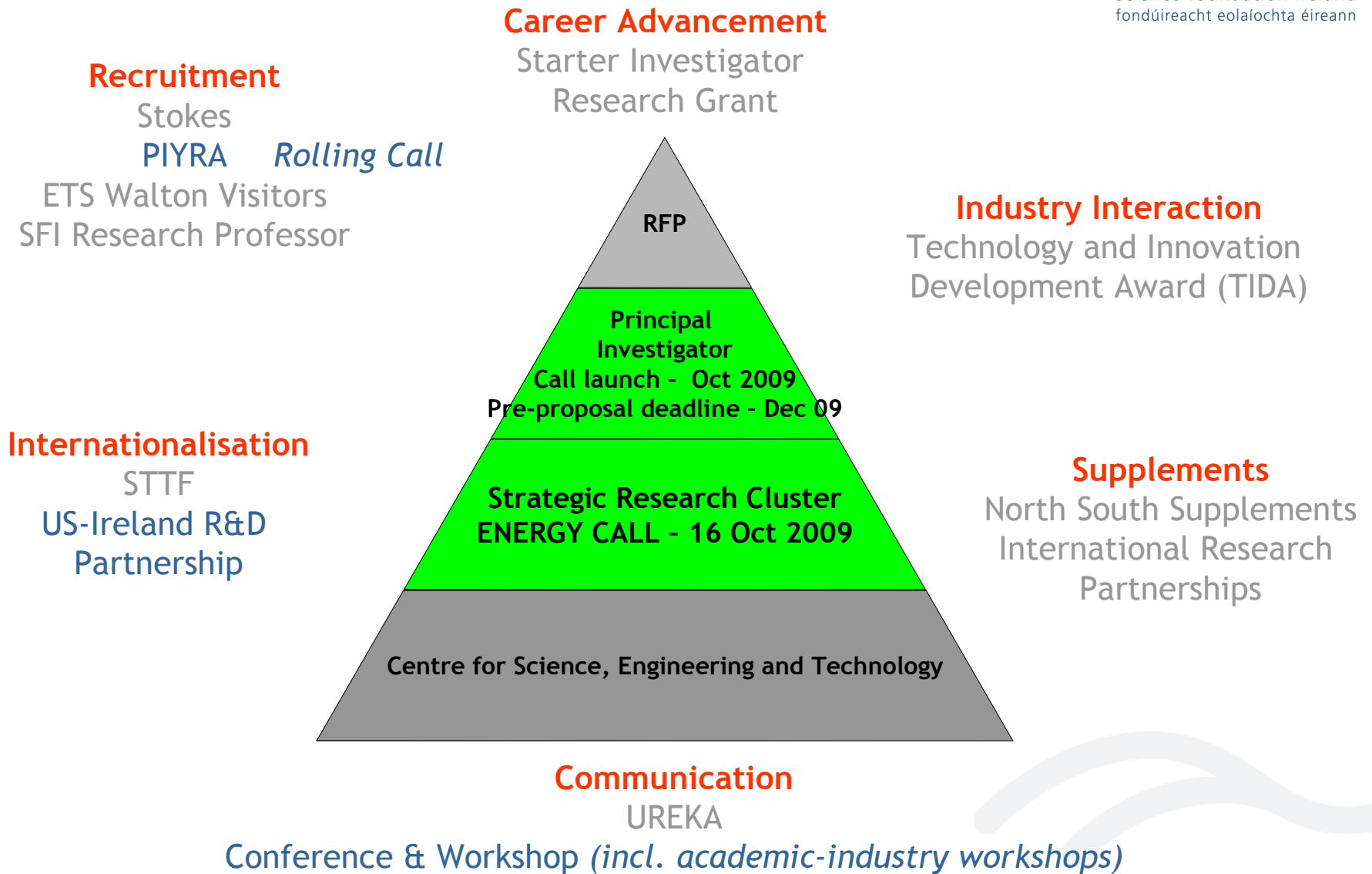
*subject to budget availability

http://www.sfi.ie/uploads/documents/upload/Energy_Strategy_July_2009.pdf

“An Energy Research Strategy for Ireland”

<http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Office+of+the+Chief+Technical+Advisor/Irish+Energy+Research+Council.htm>

Suite of SFI Programmes



Current SFI Funded 'Ocean-Energy' related Research



- **RFP** (sensors, climate modelling, materials, seabed mapping)
- **SRC** (incl StratAG)
- **CSET** (e.g. Strands within CLARITY, CRANN)
- **US-Ireland** (sensors)
- **Charles Parsons Energy Research Awards** (incl. UCC, UL)
- **ICHEC, Tyndall**



SRC - Objectives



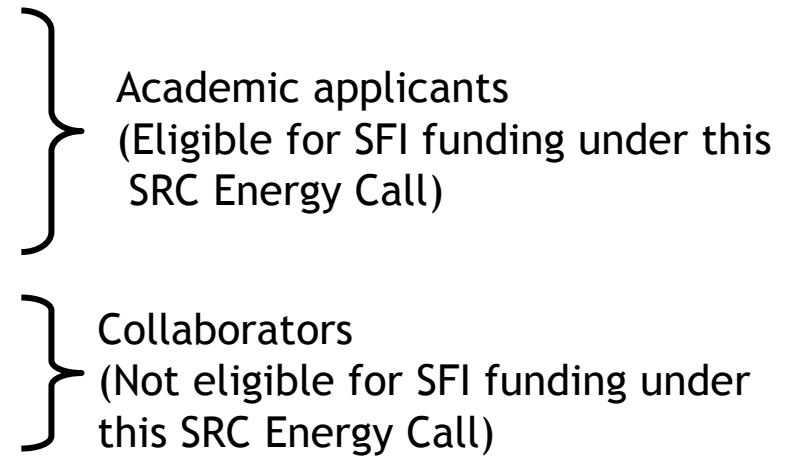
- To create clusters of **internationally-competitive researchers from academia and industry**, particularly Irish-based industry;
- To support frontier investigations across disciplines that are essential to the development and competitiveness of **Ireland's industrial and commercial base**;
- To create awareness among academic-based researchers of **industrial road maps and research goals**;
- To support excellence in research as measured by **international merit review**;
- To exploit opportunities in science and engineering where the complexity of the research agenda requires the advantages of **synergy, scale and shared resources** that clusters of research partners can provide;
- To facilitate the development of **new research partnerships** and the **strengthening of existing partnerships** between academic and industrial researchers.



SRC - Roles



- Lead applicant
- Co-applicant(s)
- Funded investigator(s)
- Official academic collaborator(s)
- Industry collaborator(s)



- Strategic Research Cluster applications (pre- & full proposals) must have a lead applicant & at least one co-applicant
- An individual can be lead-applicant or co-applicant on only ONE SRC application
- Strategic Research Cluster applications must have at least one industry collaborator



SRC - Funding



- SRC grants will be awarded for a period of **3 years initially**, with possible extension for an **additional 2 years** following successful scientific and strategic progress review
- Grants will typically range from **€500,000 to €1,200,000 per year** over the five (3 + 2) year period
- Budget should be appropriate to the number of participating PIs & funded investigators, their experience & track records, and the scale of the research programme to be undertaken
- Given SFI budget constraints and the importance of critical mass, it is unlikely that SFI will fund two SRCs operating in closely-related areas
- Based on current budgetary constraints likely only 1 or 2 SRCs will be funded



SRC - Industry Collaborators



- Must have at least ONE industry collaborator
 - Level of industry engagement & cost-share will be viewed as an indicator of the relevance of the research to the ENERGY sector
 - Letter of support (max. 1 page each) from each industry collaborator/partner outlining intention to participate & indication of the level of cost-share commitment
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- **TOTAL COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS** (contribution can be cash or in-kind (equipment, data, materials, personnel):
 - Year 1 - no specified requirement
 - Year 2 - minimum of 20% of SFI direct costs in Year 2
 - Year 3 - minimum of 30% of SFI direct costs in Year 3
 - Year 4 - minimum of 40% of SFI direct costs in Year 4
 - Year 5 - minimum of 40% of SFI direct costs in Year 5



Application Process



Pre-proposal Stage

- Research Programme (6 pages)
- Potential Impact to Ireland (3 pages)

Full Proposal Stage

- Research Programme (25 pages)
- Potential Impact to Ireland (5 pages)
- Industry Interactions (2 pages)



SRC - Review Criteria



- Quality, significance, and relevance of the research cluster's **contribution to fields that underpin Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies** and to the general economic, industrial, commercial, scientific, and educational development of Ireland.
- Quality, significance, and relevance of the proposed research, including the potential to **advance knowledge and understanding** within its own field or across different fields.
- The capacity to foster the **development of new and existing Irish companies;** to **attract multinational research activities** to Ireland, and to **expand the educational and career opportunities** for Ireland's citizens in science and engineering.
- Quality, significance, and relevance of the **recent research record** of the proposed investigators.
- The **level of commitment** demonstrated by the proposed industry partners and the cost-sharing plans associated with the partnership.



Review Process



Pre-proposal

- Scientific Postal Review
- Scientific Panel
- Strategic Panel Review

Envisage that 5-6 applications will be invited to full proposal stage

Full proposal

- Scientific Postal Review
- Strategic Panel Review (lead applicant will present)
- Site Review (invitation only)



SRC - Key Dates



- Pre-proposal Submission 16 October 2009, 13:00
- Notification on invites to full-proposal 18 December 2009
- Information meeting 21 December 2009

- Full-proposal Submission 12 March 2010, 13:00
- Site Review Q3, 2010



Questions?

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