**Minister Halligan announces successful applicants of the second round of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund in the South East**

* **The Fund, which is administered for the Government by Enterprise Ireland, will operate on a rolling basis as part of Project Ireland 2040**
* **National Design Innovation Hub DAC, Incupharm DAC and Crystal Valley Tech CLG in the South East approved for funding totaling €2.8 million**

**Monday, 3 December 2018**

Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development, John Halligan, TD announced today that three projects in the South East have been offered funding as part of the second round of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, an open national competitive call to support regional projects, delivered for the Government through Enterprise Ireland.

Twenty-one successful applicants representing all regions of the country have secured just over €29m for their projects in the second call for proposals under the competitive Fund. Initially allocated €60m for two rounds of funding, the Fund will now operate on a rolling basis as part of Project Ireland 2040.

Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development, John Halligan, TD said: *“This morning in Navan, Minister Heather Humphreys announced the results of Call 2 of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF). I am very pleased to note that there are a number of successful projects in the South East that have been approved funding today.*

*Incupharm in Waterford will provide bespoke laboratory space to support life sciences start-ups; in association with IT Carlow, a new Design Innovation Hub will be developed in Kilkenny for companies in all sectors who want to conceptualise, innovate and build new products and services; while the Crystal Valley tech cluster for the region will be supported to grow its activities. These projects together represent an investment by Government of over €2.8 million for the South East region under this second call.”*

Twenty-one successful applicants are approved the offer of funding totaling just over €29 million. The winners were selected through a rigorous evaluation process based on criteria which included impacts and value for money, collaboration and participation, viability and sustainability, building regional strengths and significance for innovation.

Successful projects announced today include:

* CIT Consortium Projects DAC, Cork/Kerry - €336,360
* Offaly Innovation & Design Centre, Offaly - €458,240
* National Design Innovation Hub DAC Carlow/Kilkenny - €1,843,320
* Clare MEZ (Maritime Economic Zone) DAC - €1,759,226
* Incupharm DAC, Waterford - €799,212
* Crystal Valley Tech CLG, Carlow/Kilkenny - €219,919

*“The REDF is an important initiative that supports every region to build on its unique strengths. It supports collaborative projects that are emerging from the ground-up and is helping regional stakeholders to safeguard the future of their own communities,” Minister Halligan concluded.*

A further detailed list of all 21 successful projects announced is provided below.

Martin Corkery, Regional Director – South East, Enterprise Ireland said*: “Supporting enterprises to build scale and expand reach is a key focus of Enterprise Ireland and the Regional Enterprise Development Fund helps us to further drive growth in key sectors in counties across the country, particularly in the context of Brexit. This second call which was launched in May attracted very strong interest, receiving a total of 77 applications. The successful applicants represent a broad range of projects across a variety of sectors including food, agri-tech and lifesciences. Our aim is to build on a strong regional ecosystem to include a variety of companies and sectoral clusters with best in class physical and digital infrastructure and appropriate research and technology capability.*

*“The National Design Innovation Hub DAC, Incupharm DAC and Crystal Valley Tech based here in the South East are three of the companies that have received an offer of funding and I would like to congratulate them on their successful application and look forward to seeing the difference this funding will make on the ground as they set about developing the initiative*.”

Declan Doyle, Vice President for Development and Research, Institute of Technology Carlow, said: *“The National Design Innovation Hub, which will trade as C4D, will foster and promote a design-led approach to enterprise innovation bringing significant opportunities for businesses within Ireland. Working with strategic partners in the Institute of Technology Carlow, Kilkenny County Council, KIDCO, Cartoon Saloon and Glanbia, it is envisaged that C4D will be responsible for establishing and supporting 160 jobs by its third year, and no less than 250 by its fifth year. It will also contribute to the creation of new businesses capable of exporting products and services into overseas markets. The Enterprise Ireland REDF funding and the funding from the strategic partners will act as a catalyst for the creation of high economic value jobs through business development, research and talent generation.”*

Dr Niall O'Reilly, Manager, Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC), WIT said: *“On behalf of the Incupharm team I am delighted to welcome the news that funding has been offered for a life science incubator in the South East. The region has a strong pharmaceutical and medical device industry, with over 8,000 directly employed in the sector. The incubator will therefore play to regional strengths and will be connected to the wider business, research and innovation supports of the region and beyond. It is our vision to transform the South East into a lifescience innovation hub, particularly for indigenous start-up companies”.*

*Elaine Fennelly and Larry Breen, directors of the Crystal Valley Technology, the ICT cluster of the South East, welcomed the news of being offered funding from Enterprise Ireland’s Regional Enterprise Development Fund: “We have great companies, great people and huge international success stories here in the South East. This funding will help Crystal Valley Tech achieve its goal of making the South East the location of choice for ICT (Computing) companies and ICT professionals”.*

Today’s announcement follows the award of €30.5million in financial support to 21 applicants for a range of enterprise and capability development projects during the first call, released in December 2017. The awardees of the Second Call announced by the Minister today will fund projects with the remaining balance of the €60m under the REDF.

Details of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund are on Enterprise Ireland’s website [www.enterprise-ireland.com/REDF](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/REDF)

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

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| **Projects approved award** | **County** | **Project Summary** | **Fund** |
| Galway City Innovation District CLG | Galway | A project to support the refurbishment of an existing building and construct on the site three new floors to provide coworking space, private office space and event space for scaleup companies. It will also act as a soft-landing site for FDI companies. Boosting the existing innovation, entrepreneurial and startup ecosystem and supporting a geographically balanced and integrated approach to economic and social development. | €2,487,400 |
| Midc Páirc Na Mara | Galway | A project to develop a market-focused Marine Innovation and Development Centre that will provide 1,800 sq. mtrs. of enterprise and incubation space for marine enterprises. Through collaboration with regional stakeholders and the higher education institutes, the project will provide specialist training and business development supports and targets the creation of 200 jobs. | €2,000,000 |
| The Burren Lowlands CLG | Galway, Clare | A community focused collaborative project that will develop an enterprise support platform (leveraging third level expertise, local enterprise office supports etc) to drive business networking, remote working and entrepreneurship development. The project will create a focus point for enterprise activities in a rural setting, aimed at the creation and attraction of alternative employment opportunities. | €182,786 |
| CIT Consortium Projects DAC | Cork, Kerry | This project aims to increase the number of start-ups coming from the undergraduate student population of the three third level colleges in the South West Region by extending a current programme which will be coordinated by a full-time Programme Manager. | €336,360 |
| Ludgate Operations CLG | Cork | The project will build on the success of the Ludgate Hub and proposes the establishment of a Ludgate Innovation Centre and a series of enterprise supports, including a start-up campus, an education innovation centre and a food tech/agritech innovation centre. It will be housed in a former convent building in Skibbereen. | €1,990,392 |
| Vista Agri 4.0 Hub CLG | Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Tipperary | A Hub that will empower the next generation of agri-tech entrepreneurs and escalate the growth path of industry disruptors with a single access source of agri-tech technical and entrepreneurial innovation, targeting the creation of 190 new jobs in 40+ businesses, 150 new/improved agri-tech products, and almost €30m per annum in new exports. | €1,865,215 |
| Crystal Valley Tech CLG | Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary | This cluster development project will support the growth of the ICT Sector in the South East region, focusing on tech recruitment, business and third level institute collaboration and attraction of new investment to the region. | €219,919 |
| Incupharm DAC | Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary | This project will provide a comprehensive incubation offering to laboratory based, life sciences start-ups in the South East. Incupharm will also provide access to a range of business and technical supports available in the region to help maximise the prospects of success for these companies. | €799,212 |
| National Design Innovation Hub DAC | Carlow, Kilkenny,  Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford | The project will develop a design innovation hub that will enable companies to conceptualise, innovate, build and test new products and services through critical problem-solving methodologies and the standardisation of the design process as a commercial enabler. | €1,843,320 |
| Boyne Valley Food Innovation District DAC | Meath, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth | Development of food grade production facilities and an innovation-rich enterprise support ecosystem to escalate the growth of food and drink entrepreneurs and provide the economic, physical, and networking assets to create impact of 250 new jobs, 50 new and expanding food businesses, 200 new/improved food and drink products, €25m per annum in new export sales, 900 entrepreneurs and learners with increased competencies and 60 interns delivering fresh talent and innovation. | €1,580,640 |
| Mountmellick Development Association CLG | Laois | The Beale Centre for Business Excellence will be a state-of-the-art facility which will be the physical location in which the state agencies, 3rd level institutions and service providers work with people starting new and expanding existing businesses. The facility will provide the latest technology along with open plan hot desks, office pods, meeting, teleconferencing rooms and state of the art commercial kitchens. | €218,200 |
| Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG | Offaly | A Creative Suite to be located at the Birr Technology Centre that will provide a central location where research and education meets business, leveraging I-LOFAR, the astrophysics observing facility in Birr Castle. The project provides a unique opportunity to access big data in real time. Services will include hot desk facilities and office space, IT training facilities and training, industry focused events, and industry-led research projects (undergraduate and post-graduate). | €458,240 |
| BNest Social Initiative DAC | Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry | An initiative that assists businesses seeking social impact to achieve viability and scale through development programmes, critical service supports and cluster development, and by so doing allow innovative ideas with significant potential for societal impact to evolve to sustainable commercial entities. | €603,400 |
| Clare MEZ (Maritime Economic Zone) DAC | Clare | A project located on the Shannon Estuary that will re-purpose an existing site to provide specialist infrastructure and accommodation, making the facility available for maritime and cruise liner related training as well as a test bed for renewable technologies. | €1,759,226 |
| Innovate Limerick t/a Hospital Food Units DAC | Limerick, Clare, Tipperary | This project will develop a Digital Collaboration Centre which aims to position the Mid-West region as a hub of applied disruptive technology innovation. The project seeks to narrow the innovation-adoption gap for global and indigenous companies across the region through regional collaborative disruptive technology applications in services and business processes, which will support start-ups, scaling, HPSU growth and talent attraction. | €2,279,073 |
| Innovate Dublin Communities CLG | Dublin | This project will support the creation of Social Innovation hub in the Liberties, Dublin City Centre, creating a dynamic ecosystem to foster innovation with the next wave of entrepreneurs. It will provide space to design and develop business idea/offerings, a community living lab to prototype and test their product or service in the local market, and an internal market place to undertake a soft launch. | €249,955 |
| St. Paul's Area Development Enterprise CLG | Dublin, Mid East | Construction, fitting out and running an innovative Food Kitchen Incubator following best international practice for design, operations and value-added services, creating a platform for small food businesses to launch and grow their businesses. | €2,094,000 |
| Bioconnect Innovation Centre CLG | Monaghan, Cavan | A project to support the performance of cutting edge biotechnology research by companies through the provision of office, laboratory, and biotechnology focused research capabilities for all stages of business development. | €4,976,880 |
| Focused Engineering Network DAC | Monaghan, Cavan | To establish an Engineering Network of companies and local stakeholders to safeguard and future develop the engineering sector in the North East region. Supported by a business development manager, the initial focus of the network will be to identify and capture supply chain opportunities to drive business growth. | €250,000 |
| Leitrim Food Enterprise Zone CLG | Leitrim, Cavan, Sligo, Donegal | A project that will create a food grade infrastructure and support hotspot in Drumshanbo to drive clustering and growth of food companies in counties Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan and Donegal creating 137 new jobs and building a strong national and export sales platform for sustainable, outward looking growth. | €953,640 |
| Sligo County Enterprise Fund CLG | Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim | Development of the Strand Campus to operate as a leading location in the region for entrepreneurs in digital gaming and associated tech sectors, providing holistic support for start-up, innovation and growth. | €1,906,640 |