

MINISTER HUMPHREYS ANNOUNCES €29 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT FUNDING THROUGH THE REGIONAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND

- **Minister Humphreys announces successful applicants of the second round of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund worth over €29million**
- **The Fund, which is administered for the Government by Enterprise Ireland, will operate on a rolling basis as part of Project Ireland 2040**
- **Boyne Valley Food Innovation District, Co. Meath approved for funding totaling €1.5million**

Monday, 3 December 2018

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD today announced the results 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.

Announcing the successful applicants of the second round at a special event in the Meath Enterprise Centre in Navan today, Minister Humphreys said: *"The Irish economy has had a remarkable turnaround in recent years, but we cannot become complacent. Although we have made a lot of progress with three out of five jobs created outside Dublin since we launched the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, some parts of the country are not recovering as quickly as others.*

"The Regional Enterprise Development Fund is about supporting every region to build on its unique strengths and ultimately create sustainable jobs. Collaboration is at its core – among the public and private sectors, within and across regions.

"The projects we are funding today are at the cutting edge of innovation. I am confident that they have the potential to make a real and lasting impact on enterprise development at both regional and national level."

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 at today's event in the Meath Enterprise Centre include:

- The Boyne Valley Food Innovation District DAC, Meath - €1,580,640
- Bioconnect Innovation Centre CLG, Monaghan - €4,976,880
- Galway City Innovation District CLG - €2,487,400
- Innovate Limerick T/A Hospital Foods DAC - €2,279,073
- Ludgate Operations CLG, Cork - €1,990,392
- National Design Innovation Hub DAC Carlow/Kilkenny - €1,843,320
- Clare MEZ (Maritime Economic Zone) DAC - €1,759,226

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

Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection Pat Breen TD said: *"I very much welcome Minister Humphreys's announcement today and want to commend all those who have participated in the competitive process. Through this funding, the Government is following through on our commitment to support the ambition, goals and implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs and I look forward to seeing these projects have a big impact around the country."*

Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development John Halligan TD said: *"I want to congratulate all those groups that have been approved for funding today and am very pleased that the Regional Enterprise Development Fund is getting behind projects that are emerging from the ground up. In my own region of the South East, a strengthening collaborative mindset is leading to strong initiatives that have today attracted more than €2.8 million in Government investment."*

Julie Sinnamon, CEO, 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 Boyne Valley Innovation District based here in County Meath is one of the companies which has 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."

Gary O'Meara, Managing Director, Boyne Valley Food Innovation District said: "The Boyne Valley Food Innovation District has the potential to become a leading food cluster that helps Irish indigenous food companies to build capacity and value so

that they can scale into global markets. We are delighted that Phase 1 of this exciting project 'The Boyne Valley Food Hub' has been funded under REDF and we look forward to working closely with Meath County Council, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and all our other partners to establish the Boyne Valley and the wider region as a world class destination for scaling food companies."

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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	€2,000,000

		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.	
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, located 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	€1,865,215

		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.	
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,	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	€1,580,640

		delivering fresh talent and innovation.	
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 Foods 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	€4,976,880

		companies through the provision of office, laboratory, and biotechnology focused research capabilities for all stages of business development.	
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