

S&E Regional Programme

Case Study

Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC)

The Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC) in Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) was funded under the Applied Research Enhancement (ARE) Programme, a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Enterprise Ireland supported scheme. This was one of a suite of schemes co-financed under the S&E Programme. PMBRC supports the sustainable growth of the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry in the south-east of Ireland. The centre seeks to stimulate research and innovation, allowing companies to embed R&D into their activities.



Image provided courtesy of the Pharmaceutical and Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC), Waterford Institute of Technology

Enterprise Ireland is integral to the animation and the strengthening of links between academia and industry through their support schemes. They recognise the key role the Institutes play in developing innovative technologies in collaboration with industry. While a relatively new and an evolving R&D role, the sector has developed a track record in industry-relevant and applied research. The ARE Programme provided an opportunity for the Institutes to develop research capability in areas of relevance to industry both regionally and nationally and of strategic importance to the individual college.



The centre attracted €710,000 in public funding under the programme. Dr. Niall O'Reilly, PMBRC manager explained that the centre consists of an 800 m² state-of-the-art facility with 34 highly-trained research personnel. Links are established with national and international partners in industry, academia and medical care institutions. Dr. O'Reilly said *“ERDF supports our engagement with industry, our research commercialisation as well as the training programmes developed within the centre.”*

Supports to facilitate the commercialisation of HEI R&D and to strengthen collaboration between HEI and industry is a core feature of the S&E programme 2014-2020. Building on the significant achievements of the previous programme the objectives of the Strengthening

Research, Technology Development and Innovation priority are:

- To increase the level of research taking place in the S&E region with Company engagement by supplying applied research
- To increase the level of commercialisation of research by the Higher Education Institutes in the S&E region.

A measure of the success of the programme will be:

- The number of industry partners engaged with funded strategic research centres in the S&E region.
- The annual number of licenses as a result of research in the S&E Region.