

Collaborate to Innovate!
Richard Stokes, Director of Innovation at DCU talks about some exciting opportunities for companies.



The days are busier than ever in Invent DCU and there are many exciting developments looming! Following the official launch of the DCU Innovation Campus in Glasnevin in January, we are currently finalising a strategy for enhanced collaboration with companies interested in locating in our new campus. We will promote DCU innovation in sectors such as marine technology, environmental monitoring, energy related initiatives, manufacturing, sensors and computing for smart cities. We aim to have this new initiative off the ground soon in advance of our first clients moving in to the Innovation Campus in late May this year. So watch this space for more details on this initiative!

At our annual Commercialisation Awards event in January, we announced that Invent is to simplify the process of negotiating licences to patented IP where the innovations are still early stage and are not currently being developed under live research agreements. We will soon go live on this initiative with web based licences which should expedite the process of reaching agreement with potential industry partners. However, we need your help to develop our collaborative research and innovation proposition to industry. Together with our colleagues in Research and Innovation Support, we will be consulting widely in DCU in the coming weeks to help define and promote publicly the range of commercial engagement models at DCU. These will cover collaborative research, innovation partnerships, consultancy, enterprise development and student placements.

Invent's strategy in knowledge transfer has been developed around the open receptive attitude of our research community to solving challenges presented by industry. The focus has not just been on multinational companies but crucially on passionate entrepreneurs who are striking out on their own. We will offer partnership opportunities for established companies to locate at our **Innovation Campus** at Glasnevin and for early stage companies to locate in **Invent**, our Incubation Centre here on campus. We hope to develop many new opportunities for our graduates, research community and business partners.

During the last few weeks we have made many new connections at several events such as the recent ***Collaborate to Innovate*** event run by IRDG, ***Disrupting Dublin*** event which promoted Dublin as the location of choice for US firms looking at four cities in Europe and the ***National Business Expo*** which showcased supports from universities and professional firms for aspiring entrepreneurs. There is now a real sense of optimism out there and Invent will continue to project an Open for Business outlook.

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