



Enterprise Platform Programme 2012

*Enterprise Support for Innovative High Tech
and Information Technology Start-ups*



Introduction

The Novation Enterprise Platform Programme (NEPP) is a programme of support for graduate entrepreneurs with an innovative business idea in the Knowledge Based, High Tech or IT sectors.

The main objective of the programme is to develop the commercial and job creation potential of the participant businesses. The programme delivers comprehensive training in business and management to equip participants to successfully start up and manage a new business. The programme assists participants in the achievement of personal and business development goals in relation to the project. It also assists participants in the completion of market or technical feasibility studies and/or the preparation of a business plan.

Past Participants

Since its conception in 2001, over 130 entrepreneurs have participated on the Programme. In 2010 Novation EPP participant businesses had annual sales of €68million and had raised over €53 million in venture capital funding.

Previous participants include:

Colm Piercey of Digiweb (www.digiweb.ie)

Sean Gallagher of Smarthomes (www.smarthomes.ie)

Peter Symth of Redmere Technology (www.redmeretechnology.com)

Michael Armstrong of Armac Systems (www.armacsystems.com)

Jane Kelly of Big Mountain Productions (www.bigmountainproductions.com)

Deirdre MacCormack of Mcor Technologies (www.mcor technologies.com)

Kieran Fitzpatrick of Barracuda FX

These Entrepreneurs all attribute their participation on NEPP as a major factor in the successful establishment and growth of their world class businesses.

Structure

The programme consists of 3 Phases

- Phase 1 – Testing. Delivered part time in evenings and/or weekends this phase focuses on testing the business idea and selecting participants for Phase 2. The output of this stage is a feasibility study which will be presented to a business panel.
- Phase 2 - Planning. This phase aimed at entrepreneurs with a viable business concept, is 6 months in duration, is intensive and requires full time commitment by the promoter. As well as comprehensive training and mentoring from experienced entrepreneurs and business experts the successful participants will receive

hotdesking in either Invent DCU or RDC, DkIT for the duration of this phase. The output of this phase is an investor ready business plan.

- Phase 2 Participants may also qualify for a monthly Stipend of €2500/month.

- Phase 3. Commercialisation. During this phase of between 3 and 6 months, participants will continue to develop in an incubation environment with further tailored supports to achieve their first sales, exports or new employment.

Location

The programme is managed by the Regional Development Centre, Dundalk Institute of Technology in collaboration with Invent DCU.

3 Phase 1 programmes will be delivered in Invent DCU and the Regional Development Centre, DkIT starting February and Sept 2012.

Phase 2 will start in April 2012 and modules will alternate between both Invent DCU and RDC venues.

Participant Profile (Phase 1)

Applicants should:

- Have an innovative business idea in the relevant sectors
- Have at least three years relevant experience, which provides technical or business skills appropriate to the development of the business
- Have carried out background technical and market research on the proposed business idea, and have found positive preliminary results as to the feasibility of the idea
- Demonstrate commitment to the development of the business idea and confidence in the proposed business venture
- Be capable of benefiting in terms of developing personal, business and/or technical skills through participation in the programme.

Phase 2

Direct entry onto Phase 2 of the programme is also possible i.e. for those who have not completed Phase 1.

Applications from newly formed, small companies will also be considered. These companies should have the following characteristics:

- Operate in the Knowledge Based, High Tech or IT sectors
- Propose the development of a new product/service in the relevant sectors
- Be capable of benefiting in terms of the company's overall competitiveness and strategic development through participation in the programme

- The promoter will be capable of benefiting in terms of developing personal, business and/or technical skills through participation in the programme.

Business Proposals should:

- Be knowledge based and have high growth potential
- Have export and employment potential, specifically the potential to generate employment at graduate level
- Be innovative – in the development or application of new or existing technologies, or in the identification and exploitation of a business opportunity
- Business proposals should not result in the displacement of existing regionally based businesses.

Cost/Fee

There is no fee for participation in the programme. The programme is fully funded by Enterprise Ireland

Application Procedure

Applicants must submit a completed application form with current CV and an outline of their proposed product or service (maximum of 3 typed pages). Short-listed applicants will be invited to attend a panel interview. Places are limited and the decision of the interview panel is final.

Phase 1 Applications

Closing date for applications is Friday 3rd February 2012.

Return to:

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