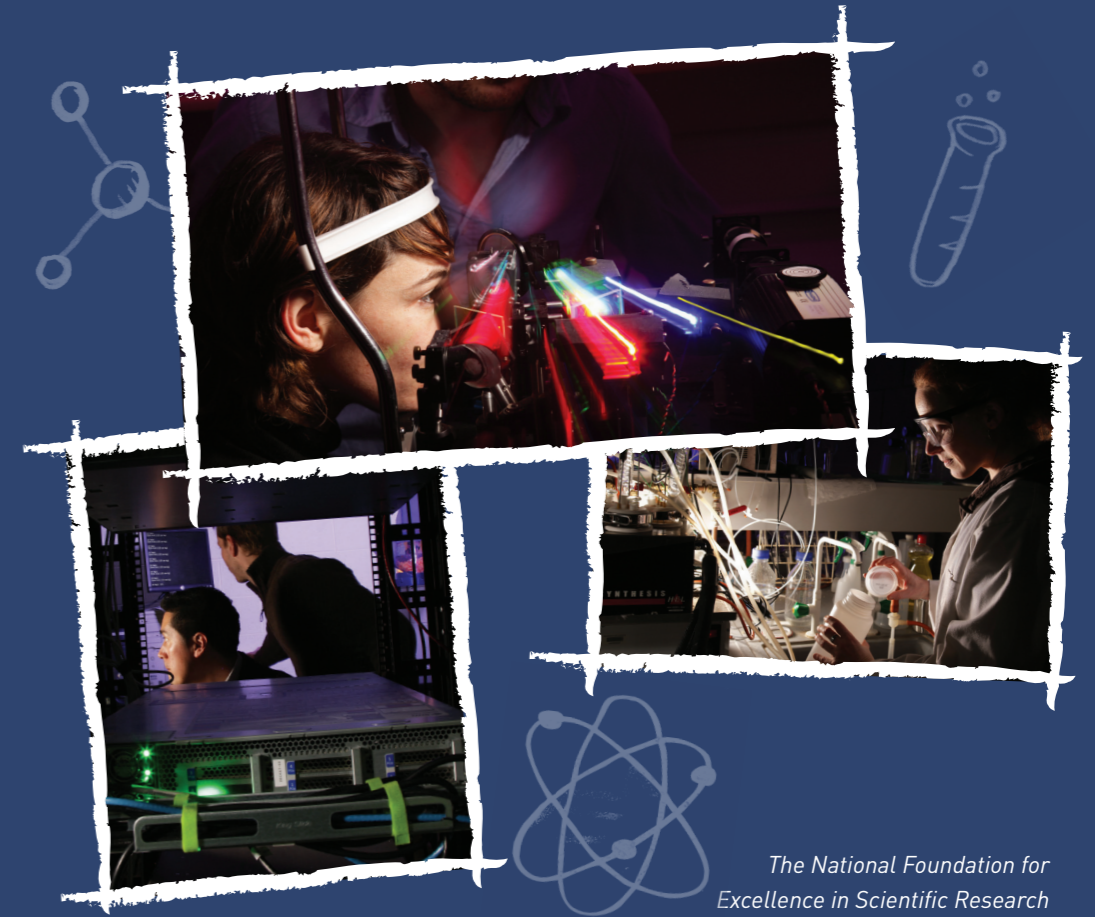


- ▶ Academic-academic collaborative networks expanded, growing Ireland's scientific networks/ international reputation:
 - 2,246 academic-academic collaborations (up from 1,967 in 2009).
 - 76% of these are with international partners in 58 countries.
- ▶ 73 million Euro in funding was secured by SFI supported researchers from international sources in 2010. This represents a 50% increase on 2009.
- ▶ The SFI Census of award holders provides information on research outputs, team compositions, collaborations and funding. The report is available on the SFI website: www.sfi.ie



The National Foundation for
Excellence in Scientific Research

SFI Awards

SFI has established a flexible grants and awards portfolio for investing in research that occurs within Ireland. SFI chooses recipients through peer/merit review by distinguished scientists. These awards range from support for early career investigators to large centres with over 100 researchers and include programmes for short-term research visits, travel fellowships and conferences/workshops. Deadlines for calls vary and full details of all programmes can be found on the SFI website: www.sfi.ie



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SFI Vision

Ireland will be a global knowledge leader that places scientific and engineering research at the core of its society to power economic development and social progress.

SFI Mission

SFI will build and strengthen scientific and engineering research and its infrastructure in the areas of greatest strategic value to Ireland's long-term competitiveness and development.



Science, technology and knowledge-driven enterprises have become increasingly important to economic success in a globalised market. This has been recognised for some time by the Irish Government, who have made an unprecedented national commitment to scientific research, technological development and innovation in recent years.

Research

In the short time since it was established in 2000, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has repositioned Ireland in the world of scientific research. SFI invests in academic researchers and research teams who are most likely to generate new knowledge, leading-edge technologies and competitive enterprises in the fields of science and engineering underpinning three broad areas:

- ▶ Biotechnology (BIO)
- ▶ Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- ▶ Sustainable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies (ENERGY)



Strategic Focus

SFI intends to maintain the momentum and to firmly establish Ireland as a centre for excellent research in leading areas of science and technology. SFI activities have become increasingly relevant to the Irish economy, and this trend will continue in the belief that high-quality scientific research and researchers are the drivers needed to develop Ireland into a high-value, knowledge-based economy.

SFI focuses investment on four strategic objectives:

1. Human Capital:

Build a critical mass of internationally competitive research teams in the sciences and engineering underpinning BIO, ICT, and ENERGY, such that:

1. *The Irish workforce is up-skilled to the needs of a high-tech economy,*
2. *The absorptive capacity of the country is such that it can identify, acquire and incorporate externally developed technologies, and*
3. *Ireland is well placed to attract and grow high-value enterprises.*



2. Quality Output:

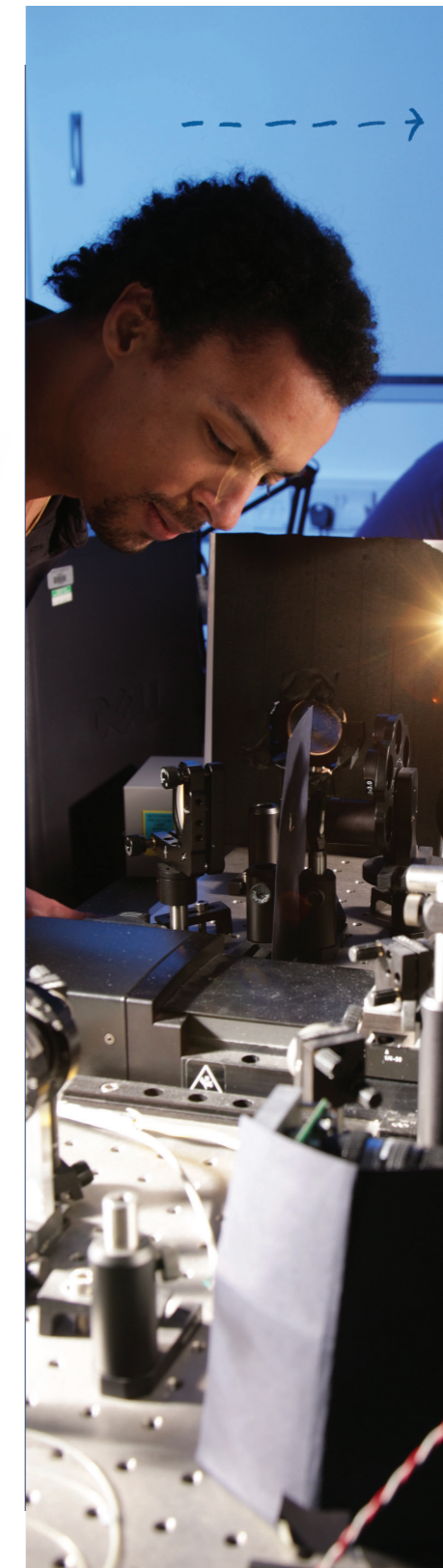
Ensure that SFI-funded research teams continue to produce the highest quality output, as this is the best external endorsement of the scientific value obtained from research investment.

3. Global Reputation:

Increase Ireland's global reputation as a location of excellent scientific research and as a source of human and knowledge capital, such that businesses creating next-generation products and services are attracted to and retrained in Ireland.

4. Knowledge Transfer:

Provide quality inputs to the technology transfer/ translational industries in Ireland, and grow partnerships that facilitate the expansion of the national RDI footprint, to ensure that research is optimally exploited for the benefit of Irish society.



Investment in research in Ireland is making an impact:

- ▶ Ireland is in the top 20 countries in scientific global rankings (up from 36th in 2003 to 20th in 2010)
- ▶ Ireland is third in the world for the quality of its research in Immunology and eighth in the world for the quality of its research in Materials Science
- ▶ SFI funded awards supported 2,999 team members as at the end of 2010.
- ▶ 4,978 peer reviewed publications were reported by SFI researches in 2010 (up 22% on 2009):
 - ▶ 150 invention disclosures (up 10% on 2009)
 - ▶ 18 international standards contributed (up from 13 in 2009)
 - ▶ 22 license agreements (up from 20 in 2008)
 - ▶ 4 spin out companies (6 in 2009 and 3 in 2008)
- ▶ Collaboration's with industry which are a visible sign of the maturing of the SFI investment have continued to grow.
 - ▶ Overall there was a 44% increase in the number of collaborations taking place with companies – 867 in 2010 compared with 601 in 2009 (up from 402 in 2008). Some companies would have multiple collaborations with various SFI funded researchers.
 - ▶ 534 distinct companies/organisations were involved in collaborations with SFI researchers (up from 389 in 2009).
 - ▶ The number of industry-academic collaboration has more than doubled in two years.

