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](http://www.sfi.ie)

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**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](http://www.sfi.ie)

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**Research for Ireland’s Future**

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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.

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.

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.