

Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (iCRAG)

The Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (iCRAG) brings together Ireland's leading geoscience experts to work on developing safe and secure groundwater supplies, discovering mineral and aggregate deposits, de-risking oil and gas exploration, safeguarding the geomarine environment, protecting from Earth's hazards and educating and informing the public on geoscience-related issues.



The Centre has €26 million in funding supporting 140 researchers.

Research Areas

- › Raw materials – mineral/aggregate geoscience
- › Marine – marine geoscience
- › Groundwater – hydrogeology/hydrology
- › Energy Security – petroleum geoscience
- › Geohazards - protection from Earth's hazards
- › Geochemistry, geophysics, 3D geological modelling, public perception and understanding of geosciences

Research Programmes

Forming an integrated team of internationally leading researchers and both large and small-scale industry partners, iCRAG conducts research which will help in the discovery and harnessing of Ireland's natural resources, such as its world-class Zn-Pb mineral deposits, untapped hydrocarbon resources in challenging NE Atlantic deep water environments, and important and environmentally sensitive seabed and groundwater resources.

Facilities

- › A comprehensive suite of analytical and modelling resources
- › Platform facilities in geophysics, geochemistry and 3D modelling

Industry and Commercialisation

The technology developed by iCRAG takes the form of soft-knowledge, data, methods, protocols, policy documents and software. This technology helps companies discover and develop natural resources for their mutual benefit, and the benefit of Ireland. As an SFI Research Centre, iCRAG encompasses the broad community of Irish geoscience researchers and engages with industry partners from diverse geoscience-related sectors, including hydrocarbons, marine, minerals and groundwater.

Industry and State Policy partners include:

- > APEX Geoservices
- > Arup (Ireland)
- > AWN Consulting
- > AzEire
- > Boliden
- > BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd
- > BRG
- > Byrne Looby
- > Cairn Energy Plc
- > Chevron North Sea Limited
- > Compass Informatics
- > Designer Group
- > ENI Ireland BV
- > ERM
- > Europa Oil and Gas (Holdings) Plc
- > ExxonMobil E&P Ireland (Offshore) Ltd
- > Fehily Timoney & Company
- > FLI Group
- > GDG
- > Geoscience Ireland
- > Geoserv
- > Group Eleven Mining & Exploration Ltd
- > Geological Survey of Ireland
- > Homebond
- > IE Consulting
- > IGSL
- > International Lithium Corp.
- > Intersocial Consulting
- > Irish Drilling
- > JB Barry & Partners
- > Lagan Asphalt Group
- > Lisheen Technical & Mining Services
- > LTMS
- > Lundin Mining
- > Meehan Drilling
- > Mincon Group PLC
- > Murphy Surveys
- > Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd
- > Nicholas O'Dwyer
- > Pavement Management Services
- > Petroleum Affairs Division
- > PIPCo RSG
- > Priority Group
- > Providence Resources Plc
- > PW Mining
- > PW Nigeria
- > QME
- > Repsol Exploración SA
- > Roadstone
- > Rubicon Heritage
- > San Leon
- > Serica Energy Plc
- > Shell E&P Ireland Ltd
- > SLR
- > Sosina Exploration Ltd
- > SRK Consulting
- > SSE Renewables
- > Statoil (UK) Ltd
- > Teck Ireland
- > Techworks Marine
- > Tobin Consulting
- > Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- > Trench Control
- > Trevali Mining Corp.
- > Tullow Oil Plc
- > Verde Environmental Group
- > Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty Ltd

Education and Public Engagement:

Education and Public Engagement (EPE) is central to activities in iCRAG, and is informed by research on public perception and understanding of geoscience. The Centre's twin objectives are to foster an interest and understanding of applied geoscience in the general population and to enhance the ability of iCRAG researchers to effectively communicate their research to a non-specialist audience. Initiatives include:

- > Primary school visits with "Micro-Geo" and "Our Place in Time" workshops
- > The "Science Apprentice – Energy and Resources" magazine for primary schools
- > Smart Futures geoscience career visits to post-primary schools and Transition Year placement programmes
- > Collaboration with artists, poets and performers to facilitate engagement
- > Geoscience Film and Q&A nights



Key Contacts

Prof John Walsh

Centre Director

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John Walsh is Professor of Structural Geology at UCD and co-director of the Fault Analysis Group in the School of Earth Sciences. He has published more than 140 papers in peer-reviewed journals, served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Geology* and the *Journal of Structural Geology*, and acted as Distinguished Lecturer for several organisations including the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). In 2015 he became the first Irish Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of London.

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