SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTING GUIDELINES

REPORTING TEMPLATE

The Research Infrastructure reporting template is available on SESAME and is used to gather outcomes and impacts arising from awards made under the Research Infrastructure programme. The purpose of the Research Infrastructure programme is to support the research community in building and sustaining the required infrastructural capacity to accomplish high quality, high impact and innovative research in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics that demonstrably enhance and underpin enterprise competitiveness and societal development in Ireland.

Other objectives of awards made under the Research Infrastructure programme include fostering collaboration and partnership between researchers (including those in Northern Ireland); encouraging partnerships with industry through collaborative initiatives or through provision of access to infrastructure by industry; encouraging good negotiation with equipment vendors resulting in cost-effectiveness and promotion of future sustainability through the development of access charge plans; funding key research infrastructures that will enable Irish researchers to compete for Horizon 2020 research funding calls, and encouraging bids that fund large infrastructures including testbeds which have the potential to increase the Technology Readiness Level of research activities.

We have provided additional guidance below for the report template to facilitate in its completion and request that you review in advance.

Details of the Research Infrastructure

Within this section, awardees are required to include all individual items which were purchased as part of this Research Infrastructure award. Please include the make and model of each individual item purchased as part of the overall research infrastructure.

Management of the Research Infrastructure[1]

Please describe the plan for servicing and maintenance of the research infrastructure; do not exceed the 250-word limit as doing so will prevent submission of the report.

Usage and Accessibility[1]

Within this section, SFI aims to understand how users can access the research infrastructure funded through these awards and how the associated access charges are calculated and managed. Awardees are also required to provide information regarding how the research infrastructure is advertised to the wider community. These details will inform the future sustainability of funded infrastructures and maximises utility and impact within the academic and industrial research community.

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[1] If the research infrastructure has not been purchased or installed, you may wish to refer to the plans articulated in the original proposal that was approved for funding, provided they are still relevant.

Academic Outputs - Publications and Proceedings

Awardees are asked to report on all refereed journal and conference publications supported by the Research Infrastructure award, including both primary or secondary attributed outputs. SFI funding has produced high quality, high impact publications which have resulted in Ireland rising to the top 20 in international bibliometric rankings of repute. SFI's Agenda 2020 sets a target for Ireland to maintain its position in these top rankings.

Outreach, Media, Education and Public Engagement

Awardees are asked to input details on outreach, media and/or education and public engagement (EPE) activities performed during the reporting period which are directly or indirectly related to this Research Infrastructure award, or similar activities that have involved the research infrastructure funded through this award. Awardees are asked to provide details on any EPE activities that were run as part of the core SFI Discover programmes, including but not limited to: Discover Primary Science and Maths, Smart Futures and Science Week, that involved the infrastructure(s) supported through this award. Gathering of this information will enable SFI Discover to develop case studies and exemplars of good practice for EPE activities amongst awardees and to establish a baseline of EPE activity within the community.

Academic Collaboration

Awardees are asked to input data on all academic collaborations, including intra- and inter-institutional, national and international, which have arisen as a result (direct or indirect) of this Research Infrastructure award.

Strategic Impact

In this section, awardees are provided with a list of 11 Impact 'declarations' or statements. At least one statement must be selected but awardees are encouraged to rank up to 5 statements, starting with the number 1 (being the most relevant). Awardees are then asked to provide narrative and refer to metrics in support of the statements they have selected. The Impact statements will help SFI to quantify the types of impacts arising from awards made under all SFI funding programmes.

Industry Engagement

Awardees are asked to input data on all industry engagement, including new collaborations with industry partners, which have arisen as result (direct or indirect) of this Research Infrastructure award.

EU Activities

One of the objectives of awards made under the SFI Research Infrastructure programme is to fund key research infrastructures that will enable Irish researchers to compete for Horizon 2020 research funding calls. In this section of the report, awardees are asked to input details on any applications made to join a H2020 Research Infrastructure Advanced Community or ESFRI projects as a result of infrastructure supported though this award.

Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation Activities

Awardees are asked to input details on Invention disclosures filed; patents filed, granted or exploited; licensing agreements signed; assignments; ICT standards/specifications; spin-out companies or start-up companies formed, which are directly or indirectly attributable to this Research Infrastructure award. This information will enable SFI to report against the following Agenda 2020 key performance indicator (KPI):

- *By 2020, the proportion of invention disclosures, patents, licenses, and spin outs recorded by Enterprise Ireland that are linked to SFI research, will be doubled.*

Funding Diversification

In this section, awardees are asked to input data relating to any funding which has been leveraged as a result of the infrastructure supported through this award, including both national and international funding streams, for example Horizon 2020. This information will enable SFI to report against the following Agenda 2020 KPIs:

- *To increase the average research income secured by Ireland based PIs from international funding entities such as the EU and in doing so reduce the number of researchers that rely on SFI for the majority of their funding:*
- *To increase the level of leadership roles held by Ireland based PIs in major European Initiatives, in particular Horizon 2020*
- *To increase the number of ERC grants secured by Ireland based PIs*

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
None

FREQUENCY OF REPORTING
Given the time required for the tender, delivery and installation process for large pieces of infrastructure, longitudinal reporting will often be required in order to allow Science Foundation Ireland to assess and report on the outcome and outputs from these awards. Therefore, it is likely that awardees will be required to complete additional annual reports.