Academic spin-outs making a difference in Ireland:

Gourmet Marine
Gourmet Marine Ltd., an innovative High Potential Start-Up company from University College Cork has developed the world’s first and only system for culturing sea urchins (for the worldwide sushi market), called the UrchinPlatter™ System. This proprietary and novel technology allows farmers to culture sea urchins quickly and efficiently. By leveraging the commercial interest, Gourmet Marine has secured US$250,000 from the Chilean government for independent validation of the system in the country in conjunction with Chile’s premier aquaculture university. First commercial orders are expected in Q2 2011. The potential market for this technology is valued at around €650 million.

www.gourmetmarine.ie

Miravex
Miravex Limited was formed in September 2009 to commercialise a technology developed in the School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin. Miravex specialises in the areas of optics and image analysis and its first product – the Antera 3D™ - is a medical device for the analysis and evaluation of skin health targeted to Dermatologists, Aesthetic Doctors and Plastic Surgeons. Miravex provides clinicians with a hand-held, easy to use imaging device that can help them grow their business in the areas of skin treatments and beauty products by quantifying to their clients what level of progress their course of treatment is achieving and completely eliminating the subjective factor.

www.miravex.com

Astryne
Astryne Limited is a filter manufacturer producing and developing high performance regenerative micro-filters and solutions. This start-up company from Dublin City University is based in Balbriggan with its partner Bertelsmann/Sonopress. The company has developed a new type of regenerative filter which can be produced on CD injection moulding machines or even made from used CDs, both resulting in very low production cost. Astryne has already sourced several investors and is already delivering the first products to its key accounts Mahle, Veolia and Siemens Waters.

www.astryne.ie

MuteButton
The spin-out company from NUJ Maynooth established in 2010, has developed a non-invasive device which treats the effects of permanent tinnitus. The device, the size of an ipod or iphone, presents sound to the ear using normal headphones and simultaneously presents this sound as tactile patterns on the tongue using an intra-oral array for a short period of time up. The company has secured investment from Enterprise Ireland and private angel investors, which will enable MuteButton to accelerate large scale clinical trials of its tinnitus treatment device and to secure ISO certification in advance of regulatory approval and device manufacturing. Permanent tinnitus is estimated to affect over 20,000 people in Ireland alone and over 40 million people globally.

www.mutebutton.ie

Glanta
Glanta Ltd is a spin-out company from Trinity College Dublin that has developed a novel, patent-protected hand hygiene quality and assessment mobile training system for hospitals. The system provides health care professionals with real-time impartial feedback on their hand hygiene technique and the effectiveness of their hand wash compared to the widely accepted World Health Organisation (WHO) hand wash protocol. Hand Hygiene has been identified by the WHO as the single most important factor in the spread of healthcare acquired infections. In the USA alone Health Care Acquired infections kill 100,000 people and cost US$35-45 billion every year. The technology has already been successfully trialled in a number of Irish and UK hospitals and following its launch in Ireland, the company is targeting the UK, USA and Italy.

www.glanta.ie

For more information on commercialisation support from Enterprise Ireland please visit:

www.enterprise-ireland.com/ResearchInnovate

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In 2006, Enterprise Ireland commenced a five year programme to strengthen the Technology Transfer System in Ireland. The objective of the programme is to:

- increase the level and quality of intellectual property (IP) transferred from research in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and
- to facilitate the development of high quality and effective systems and policies to ensure that the IP is identified, protected and transferred, where possible, into companies in Ireland.

This support for the Technology Transfer system in Universities and Institutes of Technology has resulted in impressive levels of commercially relevant technology being licensed by industry and an increasing number of new start-ups born out of higher level research. Enterprise Ireland’s commercialisation activities have continued to yield an important pipeline of new High Potential Start-Ups in recent years, with the number of college spin-outs generated continuing to rise.

**Network of Technology Transfer Offices in Ireland**

Ten Technology Transfer Offices in Universities and Colleges receive direct support from Enterprise Ireland to work with researchers in commercialisation of their technologies. Other Higher Education Institutions are also supported indirectly by Enterprise Ireland and they use Enterprise Ireland’s commercialisation specialists to help them assess the commercial potential of technologies as they arise.

Technology Transfer Office staff help researchers to identify:

- commercial potential of their technology
- funding available for commercialisation
- the best route to marketplace for the technology including
  - filing a patent,
  - locating appropriate companies,
  - directing the negotiation of a licence deal or
  - working with Enterprise Ireland to create a spin-out company.

**Technology Transfer Outputs**

**Facts and figures**

There is a significant increase in commercialisation activity in Ireland since Enterprise Ireland support began in 2007:

**Introduction of Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative**

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**Destination of 316 licence, option or assignment agreements concluded with companies between 2007-2010**

- 29% Existing Irish SMEs
- 21% MNCs in Ireland
- 14% MNCs not in Ireland
- 32% Academic spin-outs
- 4% Other Non-Irish

**From 2007 to 2010, 82% of intellectual property from HEIs was transferred to companies in Ireland.**

**International comparison**

Although the Technology Transfer System in Ireland is relatively young, it produces results which compare favourably with international data.

**Performance Indicators per 100m PPP$ R&D Expenditure**

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**PPP - Purchasing power parity**

US: Data from Association of University Technology Transfer Managers (AUTM)

EU: Data from Association of European Science and Technology Transfer Professionals (ASTP)

**Enterprise Ireland supports for Technology Transfer include:**

- Identifying appropriate Irish based companies for licence deals using network of client companies.
- Grant support for researchers to scope and develop the commercial case for their technology.
- Access to market research resources through its Information Centre.
- Opportunity to present at high profile national events on commercialisation.
- Sourcing experienced entrepreneurs to lead spin-out companies through Business Partners programme.
- Access to international markets through overseas networks.