

# INVEST IN R&D

## RTD networking

Helping Northern Ireland  
access new technologies  
and RTD expertise from  
around the world



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Northern  
Ireland  
Building Locally  
Competing Globally

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# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

RTD (Research and Technological Development) networking is aimed at strengthening the industrial competitiveness of Northern Ireland by improving its market driven and commercially focused technological research and innovatory capacity. By participating in RTD networking it is anticipated that industrialists and academics will have the opportunity to access those state of the art technologies, expertise and international RTD contacts from outside the UK that are directly relevant to the market driven, commercial activities central to the Region's competitiveness.

## **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

For a project to be assisted under RTD networking, it must fall within one or more of the following six measures:

1. Establishing international, industrially relevant RTD linkages and partnerships.
2. Identifying/investigating new technologies which could be used or exploited in Northern Ireland.
3. European consortia building in preparation for the submission of EU Framework proposals that are industrially relevant to Northern Ireland.
4. Developing industrially relevant RTD linkages between companies/academia/research institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

5. Bringing experts to Northern Ireland from outside the UK to contribute to any of the above.
6. International placements between industry focused Research Centres in Northern Ireland and outside the UK. A maximum of 3 months accommodation and subsistence will be eligible for support, in addition to return travel costs. This will apply to industrially relevant research being undertaken by an internationally recognised overseas researcher working in a NI Research Centre or by a local researcher working in an overseas Research Centre.

Note 1: Travel within the UK is only eligible where it is an essential part of a journey to or from a destination outside the UK, or where it relates to an EU Framework consortium meeting being held within the UK or, in the case of bringing experts to the region, the most suitably qualified individuals are based in the UK.

Note 2: Travel to International Conferences, Trade Shows and Exhibitions will not normally be eligible for support, unless it can be shown that they represent the most suitable and cost effective venue for targeted meetings with specific organisations with a view to RTD collaboration or technology transfer. Conference fees will not be supported under any circumstances.

# PROJECT APPLICATIONS

## CONDITIONS FOR SUPPORT

Project applications will be required to show they can meet the following general criteria to be eligible for support:

- fall within at least one of the measures
- be made by an organisation which will be the beneficiary of the project
- support networking activities which are necessary for the success of the overall RTD/technology transfer project
- demonstrate additionality i.e. the need for support to ensure the project proceeds, or proceeds within a given timescale
- if funded, no more than three RTD networking grants will have been awarded to the same overall RTD/technology transfer project
- be received by Invest Northern Ireland at least 10 working days before the proposed start date
- have corresponding funds available to balance the funds requested from the Programme budget

Note: Projects submitted by Government Departments and Agencies, Local Government and Non Departmental Public Bodies are not eligible for support under RTD networking.

## PROJECT APPRAISAL

In appraising a project application, the following criteria will be taken into account:

- the commercial, market driven focus of the project
- the potential of the project to increase the competitiveness of Northern Ireland industry
- the degree of innovation of the wider project
- the relationship of the project to European Framework Programme activities
- the novelty of the technology or RTD activity with respect to Northern Ireland
- the relationship of the project to developing Northern Ireland / Republic of Ireland RTD linkages.

# FUNDING AND CLAIMS

## **COSTS SUPPORTED AND LEVEL OF FUNDING**

Eligible costs which can be supported under RTD networking are travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenditure directly associated with the project. Salaries or payments to third parties incurred as a result of participation in the project are not eligible, except in the case of international experts brought into the Region (Measure 5).

The level of funding for Industry and Academia is up to 40% of eligible costs. This upper limit may be raised to a maximum of 60% for Academia for collaborative projects with one or more Northern Ireland companies, for EU Framework proposals that demonstrate support from Northern Ireland companies or for industrially relevant international missions to establish contacts deemed by Invest NI to be of strategic importance to the Northern Ireland economy.

Note: To be considered for up to 60% funding, a university based project application must be accompanied by a bona fide letter of support from at least one industrial partner.

## **CLAIMS AND PROJECT REPORTING**

Claims must be submitted within three months of the project end date using the appropriate claim form (which will be enclosed with the Letter of Offer) and substantiated with original records and receipts.

No investment support will be paid in advance and retrospective support will not be considered. As a condition of funding, the claim must be accompanied by a project report addressing the following key criteria:-

- a. What benefits were gained by the organisation as a result of the visit?
- b. How will the knowledge/information gained be of use to Northern Ireland industry, either specifically or in general?
- c. How will the organisation disseminate the information/knowledge gained both internally and, if appropriate, externally?
- d. In the case of visits in support of EU Framework consortia building, the proposed consortium members, RTD networking to be applied to, and the need for any further visits, should be identified.
- e. Any other information relevant to the project supported under RTD networking.

Note: With the co-operation and agreement of participants in the Programme, project reports may be used to form the basis of publicity material used to highlight the advantages of this type of activity.

# HOW TO APPLY

RTD networking application form should be completed and submitted to arrive with Invest Northern Ireland at least **10 working days** before the first date of anticipated travel. **Applications received after this will not be considered.**

Guidance notes on completing an application are provided.

Note 1: Applications from a university must be submitted through the relevant university Research Office to arrive with Invest Northern Ireland by at least the 10 working day deadline.

Note 2: The assistance available from Invest Northern Ireland under RTD networking is discretionary. There is no guarantee of assistance even where applications fully meet the criteria.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details on RTD networking or advice on proposals, please contact:-

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