



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CTVR calls for Greater Co-operation between Ireland & Japan to deliver ‘Digital Dividend’

- *CTVR highlights need for increased links between high-tech research teams*
- *Opportunity exists to use Ireland as base for research into future radio-based communications systems*

January 16th 2008: The Centre for Telecommunications Value-chain Research (CTVR), Ireland’s leading telecommunications research centre, has called for increased levels of co-operation between research teams in Ireland and Japan, in order to capture a lead in the next wave of mobile communications technology. The CTVR has already established links itself with Japanese technology giant, NEC.

Professor Donal O’Mahony, Director, CTVR - who is a participant in the Enterprise Ireland trade mission to Japan this week led by Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD - said: “Looking beyond more traditional relationships, high-tech research links between Ireland and Japan may allow both countries to take the driving seat in the creation of new communications technologies”.

Speaking in Tokyo, Professor O’Mahony said there were opportunities for greater collaboration between teams in Ireland and Japan, particularly in the use of available radio wave frequencies within the electromagnetic spectrum. This would involve carrying out high level experiments on new, potentially ground-breaking radio-based technologies in home broadband, mobile communications and other fields.

“Ireland and Japan have actually been at the forefront in using available frequencies to explore the possibilities of these new kinds of technologies. Ultimately, our aim is to help teams to deliver the ‘digital dividend’ from the spectrum - the commercial benefits that will arise from new products in this area,” said Professor O’Mahony.

The CTVR has already set up partnerships with Japanese multinational firms. Early last year, it announced a research agreement with NEC Communication Systems, Ltd. (NCOS), part of Japanese technology giant NEC Group.

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The agreement was focused on research on the potential use of all-optical networks - communications networks based on optical fibres - to facilitate super-fast, lower cost Internet connections in the future.

Professor O'Mahony said: "If we develop the necessary research leadership position, we will have the opportunity to influence the development of future radio-based communications, which could have significant benefits for the tech sector in Ireland and other countries in the vanguard of this effort".

The CTVR was one of a number of Irish organisations represented at a seminar in Tokyo this week on 'Ireland: Research, Development & Innovation' organised jointly by IDA Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland. Others that were represented included the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures & Nanodevices (CRANN) and the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI) and the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI)

At the seminar, Dr. Akira Arutaki, formerly Associate Senior Vice President, NEC Communications Systems, said: "We were able to work with the CTVR to put in place a meaningful collaboration in the area of optical and wireless networking. In the future, partnerships of this kind could have huge benefits for the economies of both Japan and Ireland".

About the Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain Research (CTVR): The Centre for Telecommunications Value-Chain Research is a joint venture between the Irish university sector and a number of industrial partners including Bell Labs. It is supported by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the IDA. The CTVR combines a multi-disciplinary group of researchers, drawn from many Irish universities, with a select group of industrial partners to work on the engineering and science challenges that will impact on the telecommunications sector of the future. The CTVR is headquartered at Trinity College Dublin. Further details are available at www.ctvr.ie.

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