

## the it industry in cork

### Indigenous Sector Update

2006 saw the highest number of new high growth potential firms supported by Enterprise Ireland in any year to date. The 76 export focused start-ups, all in knowledge intensive sectors, are expected to grow rapidly and to create over 1,260 new high skilled jobs and generate exports worth 110m over the next two years. Almost 20% of the total of HPSUs were Cork companies. Of these Cork based startups 77% were in the IT sector and 90% of those were in the Software & Services sector – among them Azotel Technologies, Pervenio Ltd, MPSTOR and SoftTrace Ltd. Looking to the future, David Grimes, co-founder of Qumas comments “Global Financial Services is the new opportunity for emerging companies in the compliance arena and Cork is well positioned to take the lead in this dynamic space”.

### Multinational Sector Update

In Cork, 2006 was a positive year for the multinational IT sector with a couple of new names entering the market and continued expansions by existing operations. NETGEAR, Inc., a worldwide provider of technologically advanced branded networking products, established its International Headquarters in Cork. Located at the University Technology Centre, it is expected to create almost 100 high-calibre jobs over five years. amazon.com announced the establishment of a new Multi-lingual Customer Services Centre in Cork. The investment will create up to 450 positions and will provide support for the company's UK and French web sites. Trend Micro officially opened its EMEA Operations Centre on the Model Farm Road. The company will substantially develop the centre, almost doubling employment to circa 210 people.

While the industry in Cork and Ireland continues to be faced with challenges, there is much emphasis on increasing functions in the research, development and innovation areas. Overall Cork continues to win its share of ICT investment in both greenfield and expansion projects.

### CIT – Committed to the IT Industry in Cork

CIT's engagement levels with industry continued to expand through 2006. Significant numbers of IT professionals continue to seek to upgrade their existing qualifications or acquire the professional specialist qualifications required for career advancement. CIT addresses these requirements through full-time and part-time programmes which focus on the areas of software development, networking and IT support/service management.

CIT has seen an increased demand from businesses seeking research staff to become directly involved in their IT R&D activities. CompuCal, a company which develops intelligent calibration management solutions for regulated industries, is a prime example of an innovative Cork-based company which has leveraged its relationship with CIT in this fashion. Based on the CIT campus in the Rubicon Centre, CompuCal employs Paul Walsh from the Department of Computing in CIT on a part-time basis to enhance its capacity for developing new products and for growth.



Jackie Dornan, CompuCal  
pictured with Paul Walsh, CIT.

### UCC Update

2006 was a busy year for the Computer Science Department, UCC. Work began on the new IT Building on the grounds of the old Greyhound Track at Victoria Cross. The finished building, coming in at approximately 100,000 sq ft, will bring the teaching, research, and industry activities of the Computer Science Department, under one roof.

The Cork Constraint Computation Centre (4C) obtained about a dozen new grants in 2006, including a large Science Foundation Ireland award, and funding from Enterprise Ireland, the Embark Initiative, and the European Union. These included two Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund Technology Development Grants. One of the Technology Development grants is supporting work on embedding constraint-based decision support technology within popular software tools, the other is supporting development of combinatorial auction technology. 4C also began an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership with local company TreeMetrics.