

PRESS RELEASE  
2007-08-22

Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG)  
Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

**RE: Waterford Chamber of Commerce—Award for Manufacturing Excellence and TSSG recent funding success**

The Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG, <http://www.tssg.org>) is delighted to accept the “Quarter 2 Award for Business Excellence in Manufacturing” from the Waterford Chamber of Commerce ([www.waterfordchamber.ie](http://www.waterfordchamber.ie)); VHI Healthcare sponsors this award.

The TSSG is a unique Research and Development (R&D) centre located in Waterford Institute of Technology’s new West Campus in Carriganore, Co. Waterford. The TSSG’s research focus is on the dramatic changes occurring in the telecommunications software industry, and indeed on the wider converged communications industry, particularly in managing networks and in developing innovative new services for those networks. The unique aspect of the TSSG’s approach is that it embraces a wide range of research and development cultures, from blue-sky basic research through to commercial activity, each with a critical mass of activities. This integrative emphasis came from the original vision of its founder Dr. Willie Donnelly, who is now also the Head of Research in WIT.

The TSSG has established itself as the leading catalyst of high technology Information Communications Technologies (ICT) in Waterford and the South East having brought in 40 Million EUR of funding to WIT since its foundation in 1996, over €12 Million of this in 2007 to date, and having consistently employed over 100 highly skilled researchers and developers in recent years. The TSSG receives no base-line funding, all its funding comes from competitive tendering processes for research funding. The Waterford Chamber of Commerce Award underpins the key emphasis in the TSSG of impacting on industry internationally, nationally and regionally.

The TSSG research and development is conducted in two divisions: the Commercial Division and the Research Division.

- **Commercial Division:** Barry Downes, Commercial Director (and Director of 3CS – Centre for Converged Communications Services)
  - The goal of the commercial division is to have an impact for the South-East and Ireland through the creation of new innovative technologies; the launching new Campus Companies (called spin-outs) and the attraction of new companies the of the South-east (called spin-ins) based on its reputation.
  - *Commercialisation Activities:* The TSSG has been involved in a number of successful companies, beginning with its role in the development of Waterford Technologies in 2000 and continuing with a number of more recent spin-in companies (attracted to base their operations in the TSSG’s ArcLabs building because of the TSSG’s reputation) including Muzu

(artists' on-line TV networks), Headway Software (tools for software development), and Hash6 (interactive radio stations); as well as a number of spin-out campus companies that the TSSG has created including Aceno, (the TSSG's constancy arm) Nubiq (creating mobile websites with Zinadoo.com), Akruu (Telecoms billing as a service). In addition, there is a pipeline of further spin-in and spin-out companies in development such as IMS-Stream (next generation Telecoms services), Zimbie (Instant Messaging services) and FeedHenry (RSS / ATOM) services).

- **Research Division:** Mícheál Ó Foghlú, Research Director (and Director of the Irish National IPv6 Centre)
  - The Research Division encompasses both oriented basic and applied research in two large competence centres: Communications Infrastructure Management (led by Miguel ponce de Leon) and Pervasive Communications Services (led by Kevin Doolin).
  - *Oriented Basic Research:* This is mainly funded nationally by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI); the aim is to make new discoveries, publishes in academic conferences and journals, and it employs postdoctoral researchers and Ph.D. students. In this area the TSSG is exploring future visions of the Internet that combines telecommunications and computer networks with multimedia entertainment including the future of games and television. This month Minister of Education, Mary Hanafin, announced that the TSSG had won €6.5 Million in the HEA PRTL Cycle 4 funding round approximately half for a research programme and half for a new research building in WIT's West Campus to cope with the TSSG's expansion. This combines with the existing large Science Foundation Ireland award for Autonomic Communications and Network Management, to build a team of basic researchers making real contributions to knowledge.
  - *Applied Research:* The TSSG's previous success has already made WIT the leader in Ireland (company, university or institute of technology) in terms of winning EU Information Society Technologies 6th framework programme (2002-2006) funding. Building on this phenomenal success the TSSG has just won funding for 6 projects in the first round of the 7th framework programme (2007-2013), with a total budget of just under €3 Million. This engagement places the TSSG at the heart of the European telecommunications industry, with critical links to equipment manufacturers, fixed and mobile operators, and third party service providers. The key aims here are to link up with the main industry players to create industrial impact for the research.

The TSSG has recently announced the start of a new project called IMS ARCS (<http://www.ims-arcs.ie>), with total funding of €2.5 Million from Enterprise Ireland in an Industry-Led Research Programme (ILRP), linking over 20 Irish-based multinationals and Irish SMEs with an academic consortium led by the TSSG, with the aim of exploring next generation IMS services (IP Multimedia Subsystem is the telecommunications industry's vision of the next generation Internet). This project is being run internally as an inter-divisional programme, linking the Research and Commercial Divisions, thus emphasising the links between research and development.

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On-line information

Home Page:

<http://www.tssg.org>

A4 Flyer:

[http://www.tssg.org/publicity/20061023\\_TSSG\\_A4-Flyer.pdf](http://www.tssg.org/publicity/20061023_TSSG_A4-Flyer.pdf)

Overview Article:

[http://www.tssg.org/publicity/20070301\\_TSSG\\_eStrategies-Article.pdf](http://www.tssg.org/publicity/20070301_TSSG_eStrategies-Article.pdf)