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Science report a boost for Ireland

THE Centre for Telecommunications Value-chain Research (CTVR), has welcomed a major report referring to Ireland's commitment to science and technology research and higher level education.

However, the CTVR has warned of the need to "maintain focus" on this and related areas as a means of addressing the economic downturn.

The Atlantic Century: Benchmarking EU and US Innovation and Competitiveness, was published by US based research institute, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and showed the number of researchers in the science and technology space in Ireland increased by 40% between 1999 and 2006.

In addition, the report found, in the area of higher education attainment, as measured by the number of adults aged 25-34 with a tertiary degree, that Ireland's performance improved by 41%.

Professor Donal O'Mahony, Director, CTVR, said: At the present time, with the economy under pressure, it's essential that we maintain Ireland's focus on producing the kind of human capital that will help us drive the necessary levels of innovation,".

In terms of corporate investment in R&D, measured as a percentage of national GDP, the report also showed that Ireland had improved, with industry investment in R&D rising by three per cent over the seven-year period to 2006.

It also found that Ireland performed favourably in the area of entrepreneurship, as measured by a rise in the number of new firms up in 2005.

