



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Research and Information Service Briefing Paper

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## R&D and Innovation funding available in Northern Ireland (summary)

### 1 Introduction

The following paper provides a summary of funding available for R&D and innovation in Northern Ireland. Table 1 outlines the available funding. The paper focuses on businesses funding, although funding that encourages knowledge transfer between universities and business/other universities is also included.<sup>1</sup> Figures 1 and 2 provide a breakdown of the various Framework Seven streams. There are currently (as of 30 January 2012) 315 active calls, full details of all calls can be found [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Whilst every effort has been made to identify all funding streams available in Northern Ireland the information outlined in Table 1 should not be viewed as an exhaustive list

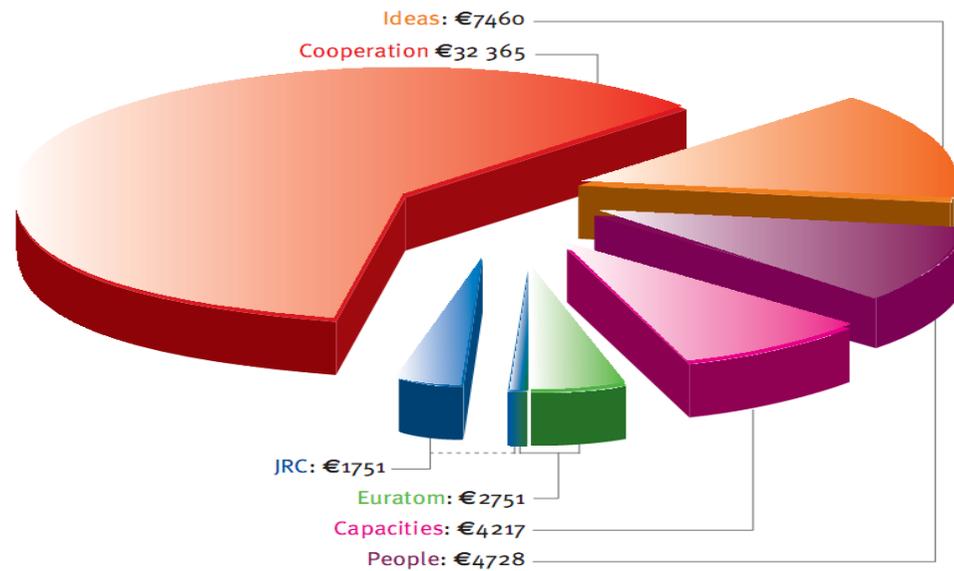
**Table 1: R&D and Innovation Funding Streams available in Northern Ireland**

Name	Where?	Available to?	Type of Financing	Amount
Enterprise Capital Funds	BIS/fund managers	SMEs	Venture capital (part government funded - up to £25m per fund)	Up to £2m per investment
Research Challenge Fund	DARD	SMEs in the agri-food and other rural sectors	Grant funding	maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs up to a ceiling of £250,000
Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)	DEL/Invest NI	Higher Education Sector for knowledge transfer	80% delivered by DEL on a formula basis, 20% through Invest NI on a competitive basis. Funding available for knowledge transfer purposes	£3m per annum (total fund)
Connected/Connected 2	DEL/QUB/UU/Colleges NI	Higher education and Further Education for knowledge transfer	Grants for knowledge transfer	£1m per annum (total fund)
Framework Programme 7	EU	Range of stakeholders	Competitive collaborative grant funding	€50.5 Billion - Individual awards depend on stream - see figure 1 and 2 for details of stream breakdown
INTERREG	EU	Public Sector Bodies	EU State collaborative grant funding	Total fund worth €256 million, including innovation and knowledge economy fund stream
EU sustainable Competitiveness Programme	EU & DETI	Range of stakeholders	Grant funding - co-financed by EU (50%) and DETI (50%). Competitiveness and Innovation funding available	Programme is worth €613 million
UK R&D tax credits	HMRC	SMEs and large companies liable for corporation tax	Tax relief	Tax Relief
Fusion	InterTrade Ireland	SMEs		Up to £29,500

<b>Name</b>	<b>Where?</b>	<b>Available to?</b>	<b>Type of Financing</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Innova	InterTrade Ireland	SMEs who have a partnership in ROI	Collaborative grant funding	Up to £250,000
Innovation Voucher scheme	Invest NI	Small enterprises which hold a current, valid Northern Ireland company registration number. Funding available to companies wishing to engage with local universities	Voucher for knowledge Transfer	Each voucher is worth £4,000 and small businesses can apply for up to three vouchers.
Invest NI Grants	Invest NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•total sales of over £100,000 per year; and</li> <li>•sales outside Northern Ireland greater than 25% of turnover, or greater than £250,000 a year. Or if international tradable service</li> <li>•have the potential to sustain salaries above the Northern Ireland private sector median; or</li> <li>•show that they can achieve a minimum gross margin of 20%</li> </ul>	Grant funding	Case by case basis
Investment Growth Fund	Northern Ireland Spin Out Fund	Start-up and early stage companies	Venture capital (5 year funding)	£50k to £250k per funding round (the funder can invest up to £500k in shares) (fund is 30% match fund - i.e. every £2 invested through the fund must be matched by £1 private investment. £5m fund
Investment Growth Proof of Concept Fund	Northern Ireland Spin Out Fund/Invest NI	Individuals, start-ups, micro-businesses and SMEs	Grant funding	Mini grant of £10k and standard grant of up to £40k. £3m fund
The Queen's University Belfast Innovation Fund	QUB	Pre-commercial proof of concept (must be linked to QUBs research base)	Venture capital	Funding rounds range from £50k to £200k. £1m fund

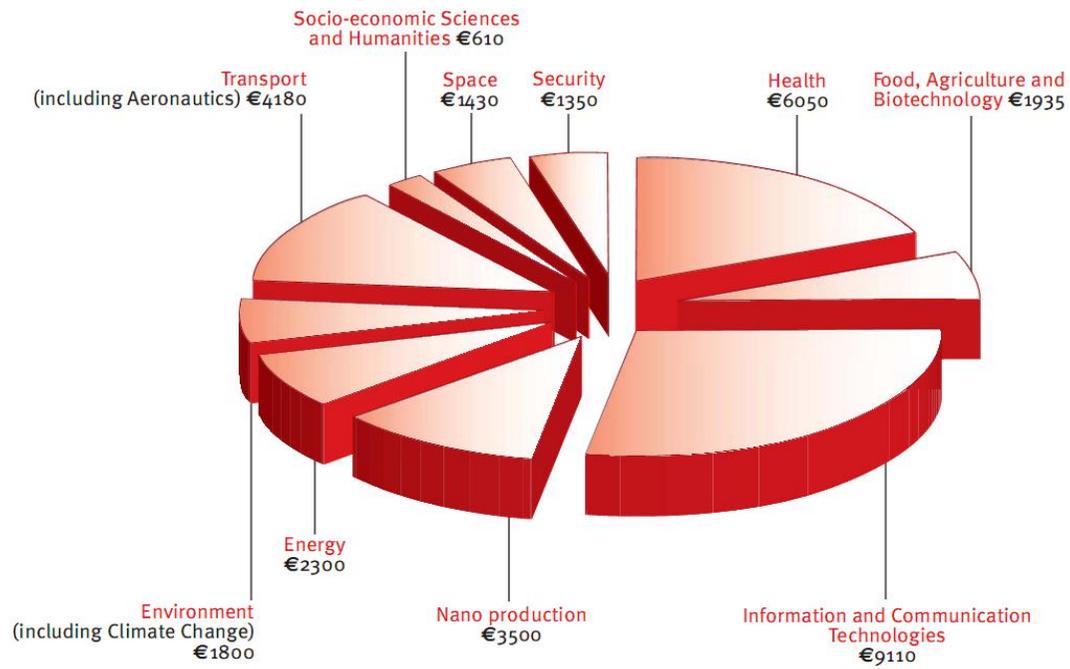
<b>Name</b>	<b>Where?</b>	<b>Available to?</b>	<b>Type of Financing</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Collaborative Grant	Technology Strategy Board	Collaborative research projects	Competitive Grant funding	Level of funding depends on specific competition
SMART Grant Programme - Development of Prototype	Technology Strategy Board	The area of science, technology or engineering	Grant funding	£250,000 or 35% of project costs for small business, and 45% for medium sized businesses.
SMART Grant Programme - Proof of Concept	Technology Strategy Board	The area of science, technology or engineering	Grant funding	£100,000 or 60% of total costs
SMART Grant Programme - Proof of Market	Technology Strategy Board	The area of science, technology or engineering	Grant funding	£25,000 or 60% of total costs
The Small Business Research Initiative funds	Technology Strategy Board	SMEs	Grant funding	Phase 1 - £50,000 and £100,000 Phase 2 - £250,000 and £1m
Ulster Innovation Fund	University of Ulster	Pre-commercial proof of concept (must be linked to UUs research base)	Venture capital	Funding rounds range from £50k to £200k. £1m fund

**Figure 1: FP7 funding breakdown by programme (€m)<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>2</sup> European Commission, *FP7 Tomorrow's answers start today* [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/fp7-factsheets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/fp7-factsheets_en.pdf)

**Figure 2: FP7 funding breakdown of Cooperation programme (€m)<sup>3</sup>**



<sup>3</sup> Ibid

