

**Submission to discussion document for the preparation of a National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy**



*The NIBRT training facility*

The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT), very much supports the development of a *National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy*. We note on page 11 of the discussion document the reference to the biopharmaceutical sector in Ireland and we would encourage the further engagement of the biopharmaceutical sector in these discussions.

The biopharmaceutical sector has witnessed very strong growth in Ireland with IDA figures estimating that there has been \$10 billion of capital investment over the last decade. Indeed, the *Expert Group on Future Skills Needs* has identified that this sector will add 8,400 new jobs by 2020. The Government has made substantial investments to support this sector, for example via the establishment of NIBRT (€57million) which is now established as a global leader in biopharmaceutical training and research.

NIBRT is a state-of-the-art institute based in Dublin. NIBRT's mission is to support the development of the global biopharmaceutical industry by providing research and training solutions in world class facilities. Patient demand for innovative medicines is driving rapid growth of the biopharmaceutical industry, resulting in significant need for more production capacity. However, there is an acute global shortage of biopharma manufacturing staff. NIBRT's training enables biopharmaceutical companies to quickly develop the biopharma workforce of the future to bring new manufacturing capacity and medicines to market faster.

NIBRT is a unique collaboration between Industry, Academia and Government and is chaired by Brendan O'Callaghan, Vice President Biologics, Sanofi. The original investment to establish NIBRT was funded by the Irish Government (€57m funding) and NIBRT is now majority self-funding.

The award winning NIBRT training facility opened in 2011 and features a 6,500 m<sup>2</sup> world class pilot scale manufacturing plant. NIBRT provides globally unique training facilities and solutions – the biopharma equivalent of a “flight simulator”. This facility enables NIBRT to deliver hands-on, practical training that was not previously available to develop the biopharma workforce of the future.

For example, in 2016 NIBRT delivered over 18,500 learning days to 4,000 trainees to key clients including AbbVie, Alexion, Allergan, Amgen, Astellas, BioMarin, BMS, CSL, E+H, Lilly, Sanofi Genzyme, Health Product Regulatory Authority, Jazz, Janssen, MSD, Pfizer, PPD, Regeneron, Sartorius, Shire, 3M and others.

In addition, a €40 million SFI Research Centre “Bio-Logic” led by NIBRT involving leading industry and academic research teams has been approved in principle pending budgetary approval.

We would suggest that strategic investments such as NIBRT (and Bio-Logic) could be leveraged by the broader bioeconomy to provide distinct advantages in human capital, research expertise and pilot plant facilities. The NIBRT management team would be pleased to support the further involvement of NIBRT in the *National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy*.

Kind regards,



Killian O'Driscoll,  
NIBRT Director of Projects.

Further information:

NIBRT Annual Report (attached)

[www.nibrt.ie](http://www.nibrt.ie)

Client video case studies:

- Amgen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5bQ6ZO0puE>
- AbbVie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjuF16eQ7iQ>
- BMS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjuF16eQ7iQ>
- GE Healthcare: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfNgoOQ3A\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfNgoOQ3A_E)