

Trinity, UCC and Tyndall run €8m EU broadband grant

by Geoff Percival

A new pan-European telecommunications project led by research teams in Trinity College Dublin, UCC and the Tyndall National Institute aimed at revolutionising broadband provision here and in mainland Europe has received €8.1 million in EU funding.

The 'DISCUS' programme will be co-ordinated by CTVR, the national telecommunications research centre headquartered at Trinity College and will explore new ways to use optical fibre to build a simplified broadband network to provide ultra-high speed internet to urban and rural areas.

Announcing the EU funding award, Communications Minis-

ter, Pat Rabbitte said: "Strengthening Europe's digital economy by advancing areas such as a high-speed broadband rollout is a priority for the Irish presidency of the EU.

"This pan-European telecommunications project led by researchers at CTVR at Trinity will provide concrete results for the benefit of both Ireland and Europe and demonstrates the critical links between research and enterprise that lead, ultimately, to jobs creation," he said.

Total investment in this project is €11.7m, of which €8.1m has been contributed by the EU and the remainder is provided by the partners involved.

As well as UCC and Trinity, the project's partners include Alcatel Lucent, Nokia Siemens

Networks, Telefonica Investigacion Y Desarrollo; Telecom Italia (Italy); Aston University in the UK; Interuniversitair micro-electronica centrum in Belgium; III-V lab in France, Polatis; Atesio and Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan in Sweden.

"Leading such a top-tier international consortium is an endorsement of the strong international academic reputation that CTVR has earned and raises the profiles of Ireland and Trinity College Dublin as leaders in research and development of future broadband infrastructure.

"It is also a demonstration of the value to Ireland of continued investment in high quality research," said Patrick Prendergast, provost of Trinity College.