

Award of €2.5m in Research Funding by the Petroleum Infrastructure Programme

16th December 2013 The Petroleum Infrastructure Programme (PIP) today awarded €2.5m in research funding to fifteen (15) Irish and international researchers. More than 60 projects have received in excess of €16m in funding from PIP over the last 16 years.

The projects are aimed at improving knowledge of petroleum systems and exploration potential offshore Ireland, developing environmental monitoring techniques and specialist engineering studies to improve Exploration & Production cost effectiveness.

Forty (40) responses were received by the deadline in August to the open call for proposals made in April. Three Technical Evaluation Panels based on the three themes Geology & Geophysics, Engineering and Environment, and made up of experts from both oil companies and Government bodies reviewed all of the proposals and recommended the winning proposals for approval by the PIP Management Committee.

The response to the open call was very encouraging and demonstrated the depth and breadth of research capability relevant to oil exploration that was available in Universities and Institutes of Technology across Ireland. Most of the projects will be completed within two years and will be integrated into the existing petroleum systems model for Ireland's offshore basins that has been developed by PIP over sixteen years of focussed research on Ireland's hydrocarbon prospectivity.

Notes:

The Irish Petroleum Infrastructure Programme (PIP) was established by the Petroleum Affairs Division (PAD) of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in 1997. The overall aim of PIP is to promote hydrocarbon exploration and development activities offshore Ireland by funding research to address common industry problems in the Irish Offshore. Research under the Programme goes beyond normal licence area-specific work and is designed so as not to duplicate the efforts of other groups or of commercial contractors. It is also considered essential that local researchers should be given an opportunity to participate in the research projects. PIP is funded by oil companies with frontier exploration licences offshore Ireland granted by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

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