

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dublin and Silicon Valley sign major collaborative agreement in clean technology sector

Agreement will support growth of Dublin and Silicon Valley cleantech companies and the creation of a significant number of jobs in the sector in both cities

Monday March 12th, San Jose, Silicon Valley A major agreement between leading cleantech organisations in Dublin and Silicon Valley will be signed in San Jose today. The agreement between The Green Way – Dublin’s Cleantech Cluster and the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC) in San Jose, will lead to a dramatic increase in R&D, business development, commercialisation and investment opportunities for Irish and San Jose companies looking to access U.S. and EU cleantech markets respectively.

According to the ‘Expert Group on Future Skills Needs’, the cleantech sector in Ireland employs 18,750 people and is worth over €3bn to the economy. This employment figure is set to rise to 29,000 by 2015. Ireland is currently ranked 9th in the ‘Global Cleantech Innovation Index 2012’ which showed that "Ireland stood out surprisingly well" and "scored in the top 10 for evidence of commercialised cleantech innovation".

Speaking at the signing of the agreement Tony Boyle, CEO of The Green Way said “This agreement is a concrete example of our mission to create jobs and international trade opportunities for Dublin cleantech companies, as well as attracting the next generation of cleantech companies from the Valley into Ireland.”

He continued, “The Environmental Business Cluster, alongside its sister Biocenter facility, is responsible for the largest and most successful private incubator programme for cleantech companies in the U.S. This bilateral agreement will now offer Irish cleantech companies access to this ecosystem, and enhance Ireland’s standing internationally in this rapidly growing industry.”

Melinda Richter, CEO of Prescience International and Executive Director of the Environmental Business Cluster and San Jose BioCenter stated, “One of the key objectives of the EBC is to provide Silicon Valley cleantech companies with access to global markets including the EU. This agreement with The Green Way will facilitate the linkage of San Jose companies with Dublin’s cleantech cluster and leverage the involvement of Dublin Academic institutions, municipal authorities, the international airport and the business community, in their efforts to commercialise their technology for European markets.”

Seán Giblin, Managing Director of Cylon, a Dublin based cleantech company within The Green Way, commented “The link between The Green Way and the EBC aligns with the growth strategy for our business, particularly in the U.S. We have recently expanded into the U.S., and are looking at ways to establish a footprint in Silicon Valley and gain access to the cleantech markets, investors and technology partners there. This agreement will directly facilitate our goals, and those of other Irish cleantech companies.”

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague, who is leading the Dublin ‘sister city’ delegation said, “We see this agreement as the first step in establishing a strong working cleantech partnership between Dublin and San Jose, two global centres of high tech innovation and entrepreneurship. Dublin’s longstanding relationship with San Jose has been key to the growth of the ICT sector in Ireland, and this new agreement will deepen the practical links for the cleantech sector, and is fundamental to our objective to make Dublin the cleantech capital of Europe. It creates an open invitation and opportunity for companies in both countries to work together to create business and economic partnerships for generations to come.”

The established Dublin / San Jose 'sister city' relationship is the platform on which The Green Way and EBC intend to build a deeper cleantech collaboration between the cities. Dublin has a similar twinning arrangement with Beijing, and The Green Way is also seeking to forge bilateral links with Beijing peer organisations in the cleantech sector. The opportunity exists for The Green Way to put Ireland at the intersection of Silicon Valley cleantech innovation and Chinese cleantech capital, with potential spillover effects for green job creation.

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For further information or comment from any of the principals, please contact Glenn Hogarty, Limelight Communications, 087 790 9670

NOTE TO EDITORS

About The Green Way

The Green Way – Dublin's cleantech cluster was founded in 2010 when a number of key regional stakeholders decided to collaborate in order to encourage green economic growth through the stimulation of the Greentech sector in the Dublin region. The term cleantech encompasses all industries and companies which are involved in sustainable development, eco-innovation (products, services, processes) and resource efficiency.

The founding partners of The Green Way include Dublin Airport Authority (DAA), Fingal County Council (FCC), Dublin City Council (DCC), Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL), Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and North Dublin Chamber (NDCC).

For more information, please visit www.thegreenway.ie

About the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC)

The Environmental Business Cluster (EBC) is an award-winning cleantech incubator located in the heart of the Silicon Valley that provides commercialization support and facilities for emerging clean energy and environmental technology companies. Named one of the top incubators in the U.S. by CNN, the EBC suite of services includes expert coaching and strategic counsel, focused educational and networking programs, targeted access to investors, strategic partners and industry networks, attractive furnished office space, equipment, conference rooms and training facilities.

For more information, please visit www.environmentalcluster.org