

PRESS RELEASE

CIT'S NIMBUS CENTRE TAKES PART IN MALLOW MATHS AND SCIENCE FAIR

Several departments from Cork Institute of Technology such as the Nimbus Centre for Research into Embedded Systems, Access Service, Continuing Education, the Extended Campus and Blackrock Castle Observatory (BCO) have taken part in the second annual Maths & Science Family Fair in the GAA Complex, Mallow, Co. Cork

The event, hosted by Mallow Development Partnership and the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning (NCE-MSTL), proved to be an astounding success, having increased its attendees from 2000 last year to 4500 people this year. The Fair is the largest community Science and Maths Fair in the Country.

The fun packed event included interactive hands on Science and Maths activities and workshops to entertain all the family. Some of these activities included live demonstrations and interactive displays of Robotics, Lego Challenges, Spooky Science, Optical Illusion, Maths magicians, Chemistry Magic Show and many more.

During the event, Nimbus staff demonstrated robotic technology and one of their prototypes developed within the centre in collaboration with an Irish start-up, In Hand Guides Ltd. BCO brought their StarDome portable planetarium which allowed children to 'take a trip around the Cosmos'.

The Continuing Education Department provided information on Springboard, Job-bridge, Recognition of Prior Learning and other offerings in CIT. The Extended Campus group act as an interface to a whole range of interactions with CIT. On the day information including placement and the appropriate paths back into higher education for re-skilling or up-skilling was provided.

Volunteers from companies such as EMC and Dairygold provided their time and effort to man their stands. Knowledge providers such as CIT, University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Institute of Technology and Waterford Institute of Technology also provided their skills and expertise on the day. Other organisations involved included Calmast, Lifetime Lab, MPHIC, LERO, the Civil Engineering and Materials Dept, UL, Credit Union Mallow, SEAI, Discover Science and Engineering, MACSI, MDP and NCE-MSTL.

"What a great way to showcase how learning can be fun to the kids! My 7 and 9 year olds had a great day, I learned a thing or too myself! Thank you to all involved, bring it back next year!" said Evelyn O'Shea, Mallow who attended the event.

ENDS

For further Press Information: Please contact Jean Kearney on 087 2527495 or Ivor Melia on 087 2234193 email: jean.kearney@cit.ie

Notes to Editor:

The NCE-MSTL is a major initiative funded by the HEA through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) cycle 2 programme to research, co-ordinate and support, develop and implement programmes to enhance Irish science and mathematics teaching and learning at all levels. The Centre is hosted by the University of Limerick and operates under the aegis of the Shannon Consortium.

Mallow Development Partnership involves all the business, community and statutory agencies who work in or for Mallow. These include but are not exclusive to Mallow Town Council, Cork County Council, Mallow Chamber, Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd, North Cork Enterprise Board and RAPID.