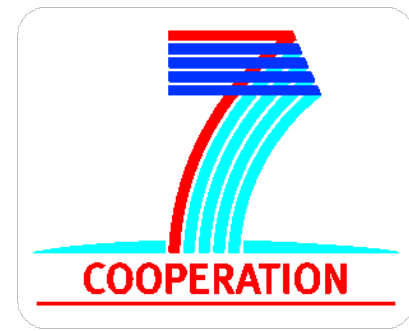




# Leveraging EU funds for SME innovation



**eco-innovation**  
WHEN BUSINESS MEETS THE ENVIRONMENT



# Topics Covered

- Overview of Projects
- Results
- EU Programmes
  - Good or Bad
- Worthwhile programs for SMEs



*Tues/Wed 7/8<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
Lissarda / Clondrohid*

# Projects





Objective

Project Data

## Introduction

The Tyre/Wood Block project was conceived in 2004 as a result of collaborative discussions between Mid Cork Pallets and Palfab. The initial drivers were:

- The desire by Palfab to find a higher value added use for its waste timber
- The desire by MCP to extend its capability along the pallet manufacturing supply chain

### The Need for Recycling of Used Tyres

Used tyres are a massive problem in Europe. OECD figures show that in 2002, only 47% of used tyres were re-used, rethreaded or recycled. Of the remainder, approximately half ended up in landfill, while the rest was recovered in the form of energy through burning. Landfill for whole tyres was abolished in 2003 across most EU countries and by 2005, shredded tyres were also abolished from landfill.

### The Opportunity

This project proposes to develop a pallet block using combinations of waste tyre-derived materials, sawmilling residues and woodchip from discarded pallets. A typical pallet contains nine blocks and currently

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Objective

## Introduction

The CleanWood project came about through personal research by Donal O'Callaghan of Palfab Ltd in terms of uses for certified clean timber. As a partner in the TWB project, Donal was aware of the potential of the LIFE programme. A proposal was submitted in October 2005.

A positive response was received in May 2006, with

Project Data

### The Problem in Ireland

- 244,259 tonnes of "wood and wood products" waste<sup>[1]</sup>
- Construction & Demolition waste of approximately 35,000 tonnes in 1999<sup>[2]</sup>

### European Aspect

The EU Council Directive (94/62/EC) on packaging waste charges Member States to introduce systems for the return and/or collection of used packaging with the following targets by December 2008:

- Up to 80% by weight of packaging waste to be recycled;
- Specifically 15% by weight for wood.

The EU has set a target to double energy from renewable resources from 6% to 12% by 2010. It is estimated that about 100 million tonnes of recovered wood is generated annually in the EU. If fully used, this could lead to a reduction of 135 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a substitute fuel for coal for energy generation<sup>[3]</sup>. And would also help meet the reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions as declared in the Kyoto protocol<sup>[4]</sup>.

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Objective

Project Data

## Introduction

InsulaTFH was submitted by Cygnum, a timber frame house manufacturer in Macroom, Co. Cork. Submission was in September 2008.

A positive response was received in March 2009, with contract negotiations being completed in June. The project commenced on the 1st July 2009 and is on-going.



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# Eirebloc in FutureSME

- Started Jan'09, will finish in Dec'12
- We are one of 13 SMEs from 6 countries
- Our role is to ensure that the tools being developed are relevant to SMEs. We approve all development results.
- We are currently starting the testing process. Examples include:
  - Cost model simulator
  - Company diagnosis
  - Strategy Wall

# Results

- ~ €2.75m EU funding
  - ~ 30% to 75% of allowable project cost
  - Vital seed funding
  - 3-15% overhead in managing grant – especially if project leader
- Eirebloc growing to capacity of ~ 80m<sup>3</sup> blocks
  - ~ 60 people will be employed in venture at full capacity
- Cygnum launching new range of pre-manufactured panels – the Precision Range
  - Unique position in market-place
- Eirebloc is benefiting from FutureSME tools and methodologies

# EU as a source of funding? Good or Bad?

- Good

- Access to international research
- Recognition of quality (highly competitive)
- Special programmes for SMEs + higher funding %
- Particular programmes in the environment
- No funding limit (EI 'de minimis' condition does not apply)

- Bad

- Difficult and time-consuming application
- Transnational coordination can be difficult
- More difficult to get than national grants
  - If the latter available

# Worthwhile programmes for SMEs

- ECO Innovation
  - If you have already developed an innovative environmental pilot
  - Next deadline, Sept 2011
- EUROSTARS
  - Applied research in any topic leading to new product
  - For research-focused SMES, next deadline Sept 2011
- Intelligent Energy Europe
  - For innovative Energy initiatives – deadline May 2011
- Research for SMEs
  - Where research is carried out on your behalf by university or research centre – contact Sean Burke @EI
- FP7
  - Advisable for SMEs to join as partners in whatever topics are relevant. EU wants more SMEs to participate. – Contact Liam Brown @EI



# Thank You



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