

## Science In Schools – November Country Update

### Ireland Network

#### Lead organisation(s) and contact details

1. IBM Ireland Ltd.
  - Deirdre Kennedy; kennedyd@ie.ibm.com; +353 1 8152117
2. STEPS to Engineering
  - New person to be identified

#### Organisations making up the co-ordinating forum

|                                                                             |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Companies & Industry Organisations                                          | Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel</li> <li>• Pfizer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BITC Ireland</li> </ul> |

#### Other organisations in the wider Science In Schools network

|                                    |                                                           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Companies & Industry Organisations | Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit |
| •                                  | •                                                         |

#### Maths, Science and Technology Education in Ireland

The Government's priority is to continue Ireland's transformation to a knowledge-based economy and society. Education, and particularly science education, will be at the heart of this transformation. Significant progress has been made over the last number of years to lay the foundations for that transformation. Ireland is rapidly moving toward a knowledge-based economy built on innovation and technology.

The continued availability of graduates skilled in the fields of Maths, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Technology and Engineering will be a critical factor in supporting Ireland's future growth and competitiveness. These areas are seen as the drivers of change and innovation in a knowledge society. The Government is fully committed to strengthening the quality of science teaching and learning, promoting increased scientific literacy and encouraging more students to choose science subjects at senior cycle and progress to third-level options in this critical area

#### Priorities and aims of Science In Schools Network in Ireland

- Achievable and Smart Goals
- Broaden SiS network
- Provide resources for teachers and students

Eweek 2009 (Engineered a Week of Wonder) is the key focus for this group.

- To encourage more companies to participate in this annual, national event.
- To get more schools involved in activities with companies and organisations during Eweek.
- To get schools to use materials and activities available through STEPS to Engineering from Engineers Ireland and from companies on a regular year-round basis.

## Completed activities

Actions planned for earlier in the year have slipped and are again under planned activities. It has been difficult to get participants engaged due to their own company priorities with schools in the Sept/Oct period and we have of course lost our contact at Aoife with no one yet named to take over that role

**Activity 1:** Grow Network: BITC sent email to members in July with SiS Flyer, inviting them to become involved in SiS Ireland. Companies/organisations were invited to provide a list of existing initiatives/resources for inclusion on Steps website. This did not result in any enquiries and needs to be revisited.

## Planned activities

1. Create 'National Initiatives' web page on [Steps to engineering](http://www.steps.ie/) web site  
<http://www.steps.ie/>
  - Existing companies in Forum to provide information on initiatives to Steps by mid January in time for Eweek
    - Primary school resources
    - Secondary school resources

### Format for content

Company/organisation Logo  
Brief summary of activity/resource  
Direct link to activity/resource

2. **Support Science and Engineering Weeks (Feb. 2009/Nov. 2009)**
  - Country forum members to support and encourage employees to participate. Encourage other companies to participate.
  - Invite other companies to collaborate on activities – “learning by doing”.
  - Country forum members provide list of activities they run during Eweek/Science Week (menu)
  - Invite other companies coming into network to provide same.

Encourage country forum members and new companies/organisations coming into network to contribute to the **Secondary School Science and Maths Curriculum**