BIA Innovator Campus to transform the food entrepreneurship landscape in the West of Ireland

The BIA Innovator Campus at Teagasc, Athenry, Co. Galway has the backing of the highest impact collaboration of public – industry – community - education ever assembled in the food sector in Ireland.

- BIA Innovator Campus CLG supported by Galway County Council and Teagasc have been awarded just under €2.5 million from Enterprise Ireland as part of the Regional Development fund announced this morning by Heather Humphreys, Minister for Business, Enterprise, and Innovation. The overall hub is expected to cost in the region of €3.9m.
- It will create 360+ jobs in over 40 businesses across the west of Ireland, providing much needed facilities to help the food industry in the west.
- A range of facilities will be available to businesses across the western corridor from short term use innovation laboratories, incubation hubs for longer stages of product development and high potential start up units for businesses getting off the ground. Alongside this, there will be a range of support and technical back up along with showcase & training facilities. (See detail below)
based on the recently completed Enterprise Ireland supported Feasibility Study. The project is a unique infrastructure enabler comprising a wide range of supports that builds on existing supports and strengths while addressing key challenges and deficits that exist, particularly in the West of Ireland.

The proposal and compelling location at Teagasc, Athenry, Co. Galway at the converse of the M17/M18 and the M6 has the backing of the highest impact collaboration of public – industry – community - education ever assembled in the food sector in Ireland.

The development of the proposal has involved wide engagement and has tailored made solutions for many of the challenges facing the sector which can inhibit growth. When realised the BIA Innovator Campus will be a regional/national centre of excellence for the food sector with a focus on business support and development for all stages of the food chain from the primary producer, to the entrepreneur starting off, to the company that wants to grow and export to the chef and service sector that engage with the end consumer.

Specifically, the BIA Innovator Campus comprises nine independent own door starter/growth units, three independent own door HPSU growth units and four unique co-working food incubators (dairy, meat, seafood and multi product – a first in Ireland) backed by a potent mix of technical, innovation and commercial support at the same time in the same place. The proposal includes the provision of essential training and development space to meet demands of the sector in the widest sense (e.g. entrepreneurs, chefs, food scientists) with all the key agencies delivering their services, making it a true one stop shop and centre of excellence. The GRETB will be anchor tenants delivering a training to support the sector in a coordinated and planned manner working with the project partners and the Strategic Advisory Group. Businesses will be able to accelerate their growth with a much needed continuum collaborative pathway to support them and they will have access to facilities such as the business engagement zone, innovation space, training space, demonstration and showcasing areas as well as the food grade production space. The BIA Innovator Campus will provide an exceptional and unique ecosystem based on best practice nationally and internationally, packaging same into an exceptional bundle.

The Teagasc linkage is key to the innovative nature of BIA Innovator Campus. Companies will benefit from unique access to Teagasc Food Research Centres in Ashtown, home to the Meat Industry Development Unit and the National Food Centre and Moorepark, home to Moorepark Technology Limited (MTL) state of the art pilot dairy plant who will provide unique local access to their services through onsite and remote training and advice. This involvement allows food producers to benefit from research and farming practice, strengthening the transfer of knowledge, stimulating innovation in production methods and developing innovative solutions applicable in a practice environment.
BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS
Ireland West Food Innovation & Incubation Hub

A transformational infrastructure enabler for food entrepreneurship in the West of Ireland

BIA GROWTH INCUBATION
BIA ACCELERATE
BIA EOLAS
BIA OB AIR
BIA BLAS

Growth Incubation
Acceleration
Eolas
Business Advice
Taste the West of Ireland

BIA H.P.S.U.