

Comments on - An Energy Research Strategy for Ireland

The Background and Vision provide a sound basis for developing a cohesive strategy. The sector specific fields noted in the Strategic Lines of Activity they come under 3 headings – Source of Energy, Means of Delivery and End Use Function.

An underlying factor applying across all areas is that the potential for success from any Irish research initiative is most likely to come about through active networking with best practice international teams where we can benefit from significantly larger budgets and a wider circle of industry and academic expertise. (A “watching brief” is not good enough).

Source of Energy – It seems inappropriate to home in on Ocean and Bioenergy in advance of identifying and mapping Ireland's energy resources .

Means of Delivery – While Grid Infrastructure for delivering electrical energy is a key priority area, improvements in the delivery of energy as heat from deep geothermal resources could play a significant role in a sustainable energy future.

End Use Function – Building and Transport represents the biggest areas of energy use where greater efficiency in design and planning regulations offer significant scope for energy savings. The delivery of Deep Geothermal heat can make a sustainable contribution to the buildings energy need.

The Energy Research Strategy as presented does not address the needs and opportunities available to Ireland.

Active international networking through a structured process across the widest possible mix of - Source of Energy, Means of Delivery and End Use Function with National Focus Groups of industry and

academia professionals contributing to an All island International Network Team.

Viv Byrne – CSA Group Limited, 4th June 2008