

Dear sir or madam,

I was present on the consultation meeting and like to make a (late) submission. I hope you can still consider this.

There were several comments suggesting a different strategy to achieve the vision: one that includes all types of energy sources (fossil and nuclear as well). It was also suggested several times that for such a vision, not much own research is needed. With the vision as stated I would have to agree with those comments.

My conclusion however is that the strategy as presented implies a different vision than stated, namely to support the development of a renewable energy industry in Ireland. I would agree with such a vision. Notwithstanding this, there is of course still a need to resolve the challenges facing Ireland. I would suggest therefore that the vision has two parts: support new industry in Ireland (80% of funding) and find solutions to Ireland's challenges (20% of funding). Strategy for the latter should include all energy sources.

To support new industries, I suggest that the main criterion for prioritisation is Ireland's strengths as they increase the change of success. Based on that, I believe that in particular ocean and wind energy and grid control offer the best opportunities. Ireland's ocean and wind climate provides an ideal environment for e.g. demonstration projects, making commercialisation projects cheaper as well attracting international commercialisation projects. Grid control is mostly IT which is well established in Ireland, and Ireland has a good reputation regarding control in telecommunications (which, although quite different also has quite a few similarities). I cannot see why energy in buildings should be prioritised.

If the vision is indeed to start a new industry, then this should go hand in hand with industry. Several comments were made regarding this already but relate more to the desire to involve of industry in academic research. I believe that the relation between research and industry is more that they feed each other: more research results in a higher interest from enterprises, and more enterprises create more interest in research. Together they create an industry. I believe that the current strategy is unlikely to achieve this new vision since it does not provide enough critical mass. The level of activity in the industry is too low, and enterprises in Ireland that do exist are too small. Hence most of the critical mass would have to come from research alone and for that the funding is simply too small.

Therefore I like to suggest that besides Enterprise Ireland, IDA should also be involved to attract new, well established global enterprises in this industry to Ireland, e.g. Vestas, in areas that are closely associated to research such as early phase product development.

Finally, I observe that EI covers indigenous enterprises with potential to become multi-nationals, and IDA covers foreign multi-nationals. I believe county councils are covering indigenous enterprises with only a national market, making it hard to co-ordinate on national level. This is in particular a problem for bio energy, which as an industry has a potential in Ireland but due to its nature mostly national. It may also be part of a solution to Ireland's challenges. As such it serves both parts of the vision and thus should be actively supported, maybe directly by the department.

Best regards,

Rene Peeren