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## **Innovation Center for Irish Startup Companies Opens in San Jose**

***Ireland's Prime Minister to officially dedicate center on March 14***

SAN JOSE, Calif. (Mar 10, 2010) - Ireland's Prime Minister, Brian Cowen, will formally dedicate a newly created Irish Innovation Center (IIC) in San Jose, California on March 14th during his official visit to the United States. The IIC, which is located in Silicon Valley, has been established to provide Irish technology startup companies a base to develop partnerships, markets and additional funding in the United States.

Prime Minister Cowen will be accompanied at the formal dedication ceremony by recently appointed chairman of the Irish Technology Leadership Group, Dr. Craig Barrett, and San Jose Mayor, Chuck Reed as well as Silicon Valley business executives, city and government officials.

"On behalf of the City of San Jose, I want to congratulate the Irish Innovation Center on its grand opening and thank the Irish Technology Leadership Group for its investment in San Jose. For more than two decades, San Jose has supported entrepreneurs through incubators like the Irish Innovation Center. We also welcome the Prime Minister to San Jose and thank him for his personal support for this new enterprise," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "San Jose is an ideal location for foreign based startups looking to partner with some of the world's leading technology companies."

The IIC announced that local industry veteran, Gordon Ciochon has been appointed as Executive Director of the center. Mr. Ciochon has thirty years of experience working in Silicon Valley's technology sector, including ten years at Symantec as head of global operations.

Dr. Barrett commented, “The IIC is a concrete result of the vision embraced by industry and government participants at the Global Irish Economic Forum in Dublin last September.”

The IIC will be ready for occupancy in April, providing flexible office space for up to 30 companies as well as access to venture capital firms, banking and legal services.

Resident companies will also be able to avail of reception and administrative support, as well as relocation, financial and IT services.

The IIC is closely affiliated to the ITLG which will partner with the center to provide residents with access to a built-in network of successful Silicon Valley business executives from leading technology companies.

**About IIC:**

The Irish Innovation Center is the Silicon Valley launching pad for Irish Technology companies. From San Jose, California - the capital of Silicon Valley - companies rapidly accelerate their growth by taking advantage of the extensive services available from the IIC. The Innovation Center provides an environment for like-minded entrepreneurs to gain access to venture firms, bankers, customers, suppliers and employees that will enable their companies to grow and flourish. Within the innovation center flexible office space, reception, administrative, legal, financial, human resource, and IT support are all available to resident companies. For more information about IIC, visit [www.irishic.com](http://www.irishic.com)

**About ITLG:**

Established in October 2007, the ITLG is a group of high-level technology leaders in Silicon Valley who are Irish or Irish-American. The ITLG includes senior executives from some of the Valley’s leading corporations, each of whom are committed to helping Ireland face up to the issues and challenges of embracing new technology opportunities. Chaired by Dr. Craig Barrett, the ITLG is based in Campbell, California, USA. For more information about the ITLG, visit [www.itlg.org](http://www.itlg.org).

**About the City of San Jose:**

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, one of the key sponsors and partners of the IIC, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

Ties between San Jose and Ireland have been strengthened during the past two decades by its Sister City relationship with Dublin. Recently celebrating its 24th anniversary, the Sister City affiliation between the two cities was established in 1986 and initiated by then Mayor of San Jose, Tom McEnery, and the former Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, then Lord Mayor of Dublin. The program, known as “twinning”

in Ireland, has thrived throughout its two-decade existence and develops cultural, economic, artistic and sporting ties between San Jose/Silicon Valley and Dublin. For more information, visit [www.sanjosedublin.org](http://www.sanjosedublin.org).

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