



**Media Information**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

## **SEI Announces Energy Research Scholarships**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has today announced that it has awarded three new scholarships for third level students under its programme for Sustainable Energy Doctoral and Post-Doctoral funding undertaken in cooperation with the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology's (IRCSET) Embark Initiative. The new additions bring to seven the number of scholarships announced by SEI under the programme this year.

The scholars and the areas they will investigate are:

- David Cashman, University College Cork, - Wind energy storage for improved grid integration
- Shane Ryan, University of Limerick, - Evaluation of the effects of soil quality and delayed harvesting on the yield & quality of biomass
- Orla Madden, University of Limerick, - Operation of diesel engines fuelled by rapeseed oil

According to Morgan Bazilian, Head of Energy Policy at SEI, "In enabling Ireland to effectively tackle the many challenges we face with respect to our energy consumption and demand, it is critical that an investment is now made, both directly in the area of research and also in the nurturing of academia capable of continuing that research. The scholarships announced today will play an important part in how we address both current and future challenges in an innovative and effective manner."

The first of its kind in Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Doctoral and Post-Doctoral funding aims to support the development of capacity in Ireland for the understanding and delivery around the crucial topic of sustainable energy for the future. The scholars will work in both basic and applied research in science, engineering, and economics. The programme is now in its third year of funding scholars in the area of sustainable energy.

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### **About SEI**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) is the statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy. SEI is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000 – 2006 with programmes part-financed by the European Union.

### **About The Embark Initiative**

The Embark Initiative is a major national research funding initiative, operated by the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET). Through a range of highly innovative schemes, Embark invests in people and ideas, addressing individual research funding needs at Masters, Doctoral and Postdoctoral level and encouraging the most talented researchers to advance their careers in Ireland.

The Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology forms a Board of senior academic and industrial figures chaired by Professor Jane Grimson under the auspices of the Department of Education & Science. The Council's initiatives operate under the auspices of the Department of Education & Science and are funded under the National Development Plan.

In addition to the offers from SEI under the second call, the Embark Initiative recently announced offers of research funding to 57 other candidates under its Postgraduate Research Scholarship Scheme 2006. An allocation of €4 million has been made available to support these researchers over three years, the typical duration of postgraduate studies.