

Forfás



Evaluation of the IDA Ireland R&D Fund

What our client wanted

Frontline was commissioned to evaluate and assess the IDA R&D Fund in terms of its appropriateness, effectiveness and its efficiency. As Forfás was carrying out a wide range of evaluations, this work considered the Fund in terms of its individual performance, and in relation to other interventions and its fit with Irish enterprise policy. The evaluation included 30 company interviews, stakeholder interviews and an e-survey to all companies that had been in receipt of the fund. International benchmarking was undertaken and we reviewed company level data on participating businesses to understand the performance of the fund in economic terms.

What Frontline did

This project allowed us to further develop our expertise in the evaluation of company support schemes that promote innovation and R&D. It further deepened our understanding of companies' investment in R&D and innovation in Ireland, and the contribution it makes to company performance and ultimately the economy. Many R&D Fund projects involved academic collaboration; beneficiary companies (many of which are multi-nationals) recognise the benefits of their Irish plants becoming more embedded in Ireland, through transforming to higher value add activities and building strong links with educational institutions.

What difference we made

Our evaluation helped Forfás understand the impact of their fund, and to review its performance on a like-for-like basis with other publically funded R,D&I interventions in Ireland to help make important decisions around future investment priorities.