

What is SciFest?

SciFest is a national festival of science organised regionally in collaboration with the Institutes of Technology. It is open to all second level students. The aim is to encourage a love of science through project-based learning and to provide more opportunities for students to present and display the results of their scientific investigations. The SciFest initiative is jointly funded by Intel and Discover Science and Engineering as project partners.

The SciFest Story

The inaugural SciFest was held in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, Dublin, in 2006 and SciFest was launched nationwide in September 2007. Nine of the Institutes of Technology hosted SciFest fairs in 2008 and in 2009 all fourteen institutes hosted a SciFest fair, reflecting the commitment of the Institutes of Technology to the support and promotion of science education. Also in 2009 the first SciFest exhibition in Northern Ireland was held in the Millennium Forum in Derry.

SciFest 2009 – Some Statistics

In total **1,980 students** from **162 schools** exhibited **836 projects** nationwide in SciFest



SciFest IT Sligo
Students investigating the properties of dry ice

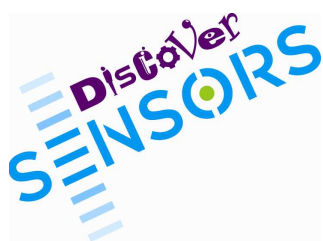
2009. This represented an increase of almost 25% in the number of students participating compared with the previous year. The rapid increase in participation in SciFest is a clear indication of the interest and enthusiasm among students and teachers in the investigative approach to teaching and learning science.

What happens at a SciFest Science Fair?

In each IT the day begins with a short opening ceremony, followed by some serious judging, lunch, a lab tour, and a science talk and ends with a short prizegiving ceremony. Four main trophies were awarded at each IT in 2009: Intel Best Project Award, Abbott Runner-up Best Project Award, BT Best Communicator Award, and the Discover Sensors Award. Many other prizes were also given depending on the number of entries and the individual IT. All the students received a participation certificate.

Win an iPod – Science Week 2009 SciFest Crossword Competition
Download a copy from the SciFest website www.scifest.ie

Discover Sensors Award www.discoversensors.ie



This award is sponsored by the Discover Sensors project and is open to projects in any area of

Science or Technology where the investigation involves substantial use of one or more digital sensors for recording experimental data. Students applying for the Discover Sensors Award must keep a blog of their project work on Project Blogger.

Blog your way to a SciFest Award www.projectblogger.ie



Teachers can set up blog accounts for themselves and their students on Project

Blogger. Check out the SciFest area on www.projectblogger.ie to see examples of last year's SciFest student blogs. This year, Project Blogger will have a new 'Ask the Scientist' section, where students can ask an expert for advice and help with their SciFest project.

Who Can Enter SciFest?

All students who are attending a second-level school in the catchment area of the Institute of Technology are eligible to enter. Each student may enter only one project but a school may enter as many projects as they wish. Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Age Category – Junior (1st and 2nd Year), Intermediate (3rd and 4th Year) and Senior (5th and 6th Year)

Project Type – Individual and Group (Max. 3 students per group – all group members must be in attendance at the exhibition)

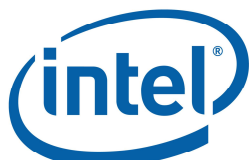
Project Category – Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Technology

Entry Date

The closing date for receipt of entry forms is **Friday 12 March 2010**

Log on to
www.scifest.ie

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