Networks Among Irish Information Communications and Technologies (ICT) Firms

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Abstract: This paper explores how Irish information, communication and technologies (ICT) firms use networks to achieve objectives and commercialise technology. The research availed of Heracleous and Murray’s (2001) taxonomy of networks, based on the dimensions of interdependence and durability, to classify and provide insight into the nature of networks. The benefits accruing from network participation are reputational benefits by association, learning and informational advantages, as well as shared resources. The research surveys members of the Information Technology Association of Galway (ITAG), an ICT network in Galway, Ireland. The findings indicate ITAG members participate in various networks simultaneously and there are different motivations and drawbacks associated with each network type. The preference is for short-term collaborative forms, which provide immediate returns.

Key Words: Networks, Software and ICT Firms, SMEs