

## **Press Release – CRUICKSHANK TARGETS US BIOTECH FIRMS AT BIO2008**

- Cruickshank exhibiting at Bio2008 with Enterprise Ireland and IDA
- Ireland is the leading global location for biotech outside the USA
- EUR42billion in exports being driven by Irish biotech sector each year

*Dublin, Ireland, and San Diego, California, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008* – Cruickshank Intellectual Property Attorneys, Ireland's leading firm of patent and trademark attorneys, today launched a drive for US biotechnology business at the BIO2008 conference in San Diego, California. The biotech industry has been the focus of a significant portion of Ireland's inward foreign direct investment and manufacturing exports during recent years.

Cruickshank has travelled to BIO2008 to commence an aggressive campaign to recruit new US-based clients intending on expanding to Europe. Cruickshank aims to tap this market by assisting biotech companies opening facilities in Ireland, as well as those selling their products into the European Union from US bases, with their Intellectual Property needs.

Ireland is one of the leading global locations for biotechnology outside the US, and more than half of the ten top-selling drugs in the world are produced here. More than 35,000 people are employed in the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, medical device and diagnostic sectors with 10,000 people engaged in cutting edge research. Thirteen of the top fifteen pharmaceutical companies have substantial operations in Ireland, making this country the largest net exporter of pharmaceuticals in the world. Pharmaceutical exports alone are valued at more than EUR42bn per year, and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector accounts for 42% of Irish manufacturing exports. With more scientific researchers in Ireland per capita than the European average, Ireland is well ahead of the competition.

Anna Hally, European patent attorney, Cruickshank Intellectual Property Attorneys, said "It is vital that US companies opening operations in Europe make use of the local Intellectual Property expertise. European patent and trademark laws differ from those in North America, and companies must ensure that their innovations will be protected uniformly worldwide. The huge sums required for R&D investments in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry mean that the risk of losses from unprotected products is significant.

“The EU’s European Innovation Scorecard 2007 places Ireland in the ‘innovation followers’ grouping, lagging behind the best in Europe – ‘innovation leaders’ such as the Nordic countries and the UK. On Intellectual Property in particular, we fall behind the European average. The Scorecard shows that Ireland holds just 77.3 European Patent Office (EPO) patents per million population, compared to 121 for the UK and an EU average of 128 patents per million population. Each of the Nordic countries scores well in excess of 200 on this scale. Our innovation is at risk if we do not ensure that it is fully protected.”

Cruickshank will also be targeting Irish biotech companies as part of their drive to educate people about intellectual property rights in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and other high-tech fields. Cruickshank is offering a free one hour consultation with an Intellectual Property expert to all companies in Ireland. Entitled ‘IP-Free60’, the service is available now from [www.cruickshank.ie](http://www.cruickshank.ie).

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**About Cruickshank Intellectual Property Attorneys**

Cruickshank is Ireland’s leading firm of patent and trademark attorneys. Its multidisciplinary team is particularly renowned for its expertise in advanced technology, including electronics, computing and telecommunications, as well as the fast growing food and life science arenas. Its clients include many of Ireland’s top 1000 companies, private inventors and entrepreneurs. Its head office is in Dublin, Ireland. Cruickshank is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> year in business in 2008. For further information, see [www.cruickshank.ie](http://www.cruickshank.ie).