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## Venture capital funding for Irish technology based industries is healthy

The Irish Venture Capital Association (IVCA) Techpulse survey shows that Irish technology companies raised €84.4m from investors in the fourth quarter of 2007 despite the fact that most Irish venture capital funds were raising new capital. This is more than double the amount of funds raised of €30.1m in the same period in 2006.

"The figures suggest that despite concerns over the impact of the sub prime crisis, VC funding for Irish technology and knowledge based industries is healthy," commented Prof Michael Donnelly, chairman, IVCA. He said that the total raised in 2007 of €225.94m is 17% ahead of 2006 and is at its highest level since 2002.

The results come in advance of an IVCA workshop to be held in Dublin on May 15th for tech firms

on how to raise venture capital.

The number of companies that raised funds in the fourth quarter of 2007 was 32, compared to six in the same period in 2006. Amounts raised ranged from €50k to €40m. "It has been an extremely active time for the industry in terms of the number of firms being supported," commented Regina Breheny, director general, IVCA. She added that 105 companies raised funds in

2007 compared to 43 in 2006.

In the four months there were 17 Irish based venture capital funds involved and 12 International funds. In the similar period of 2006, there were three Irish based venture capital funds and three International funds involved. "This demonstrates a significant increase in and wide range of support from local and international VC firms and reflects Ireland's continuing global reputation in developing strong tech firms," added Regina Breheny.

In the drug delivery and medical device sector, six companies raised €4.6m (none in 2006). In the tele-

coms sector five companies raised €5.4m compared to one company raising €2m in 2006. 21 other technology companies raised €74.5m covering nano technology, fibre optics, photonics, semiconductor chips servicing a wide range of industries including Bio/Pharma/Chemical/Engineering/Environmental etc. In 2006 six companies raised €28.1m.

"We are seeing the development of a good sectoral spread of firms which is now growing beyond traditional Information Technology and this can only be healthy as we move to develop a knowledge economy," added Regina Breheny.