The project involves the construction of a 50,000 sq ft science park facility at Fort George in Londonderry and a 20,000 sq ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. If both sites achieve maximum occupancy by 2019 the project has the potential to support up to 285 added value jobs directly and add impetus to the creation of a knowledge-based economy in the region.

Project partners include the Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) Foundation Ltd, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG).

The project will construct a commercially and research-driven centre in Derry to act as a satellite park of the internationally acclaimed Northern Ireland Science Park, based in Belfast. It will also establish a similar centre in Letterkenny which will extend the reach of the NISP into the whole of the North West Business Technology Zone.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland. Upon completion the project will provide an ‘Innovation Eco System’ that will enable new and existing technology-based businesses to enhance their competitiveness.

Key Project Outputs:

- To assist with long-term development of the North West Business Technology Zone.
- Foster clusters and networks that encourage cross-border cooperation between local firms.
- Create a self-sustaining enterprise and research and development entity.
- Deliver a programme of NISP events including collaboration between research institutions, capital providers and economic development agencies.

Pictured (l-r) are Eugene McMenamin, Chair of NWRCBG, Minister Nelson McCausland, MLA, Joe McHugh, TD, deputy Minister Martin McGuinness and Pat Colgan, SEUPB.