

## **2014 European CanSat Competition calling on secondary schools to turn their eyes skyward**

ESERO, the European Space Education Resource Office in Ireland, is calling on secondary school teachers around the country to register a team for the 2014 European CanSat competition. The competition offers students their first practical experience of a real space project by challenging them to build a CanSat or mini rocket - a simulation of a real satellite integrated within the volume of a soft drinks can.

The test for teams of Senior Cycle students is to include all the major subsystems found in a satellite such as a computer, power, sensors and a communication system. The CanSat is launched to an altitude of a few hundred metres by a rocket or dropped from a platform or captive balloon to accomplish its missions. The Primary Mission is to measure temperature, air pressure, transmit the data to the ground station and achieve a safe landing. The teams work together at all stages of the process - designing the CanSat, selecting its mission, integrating the components, testing, preparing for launch, receiving the data on the ground and then analysing and presenting the data to a panel of judges.

The first round of the competition will see teams compete at a regional level in Spring of next year, with the winners moving on to a National Final. The team who are successful in the national competition will then have the chance to compete at European level in Andoya, Norway in June 2014.

Last year, the winners of the national CanSat competition from Colaiste an Phiarsaigh in Cork, went on to achieve second place at the European CanSat final in the Netherlands, where their CanSat was launched by rocket to an altitude of 1km.

CanSat is a joint collaboration between ESERO Ireland ([esero.ie](http://esero.ie)) and the Cork Electronics Industry Association ([ceia.ie](http://ceia.ie)) and is co-funded by the European Space Agency and Discover Science and Engineering education and outreach programme, which is managed by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). The Regional competitions will be run by Cork Industries Association, Dublin Institute of Technology and Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology.

Stephanie O'Neill, ESERO Ireland Manager, said, *"The purpose of the CanSat competition is to open up the possibilities of space and exploration to secondary school students. There are numerous Irish companies thriving in the space sector. ESERO Ireland's ambition, with the assistance of the European Space Agency, is to foster the skills that are required for this industry at an early age and the CanSat competition provides students with the practical experience of a real space project. The success of last year's team from Glanmire at a European level illustrates the potential of our young people and we look forward to welcoming many more students to this year's competition."*

**For further information and to register a team, please contact the following regional hosts:**

- Leinster – Mark Deegan of Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) - [mark.deegan@dit.ie](mailto:mark.deegan@dit.ie)
- Munster – Dr Eamon Connolly of Cork Electronics Industry Association (CEIA) - [connollye@ceia.ie](mailto:connollye@ceia.ie)
- Connacht – Carina Ginty of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) - [carina.ginty@gmit.ie](mailto:carina.ginty@gmit.ie)