



Invest
Northern
Ireland

Northern Ireland ICT: Look closer

Northern Ireland is the leading region in Europe for inward investment in software development and technical support centres.

Ideally located within an EU market of 500 million people and with excellent connections to the global market, it's time to take a closer look at Northern Ireland...

Existing ICT investors

Of over 700 companies in the ICT sector in Northern Ireland, more than 100 are international investors, including **SAP, Fujitsu, HP, Openwave, Microsoft, Liberty IT and Northbrook Technology**. These companies are benefiting from the opportunities the region offers for R&D, software development and business development.

The high-end software and IT services sector contributes almost 70 per cent to Northern Ireland's gross domestic product.

'Northern Ireland provides us with a highly skilled technical workforce and an ideal base for serving our European customers.'

Alan Black
President and Chief Executive Officer, Intelliden, USA

Great People

The workforce is loyal and dedicated as evidenced by low attrition rates in the software and IT services sector of 4-10 per cent.

Northern Ireland has the youngest and fastest growing population in Europe. Availability of qualified ICT staff is excellent and the number of IT-specific employees continues to grow by approximately 15 per cent each year.

Government, industry and academia are implementing a number of collaborative initiatives in training and education, ensuring the workforce continues to meet the needs of the global ICT industry.

'We've a talented and highly committed R&D team in Belfast that led the company's development of new generation software for mobile communications and helped us to bring it to market in record time. It's now leading our US and other global operations in the development of next generation software.'

Paul Moorhead
Vice President, Engineering, Openwave Systems (NI) Ltd.

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Education & Training

The education system in Northern Ireland is recognised as one of the best in Europe, consistently outperforming all other UK regions in academic qualifications.

World-class universities (Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster) and an extensive network of community-based colleges provide excellent academic and vocational training.

The **IT Professional Academy (ITPA)** offers a number of routes into a career in the ICT industry, including a faster and work-focused alternative to university for school leavers.

One is the Software Professional Course, an intensive programme of study and work placement to equip graduates from any discipline to enter a career in ICT.

'Liberty Information Technology is a fiercely competitive and highly efficient operation that's driven by people who've proved themselves to be dedicated to the success of our business. In particular, we've found a tremendous resource of highly talented, adaptable and reliable people in Northern Ireland's technology-focused universities.'

Stewart McGuigan
Chief Information Officer, Liberty Mutual Group, Boston



Industry Focused R&D

R&D facilities are available at 13 globally recognised ICT-related research centres, including:

Electronics, Communications and IT Research Institute (ECIT) has four research clusters covering broadband wireless communications, electronic data security, image and speech processing, telecommunications software and antenna design for mobile communications.

Centre for Software Process Technologies (CSPT) supports the quality and effectiveness of software development processes and products, from process measurement, through business process co-evolution, to object-oriented software complexity metrics.

Nanotech NI is focused on the design, fabrication, characterisation and commercial exploitation of nanotechnology processes, devices and systems.

Intelligent Systems Engineering Laboratory is researching intelligent embedded systems, hybrid intelligent machine vision systems, re-configurable computing, hardware-software partitioning, design automation, and self-repair of complex embedded systems.

SAP's Campus-based Engineering Center (CEC) Belfast was founded as the Research Center of SAP (UK) Limited, working on next generation enterprise service-oriented architecture (SOA) and advanced Web technologies.

'Northern Ireland has world leading R&D in areas of technology and talented people highly relevant to major developments in communications, electronics and IT.'

Professor John McCanny
Director, ECIT, Queen's University Belfast

Competitive Costs

Northern Ireland provides one of the most cost-efficient business locations in Europe; companies are delivering software solutions to their US parent companies saving up to 50 per cent on London costs and 35 per cent on US costs.

Excellent Infrastructure

Communications:

- On schedule to become the first region in the UK to complete BT's 21CN network upgrade (a fully enabled IP infrastructure, high speed and versatile communications network designed for devices of the future);
- Region provides a fully digital, fully fibre optic communications network;
- Northern Ireland has its own backbone exchange;
- Telecom costs are among the lowest in Europe and the cost of international connectivity is very competitive;
- The region's compact size makes it an ideal test-bed for new communications technology.

Support Available

From initial enquiry to investment, Invest Northern Ireland will work with you at each stage to ensure the smoothest start to your venture. A comprehensive range of business support initiatives will help ensure your business success.

'With assistance from Invest Northern Ireland, we opened the new Broadsoft European Operations Centre in about 60 days. Invest NI exceeded our expectations in every way.'

Michael Tessler
President and Chief Executive Officer, BroadSoft



For more information visit
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