

Northern
Ireland

Northern Ireland is a world-leading cyber security hub



Belfast



Combining world-class innovation, cutting-edge research and international collaboration, the region has become a trusted hub for addressing complex cyber security challenges.

- Northern Ireland is a top European investment location for US cyber security firms.
- Northern Ireland is the #2 UK region for software investment in Western Europe.
- Samsung recently named Northern Ireland the UK's future 'Silicon Valley'.

Key areas of cyber security activity in Northern Ireland include:

- identification, authentication and access control.
- risk, compliance and fraud.
- securing applications, networks and cloud.
- threat intelligence, monitoring, detection and analysis.
- operational technology security and connected devices.
- managed security service provision and advisory services.



Global cyber security companies are establishing R&D centres in Northern Ireland

International firms are already tapping into our deep expertise in data analytics, AI, cyber security, and software engineering.

Industry-leading firms such as Rapid7 and Proofpoint have developed significant operations in Belfast, supported by partnerships with local universities, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.



Northern Ireland's cyber security ecosystem thrives within a supportive business environment

Innovation and growth in the sector is bolstered by government-backed initiatives and investment, such as City and Growth Deals.

This is also supported by industry networks, accelerators and clusters that drive collaboration, connecting startups with established cyber security firms and academic researchers.

Why choose **Northern Ireland?**



Access to expertise

- We have more than 38,000 employed in technology roles.
- Belfast has one of the world's most concentrated cyber security clusters, with more than 100 cyber security businesses and teams within three miles of the city centre.
- You can access a steady talent pipeline from two leading universities, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and a network of further education colleges with a range of specialist cyber-related programmes.



Research

- The Centre for Secure IT (CSIT) at Queen's University Belfast is recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research and Education.
- 100% of CSIT's Research Excellence Framework (REF) results are world-leading or internationally excellent.
- CSIT's Cyber-AI Technologies Hub lets companies and academia collaborate on the advancement and demonstration of leading-edge technology.
- CSIT's industry partnerships include Allstate, BAE Systems, Cisco, IBM, Intel, McAfee, Rolls Royce and Thales.



Location

- The region is perfectly positioned between mainland Europe and the USA, giving you easy access to key markets across GB, Europe and the USA.
- Northern Ireland is easily accessible. London is only an hour away by air, with Dublin less than two hours away by rail or road from Belfast.



Business friendly

- We have one of Europe's most business-friendly cities of its size.
- Our government has prioritised the development of the cyber security sector, providing grants, tax incentives and funding programmes to support startups and attract global firms to the region.



Track record

- More than 1,500 international companies have set up operations in Northern Ireland.
- Investors include multi-national cyber security companies such as Rapid7, Proofpoint, SilverSky, Anomali and Synopsys.
- Leading technology, financial and professional services firms have cyber operations here, including Allstate, Deloitte, Microsoft, BT, PwC and Aflac which has its global SOC in Belfast.



Cost competitiveness

- On average, operating costs here are around 40-55% lower than other parts of Western Europe.
- Businesses here benefit from a 40% reduction in typical salary costs compared to London and a 30% reduction compared to Dublin.
- We are one of the most cost-effective regions in the UK for expats.

We remain impressed with the excellent business environment in Northern Ireland, particularly the close working relationship between government, industry and academia. Of note is the work the universities are doing in IT security. Invest NI's support and the availability of high-quality technical staff make Northern Ireland an attractive location for us. Our Belfast centre allows us to scale up our operations and address a wider customer base in the US, Europe and Asia.

Corey Thomas
President & CEO, Rapid7

Global leaders successfully operating in the region include:

ANOMALI

SYNOPSYS®



RAPID7

imperva

proofpoint

AGIO

Case studies

proofpoint

Proofpoint, Inc. is a leading cyber security and compliance company that protects organisations' greatest assets and biggest risks: their people.

With an integrated suite of cloud-based solutions, Proofpoint helps leading organisations of all sizes around the world stop targeted threats, safeguard their data and make their users more resilient against cyber attacks.

Proofpoint established its cyber security operations in Northern Ireland to leverage the region's skilled workforce and academic excellence in cyber security.

With a focus on threat detection, data protection and email security, the Northern Ireland office plays a crucial role in developing cutting-edge technologies to combat evolving cyber threats.

RAPID7

Rapid7, a publicly traded, global security leader has its largest office in the heart of Belfast.

Of the approximately 500 staff, most are engineering focused, with deep skills in areas such as cloud security posture, risk analysis and remediation and threat detection and response.

imperva

Imperva is part of the cyber security products business unit of Thales, which serves over 30,000 customers worldwide.

The Belfast office focuses on application security and data security products. Their EMEA Product Support, Customer Success and Security Analyst Services teams (specialising in advanced bot protection) are led from Belfast.

ANOMALI

Anomali expanded its operations to Northern Ireland to enhance its threat intelligence capabilities.

The Northern Ireland team specialises in identifying and mitigating cyber threats, leveraging local expertise and partnerships with universities.

This strategic investment has bolstered the company's ability to provide cutting-edge cyber security solutions while supporting the region's growth as a global cyber security hub.



Nihon Cyber Defence's Northern Ireland operation is a critical hub for the company's global cyber security efforts.

Specialising in incident response and cyber incident readiness programmes, the Northern Ireland team plays a pivotal role. The global incident management base and European headquarters are in Northern Ireland, underscoring its strategic importance.

Recognised as an assured service provider by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), the Northern Ireland operation exemplifies expert capability and extensive experience, making it a cornerstone of the company's global operations delivering expert services across the UK, Ireland and wider Europe.



Your location business partner

Invest NI can help you set up and grow a successful business in Northern Ireland, by providing all the information, connections and introductions you need.

You can rely on our dedicated, responsive and professional team to help make your first steps into Northern Ireland as smooth as possible.

Our investment teams' services are all provided free of charge and include:

- benchmarking and key market data.
- hosted visit programmes.
- introductions to professional services providers.
- training support.
- property search and selection.
- introductions to centres of excellence.
- financial incentives.
- business networks.
- relocation advice.



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