

# Assistance for High Growth/ Technology Early Stage Companies:



**Invest Northern Ireland in partnership with the Northern Ireland Science Park and the Northern Ireland University network can help your business access a range of advice, guidance and support to help accelerate the development of your globally focused start-up business. This leaflet aims to summarise the key areas of support available through Invest NI for early stage companies.**

If you can show that your early stage or start-up business has the potential to achieve significant sales in markets outside Northern Ireland within the first three years of trading and has the potential to create employment, we can offer you a wide range of business advice and financial support.

Some of the support appropriate to a high growth start up includes:

## **Propel Programme**

Propel is a business support programme provided by Invest Northern Ireland designed to help export focused start up businesses. Propel aims to educate, to challenge, to support and above all to get the best out of the business owner and accelerate the growth of their start up business.

For further details contact:  
[propelprogramme.com](http://propelprogramme.com)

## **Growth Acceleration Programme (GAP)**

GAP support can provide businesses with access to financial support which can be used to: assist with market research; market development visits; consultancy for the development of business plans etc; and/or the recruitment of a key employee.

## **Northern Ireland Spin Out (NISPO) Funds**

NISPO, delivered by E-synergy, is a suite of funding support which totals £12m. The funds

provide investment support for start up and early stage businesses based in Northern Ireland. Funding rounds typically range from £50k – £250k.

Further details can be found on the NISPO website: [nispofunds.com](http://nispofunds.com)

## **Co-Fund NI**

Co-Fund NI, delivered by Clarendon Fund Managers, is a £16m fund which aims to co-invest in SMEs based in Northern Ireland in co-operation with business angels and other private investors. The fund can provide co-investment in deals typically valued between £250k and £450k, at a ratio of up to 45%.

For further details contact: [cofundni.com](http://cofundni.com)

## **Growth Loan Fund:**

The Growth Loan Fund, delivered locally by Whiterock Capital Partners, is a £50m debt financing initiative which provides loans of between £50k and £500k to SMEs that can demonstrate sales and profitability growth, or strong growth potential

For further details contact:  
[investni.com/growth\\_loan\\_fund](http://investni.com/growth_loan_fund)

## Research & Development

Invest NI provide advice and financial support to help companies with your R&D. Funding can assist you to scope, plan and define your R&D, research, product or process developments, development of leading edge technology, contracted research and links to colleges and universities.

For further details contact:

[investni.com/research\\_and\\_development](https://investni.com/research_and_development)

## Intellectual Property (IP) protection

Invest NI can provide advisory and in some cases possible financial support to help you protect and exploit your intellectual property (IP). IP can include a new product, service, brand or process. Advisory support includes a comprehensive IP starter pack or an Intellectual Assets Audit.

For further details contact:

[investni.com/intellectual\\_property](https://investni.com/intellectual_property)

## Export Support

Invest NI has databases and expertise to help you research your potential export markets and, we can help develop your knowledge, skills and know how in International Marketing and Sales, through our Export Skills Workshop Programmes.

There are a number of mechanisms Invest NI can deploy to assist Northern Ireland based companies to explore and enter global markets, including [trade visits and exhibitions](#), that can be tailored to meet the needs of your business.

For further details contact: [investni.com/selling](https://investni.com/selling)

## Property

Having the right premises for your business is important to its growth and productivity. Invest NI can help you find or build the right property to suit your needs – now and in the future. Our support in this area is both advisory and financial.

For further details contact: [investni.com/property](https://investni.com/property)

## Skills

By improving the skills of managers and employees you can help your business boost productivity and increase profits. Invest NI's support in this area is both advisory and financial. It is available to businesses that can show that they intend to sell outside Northern Ireland, are actively pursuing growth plans and will contribute to increasing productivity and innovation in Northern Ireland.

For further details contact: [investni.com/skills](https://investni.com/skills)

## Next Steps

So if you are planning an early stage or start up business which has the potential to grow rapidly and target global markets, and you are not already engaging with Invest Northern Ireland please contact John Miller, Growth and Scaling Team for more information on how we could help you:

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