



Northern Ireland - Innovative Solutions for the Legal Industry

As the global legal services industry continues to evolve, spawning new delivery models and innovative client services, Northern Ireland offers an exciting range of cost-effective, quality-assured, responsive solutions to pioneering global firms, sector disruptors and technology innovators.

The region's highly competitive cost base combined with an assured pipeline of world-class talent, ICT research excellence, cutting-edge infrastructure and attractive R&D incentives mean that Northern Ireland enjoys international recognition as a global tech hub. It is also the #1 global destination for mobile fintech investment projects and home to one of the fastest-growing technology clusters in the UK.

Northern Ireland's start-up and SME tech community is thriving thanks to a highly developed entrepreneurial ecosystem, vibrant networking scene and the active promotion of sector collaboration.

The region's ground-breaking research capabilities in analytics, artificial intelligence and cyber security are commercialised worldwide. Activity in disruptive technologies including blockchain is growing. Its progressive universities are busy building the next generation of tech-savvy lawyers and its technology leaders are already exploiting next wave technologies.

Northern Ireland is a dynamic region not just keeping lockstep with the rapid pace of change but one step ahead...

Did you know?

- The technology enabled Northern Ireland operations of major international firms including Herbert Smith Freehills, Allen & Overy and Baker McKenzie are central to their innovative global client service offerings. And world-renowned disruptor, Axiom Law, chose Belfast as the location for its European delivery hub.
- End-to-end development for iManage's latest ground-breaking solutions: Threat Manager and Security Policy Manager, has been led by its R&D centre in Belfast. Black Duck Software, a market leader in open source software auditing tools used in major M&A due diligence, operates an open source security research group in Belfast, and a cluster of progressive NI vendors are delivering expertise to top tier international legal practices.
- Home to two top law schools at Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, NI also boasts a number of highly specialised ICT-related research centres deeply influenced and embedded into real-world applications with significant industry and cross-cluster collaboration.
- Collaboration is actively promoted in the region - Eversheds Sutherland Consulting launched new legal matter management solution, ES Unity, in collaboration with Belfast-based Repstor. The Ulster University Legal Innovation Centre, the first of its kind in the UK, was established with the support of Allen & Overy and Baker McKenzie.
- Northern Ireland boasts an impressive cluster of governance, risk and compliance (GRC vendors), delivering solutions to customers including the world's largest banks.

What makes Northern Ireland the 'go to' location for legal technology and innovation?

COST EFFECTIVE



20-30%

Operating costs lower than in the rest of the UK and Europe.

40%

Reduction in typical salaries compared to London. 30% reduction compared to Dublin.

R&D

The effective cost of every £1 spent on R&D can be as little as 50p.

EXCEPTIONAL TALENT



84%

Of NI students achieved top three grades in A-Level exams. (77% in UK)

70%

Of IT professionals hold degree level qualification. (62% in UK)

+4,300

Graduates in business and technology each year, including over 1,100 post graduates.

PARTNERSHIP



Bespoke government support packages combining practical advice and financial assistance:

- Support schemes for skills development and R&D
- Location selection intelligence
- Property search & selection
- People planning
- Business modelling & investment support
- Start-up incentives & infrastructure

Entrepreneurial & Collaborative Hub of Innovation

Vendors	International Legal Innovators	Research Excellence	Law & Tech Talent
<p>Growing clusters of expertise for the global legal industry including security, matter & document management, analytics & regulatory compliance.</p> <p>SaltDNA develops solutions that leverage multi-layered encryption techniques to secure enterprise mobile communications.</p> <p>Repstor provides a Microsoft 365/SharePoint based matter-centric collaboration and document management solution for legal matter management.</p> <p>iManage delivers work product management solutions to law firms that streamline the creation, sharing, governance and security of documentation.</p> <p>Black Duck Software, now part of Synopsys, provides software and services that enable clients to identify, secure and manage open-source software.</p>	<p>Allen & Overy's global IT hub is located in Belfast. The firm's innovative online legal risk management solution, aosphere is developed and delivered by a specialist derivatives compliance team in Belfast.</p> <p>Baker McKenzie's Global Merger Analysis Platform (GMAP) - an innovative new antitrust & merger data control tool - is delivered from Belfast and used by the firm's team of anti-trust & competitions lawyers world-wide.</p> <p>Axiom's Belfast Centre of Excellence leverages the company's IRIS technology to efficiently deliver commercial, derivatives and regulatory projects for Fortune 500 clients.</p> <p>Herbert Smith Freehills' tech - enabled Belfast operation is the central pillar in the firm's global alternative legal services offering.</p>	<p>Research focus on data analytics and artificial intelligence at the Knowledge & Data Engineering Centre and the Centre for Statistical Science & Operational Research at Queen's University Belfast, and the Artificial Intelligence & Applications Research Group and the Intelligent Systems Research Centre (ISRC) at the Ulster University.</p> <p>The Faculty of Computing & Engineering at Ulster University has recently launched its Cognitive Analytics Research Lab (CARL) to bring the university's expertise in machine learning algorithms and the application of analytical techniques to a diverse range of domains.</p> <p>The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queens' University Belfast is the UK's Innovation and Knowledge Centre for cyber security and one of Europe's largest university cyber security research centres.</p>	<p>The talent pipeline is strong with over 1000 highly educated graduates from a wide range of courses and 700 top-notch law graduates each year from our two world-class universities, Queens' University Belfast and Ulster University.</p> <p>The Ulster University Legal Innovation Centre, a collaboration between the School of Law and the School of Computing & Intelligent System, brings together research into the application and impact of new legal technology and opportunities for the education and training of current and future lawyers in essential legal tech skills.</p> <p>A core focus of the Legal Innovation Centre is research into computational law which is a branch of legal informatics focussed on the automation and mechanisation of legal analysis.</p>

Invest Northern Ireland, the region's economic development agency, works in partnership with investors to offer advice and financial assistance to support business establishment, growth, capability development and international competitiveness.

For more information visit: InvestNI.com/Legal

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