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Project Ireland
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National Development Plan Review 2025

Securing Ireland's Future

**Sectoral Capital Plan 2026-2030:
Department of Enterprise,
Tourism and Employment**



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Minister's Foreword



I am pleased to introduce my Department's Sectoral Capital Plan as part of the Government's National Development Plan 2026-2030. The NDP will provide an unprecedented €275 billion to boost our economy's competitiveness and growth potential across the key areas of water, energy, transport and housing so as to improve the quality of life for all our people.

My Department's Sectoral Plan is focused on securing our continued economic success by delivering on the Programme for Government's ambitions and commitments to promote enterprise, innovation and our national competitiveness and to ensure that the benefits of growth, investment and opportunity are shared across all parts of our country.

This Plan represents a transformative €4.7 billion investment in the future of Ireland's enterprise, tourism and employment ecosystem over the next five years. I am prioritising this investment in those areas that will best strengthen our enterprise and industrial base, deepen our innovation capacity, support the scaling of Irish SMEs and the attraction of cutting-edge innovation and promote sustainable tourism and regional development. This Plan reflects also my Department's commitment to building a resilient and globally competitive economy that is equipped to meet the challenges of climate action, digital transformation and adoption of AI and technological disruption.

Improving our competitiveness and making it easier to do business, to create jobs and to trade internationally are central to Ireland's long-term prosperity. As highlighted in the Draghi Report on EU Competitiveness, Europe and Member States must act decisively to remain competitive in a rapidly changing global landscape. Ireland is responding to this call by investing in the capabilities, infrastructure and innovation that will secure our position as a leading economy within the EU and beyond.

Supporting ambitious entrepreneurs, SMEs and family businesses across all sectors remains at the heart of our economic strategy. Over the period of this Plan, I am providing additional resources for targeted initiatives for startups, scale-ups and high-growth sectors and investing in the next generation of Irish businesses.

Through investment in cutting edge R&D, and industry collaborations and innovative property solutions I am determined we can continue to sustain and compete for cutting edge innovation into the future. Our capital programmes will enhance Ireland's attractiveness for foreign direct investment, particularly in advanced manufacturing and strategic technologies, ensuring that Ireland remains a destination of choice for global investors.

Innovation is a key driver of productivity and competitiveness. As part of this Plan, I am increasing investment in collaborative research, disruptive technologies and commercialisation initiatives that connect industry with academia and accelerate the development of frontier solutions in areas such as AI, Cell and Gene Therapy, advanced manufacturing and space technologies.

Tourism is a vital contributor to Ireland's economy and regional vitality, attracting in excess of 6 million overseas visitors annually and providing rewarding employment to over 235,000 people. And we can do much more. As part of the Government's new tourism policy, 'A New Era for Irish Tourism', we will increase

overseas, and domestic tourism spend by 50 per cent to 2031. In addition to sustaining the competitiveness of mature and well-developed tourism locations, I am also targeting the attraction of an additional one million overseas visitors per annum through investments by Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, focused in particular on our less mature destinations. Through investments in product development, overseas marketing and strategic partnerships, we will enhance the quality and sustainability of our tourism offering, ensuring that Ireland remains a compelling destination for international visitors while supporting local communities and businesses.

Employment and skills development underpin all these efforts. By investing in infrastructure, enterprise supports and regional development programmes, we are creating the conditions for high-quality, future-focused jobs across all regions. This Plan aligns with the Programme for Government, the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity, the Action Plan on Market Diversification and the Tourism Policy Framework, ensuring coherence and impact in delivering on our national ambitions.

I would like to acknowledge the collaboration and expertise of our agencies and offices, industry partners and regional stakeholders, whose commitment continues to underpin Ireland's success. Together, we are investing in the innovation, infrastructure and talent that will secure a prosperous, sustainable and competitive economy for generations to come.



Peter Burke TD
Minister for Enterprise, Tourism
and Employment

Secretary General's Foreword



This Sectoral Capital Plan 2026–2030 is a strategic and forward-looking framework for investment under the National Development Plan by our Department, our offices and enterprise development and promotional agencies. The Plan outlines our capital priorities to ensure Ireland remains an attractive, competitive and resilient economy in the years ahead.

The funding available over the coming five years of €4.7 billion comprising €3.68 billion capital allocation secured under the National Development Plan, together with additional funding sources and our agency-generated income, provides an unprecedented opportunity to drive transformation across the enterprise, tourism and employment sectors. These investments will enable us to deliver on our commitments to sustainable growth, balanced regional development and the transition to a low-carbon, digitally enabled economy.

This Plan reaffirms our Department's focus on supporting Irish enterprise to start, grow and scale, strengthening foreign direct investment, enhancing research and innovation capacity and promoting Ireland as a unique and absorbing tourism destination. It also reflects the Government's determination to address the challenges of competitiveness, productivity and market diversification for enterprise, while delivering on the strategic objectives set out in the Programme for Government.

In addition, this Sectoral Capital Plan will deliver on the Department's commitments in the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity, which set out targeted measures to enhance Ireland's cost competitiveness, innovation performance and

productivity growth. This Plan will also deliver on our commitments in the Government's Action Plan on Market Diversification, which aims to broaden Ireland's export base and reduce exposure to external shocks by helping businesses access new international markets. We are also providing for the investment needed to underpin the Government's Tourism Policy Framework, 'A New Era for Irish Tourism', that will guide investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure and experiences, ensuring Ireland remains a compelling destination for global visitors.

Together, these frameworks informed the Department's capital investment strategy and delivery model. They ensure that our programmes are not only responsive to current challenges but also proactive in shaping Ireland's future economic landscape.

The capital programmes outlined in this Plan will support high-impact initiatives, from scaling Irish businesses and developing next-generation FDI sites, to investing in disruptive technologies, digital transformation and sustainable tourism infrastructure. These investments are designed not only to stimulate economic activity, but also to create high-quality employment and ensure that prosperity is shared across all regions.

The successful delivery of this Plan will be underpinned by strong collaboration across Government.

As a Department, we look forward to supporting our Ministers to ensure that the strategic priorities outlined here are implemented effectively and with impact. Their leadership and cross-government delivery on the wider competitiveness priorities will be critical in driving progress and ensuring that our capital programmes deliver meaningful outcomes for businesses, workers and communities across Ireland.

I would like to thank the Department's teams and all stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of this Plan. Their shared vision and collaboration will be key to delivering on the ambitions set out herein, to build a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy for Ireland's future.



Declan Hughes
Secretary General



1 Introduction

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) is charged with working across Government to shape and secure Ireland's economic success; supporting ambitious entrepreneurs to start, grow and scale their businesses, strengthening trade, tourism and investment, ensuring fair and productive workplaces and fostering innovation across every region.

Over the period of the last National Development Plan, efforts delivered tangible results. There were an additional 540,000 people at work from Q3 2021 to Q3 2025 with the numbers employed reaching a new record of 2.82 million with full employment in every region. In the face of geopolitical uncertainty, exports by Irish-owned firms exceeded €36.7 billion for the first time and in the first half of 2025, foreign investment flows were higher than the same period in 2024. These outcomes demonstrate a resilient, agile and diversified enterprise base that is ready to embrace transformation.

Building on this momentum, the Department's Statement of Strategy 2025–2028 sets an ambitious vision '...to make Ireland the world's leading location to work, do business, and visit.'

The Strategy sets a mission to deliver opportunity and prosperity for all by driving a competitive, resilient and sustainable economy that supports enterprise, tourism and employment across all regions.

The Government's updated National Development Plan (NDP) provides a powerful enabling mechanism for these ambitions, with the Department's allocation key to the delivery of its mandate of promoting jobs and enterprise development throughout all regions of the country. The Department and its offices and agencies are focused on assisting enterprises to capitalise on their commercial potential through innovation, supporting companies in the digitalisation and climate transformation challenges as well as enhancing the development of tourism and promoting Ireland as a tourism destination overseas.

Ireland's economic model has proven resilient in the face of significant economic shocks and turbulent world events. Ireland's economic growth has however also exposed constraints in the country's physical infrastructure and structural barriers to continued economic development. In addition to this, the international economic environment remains subject to significant change and risk. These competitiveness

challenges are not unique to Ireland and indeed both the Lette and Draghi reports have called on the EU Commission to address this at a European level. In Ireland, the Government has responded to this challenge through the publication of an Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity prepared by the Department in September 2025 that focuses on six key themes that are within Ireland's control, and which can make the Irish economy more competitive and 'shock-resistant' to future events.

The measures in the Action Plan to drive competitiveness and productivity are building on a base of existing Department's Programmes that support a growing enterprise base. Capital investments into these programmes have delivered significant outcomes in terms of jobs, enterprise creation, tourism promotion and innovation over the last decade.

As a Department, we will harness the National Development Plan's unprecedented investment in infrastructure as a catalyst for enterprise growth and job creation. These investments create the conditions for businesses to thrive, attract foreign direct investment and enable regional development. Building on this, the Department's Statement of Strategy 2025–2028 commits to driving innovation, scaling indigenous firms, and supporting sectors critical to Ireland's competitiveness, while advancing skills development and sustainability. Together, these frameworks will deliver high-quality employment and resilient enterprises by aligning infrastructure delivery with targeted enterprise supports, talent pipelines, and market diversification, ensuring Ireland remains a leading location for investment and entrepreneurship.

This plan will be adaptable to incorporate relevant outcomes from future initiatives. For example, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment is leading on the development of the Programme for Government commitment to a National Life Sciences Strategy, anticipated in 2026, the outcome of which may include potential shifts towards agency-led initiatives and strengthened innovation investment.



Sectoral Highlights and Outcomes 2024 and H1 2025



2.82 million
Total employment
(Q3 2025)



546,763
Employment in
Enterprise Ireland and
IDA Ireland Clients*



€36.75 billion
Exports by
Enterprise
Ireland Clients*



€500 million
Growth and
Sustainability
Loan
Scheme*



€244 million
grants to 75,000
business through
Increased Cost of
Business*



€158 million
grants to 39,000
businesses through
Power Up Scheme*



€11.4 million
in funding
across 212 projects
under the Green
Transition Fund



17,000
tailored climate action
plans generated for
businesses since 2021



5
Bills enacted and
35 Statutory
Instruments completed*



38,700
employed by LEO
clients empowering
entrepreneurship &
micro-enterprises



5,156
workplace inspection
visits by the WRC*



59,431
callers helped by
WRC Information
and Customer
Service staff*



40%
Female Directors
on ISEQ20 Listed
Companies - Balance
for Better Business*



4,033
Export licences,
authorising exports
valued at €2.62 billion*



290
Recipients of funding
through the Digital
Transition Fund
in 2024



Supporting SMEs
to go digital by
establishing European
Digital Innovation
Hubs (EDIHs)



Record 323
inward investment projects with 183 (57%) across regional locations in 2024.

78 new first-time investors, 24% of Investments.

Potential to create more than

15,300 new jobs



€300 million
Environmental Aid Fund - 59 investments -
€194 million on carbon abatement and building Ireland's Green Economy.



€250 million Additional Seed and Venture Capital Scheme - building on the
€1.4 billion invested in over 600 EI companies



39,000 Employment permits issued*



€24.5 million in European Space Agency (ESA) contracts 115 enterprises secured exceeding 2024 targets



€491 million Disruptive Technology funding (DTIF) across 124 projects

67% of the participating partners based outside Dublin.



11% visitor spend growth support of Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund

€6 billion revenue & 25:1 ROI*

Promoting Ireland as a tourism destination through Tourism Agencies and funds -

Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund, Tourism Product Development Fund and Just Transition Fund.



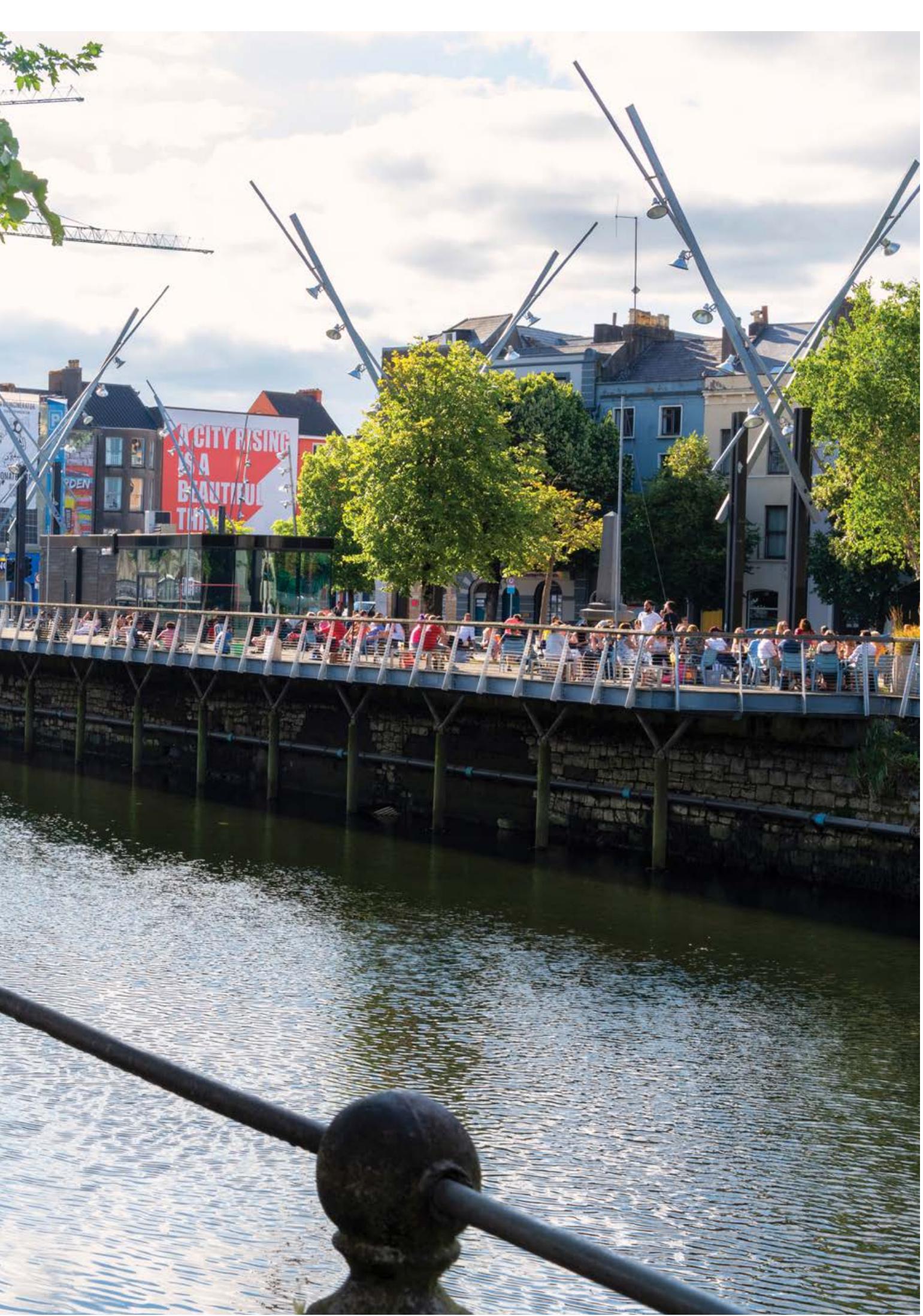
Investing in

Tourism Product Development Fund

the Dunbrody Famine Ship visitor experience, Connaught Harbour attraction in Galway and development of Maeve Square in Sligo Town.

* 2024.







2 Capital Funding of €4.7bn to 2030

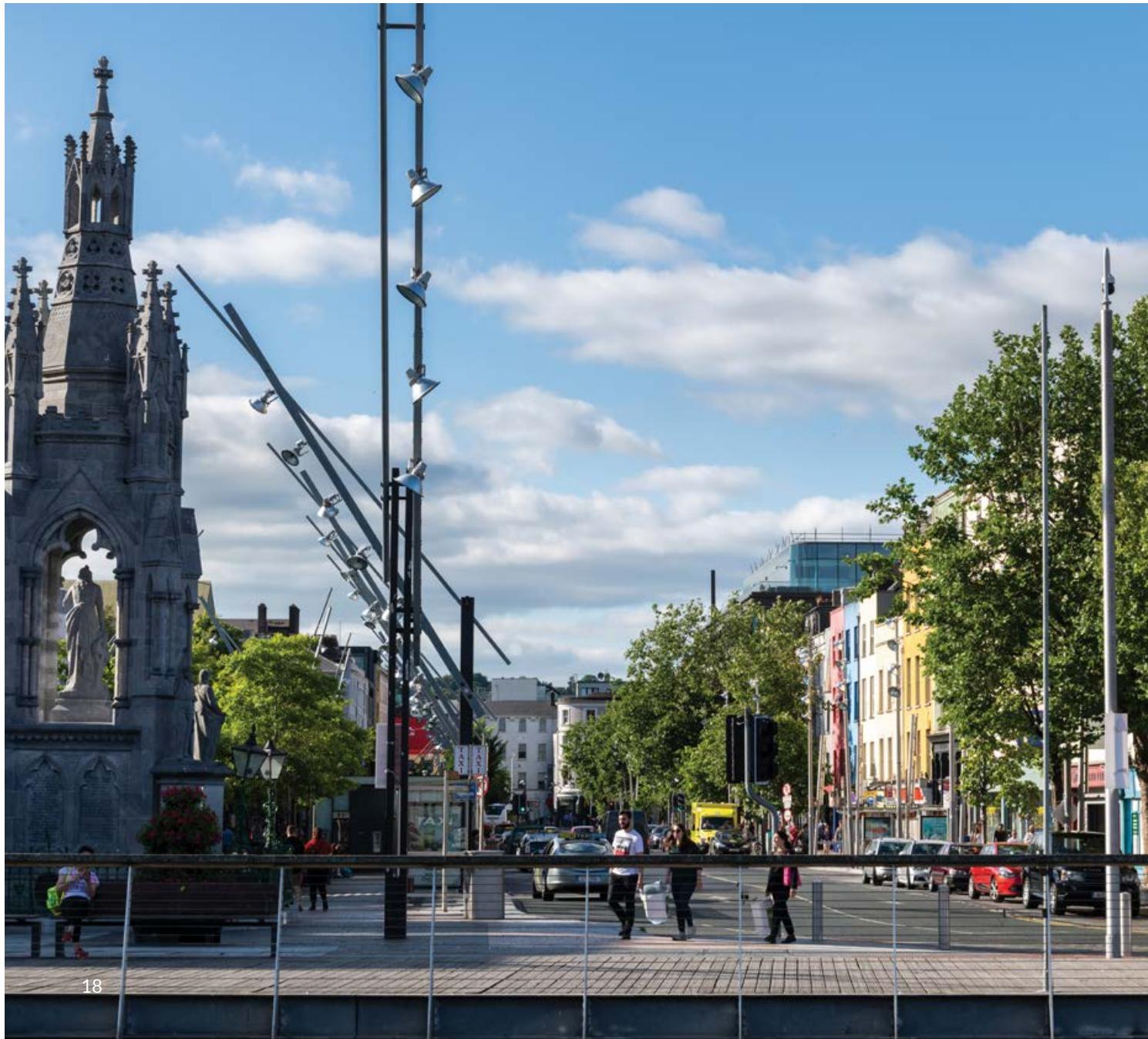
The National Development Plan sets out Ireland's long-term investment strategy to support sustainable economic growth and regional development. This Sectoral Capital Plan for the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment is developed in the context of the realities of current geopolitical vulnerabilities, technological and innovation developments as well as addressing the challenges of competitiveness and productivity, market diversification, artificial intelligence and climate and digital transformation. The Sectoral Plan also seeks to deliver on the commitments in the Programme for Government to support enterprise growth, improve competitiveness and deliver balanced regional development.

The Department's new Statement of Strategy sets our mission to enable enterprise growth and quality employment, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, champion sustainability and digitalisation, and ensure Ireland remains competitive internationally.

Together, the increased allocations under the NDP are to enable the delivery of the Department's Strategy which reflects the Programme for Government. This synergy ensures that Department's initiatives are underpinned by national infrastructure and funding commitments.

The updated National Development Plan funding commitments will be key in implementing the recently published Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity. As highlighted previously, this Plan contains a range of priority actions designed to enhance competitiveness and productivity performance aimed at:

- enhancing Ireland's attractiveness for cutting-edge innovation
- creating and scaling more SMEs
- boosting enterprise research and innovation and skills development
- growing sustainable Irish businesses and regional development



The table below demonstrates how the priority actions within the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity align with the investment programmes in the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan. Each theme and accompanying action corresponds to one or more funding streams under the National Development Plan. This linkage illustrates how policy objectives translate into targeted investments to drive competitiveness, innovation and sustainable growth.

Priority Actions in Competitiveness and Productivity Action Plan	Sectoral Plan Projects
Theme 1: Productivity Embracing Research, Innovation and Skills	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ InterTradeIreland ★ Next Generation Sites ★ Start Up Ireland ★ Technology Centre
Theme 2: International Boosting FDI and Exports and Influencing at EU Level	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Next Generation Sites ★ Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI)
Theme 3: SMEs Creating and Scaling More SMEs	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Seed and Venture Capital ★ Scaling Fund ★ Start-Up Ireland
Theme 6: Sustainability Growing Sustainable Irish Businesses and Boosting Regional Development	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ InterTradeIreland ★ Environmental Aid ★ Regional Development ★ Tourism

Similarly, the National Development Plan funding will support the delivery of the Action Plan on Market Diversification in building a resilient, competitive and globally connected economy by:

- Supporting exporting businesses and market access;
- Deepening and broadening Ireland's international engagement;
- Enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of Ireland's international tourism offering and the development of new markets for long-term resilience and success.

The funding available to the Department over the period to 2030 is up to €4.7 billion. As part of the National Development Plan, the Government has allocated a total of €3.68 billion for the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment's capital programmes over the period 2026 out to 2030, as set out in Table 1.

Table 1.
Department Enterprise Tourism and Employment
Final NDP Ceilings (€, Millions)

Year	NDP Ceiling
2026	680
2027	710
2028	735
2029	765
2030	790
Total	3,680

The €3.68 billion in funding secured by the Department under the National Development Plan will be augmented by own resource income and additional national and EU funding streams over the period to 2030. These include the Government's Shared Island Fund and the National Training Funds, administered by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research and Skills, the EU Just Transition Fund, National Recovery and Resilience Fund (NRRF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The additional own resource incomes available to support the Department's capital programmes is from the income generated by some of the Agencies that come under the aegis of the Department. This income is generated mainly from the return on investments in supporting enterprise through the equity financing, seed and venture capital funds and property programmes of Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. Whilst this income can vary from year to year, previous experience has shown that, on average, the Agencies generate in the region of €200 million per year from their investment activities.

Accordingly, the Department expects to have a total funding envelope in the region of €4.7 billion to invest in its capital programmes over the lifetime of the National Development Plan out to 2030.

The overall available funding envelope will ensure that, in addition to supporting the Department's suite of core existing programmes, multiannual investments will be made over the lifetime of the National Development Plan to deliver on the specific strategic priorities identified in the Programme for Government and in the Action Plans on Competitiveness and Productivity, Market Diversification and Tourism.

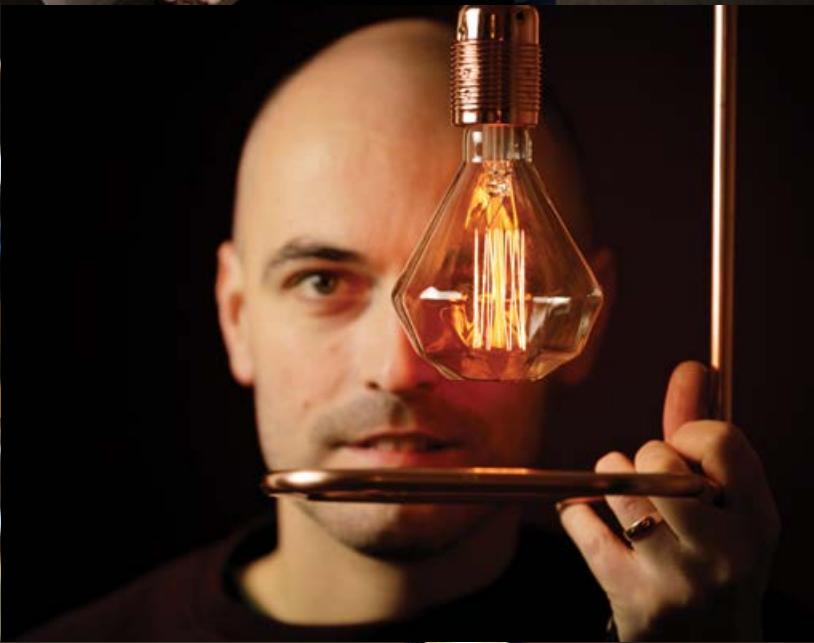
Aligned to its Statement of Strategy, the Department's Sectoral Plan for the coming years is presented under the following categories of:

- Helping businesses to start, grow and scale
- Attracting and sustaining cutting edge inward investment
- Boosting tourism competitiveness, growth and market diversification
- Developing our innovation economy
- Decarbonising Enterprise

The majority of the Department's enterprise development, productivity and innovation supports are delivered through the capital programmes of our enterprise development agencies, namely Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices and IDA Ireland. Together they will invest over €2.38 billion in promoting and developing our enterprise base over the period of the National Development Plan out to 2030.

This sectoral plan sets out a range of the largest funding programmes, including the new areas of focus of scale for the coming years. Across the Department, funding is also being provided to address Government policy priorities. For example, €5 million in funding under this Sectoral Plan is being provided to support the implementation of Ireland's Action Plan to Promote Collective Bargaining (2026–2030). The funding will support discrete programmes, including research and data development, training and capacity building, institutional digitalisation and technical support.





3 Helping Enterprise to Start, Grow and Scale - €1.12bn

The funding secured under the NDP will allow for a total of €1.12 billion to be invested in Enterprise Ireland's entrepreneurship, enterprise development and promotion programmes over the lifetime of the Plan out to 2030.



This significant investment envelope will ensure that the Department will be able to continue to provide multiannual funding to support and enhance the vital capital programmes administered by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices and others. The National Development Plan funding will also enable the Department to provide Access to Finance supports in collaboration with the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), EIB and others. The funding will ensure that priority jobs and enterprise development actions as committed to in the Programme for Government, the Action Plans for Competitiveness and Productivity, and Market Diversification as well as those envisaged in the National Semiconductor Strategy and other sectoral strategies can be actioned and implemented over the lifetime of the National Development Plan.

As set out in the Programme for Government, with significant shifts in global trade, and ongoing uncertainties, supporting dynamic Irish-owned companies to scale and grow on international markets has never been more important. Enterprise Ireland is working to ensure that a higher number of Irish exporters achieve significant scale and that these export-focused companies become the primary driver of the Irish Economy.

Enterprise Ireland-assisted firms achieved new records in both exports and employment in 2024, achieving €36.75 billion in export sales, investing €1.6 billion in RD&I, and spending €42.65 billion in the Irish economy. In addition, these businesses created more than 15,000 new jobs last year, bringing employment in EI supported companies to a record high of 234,454 with 66% of those jobs outside Dublin. Importantly, all regions recorded net jobs growth in 2024, with the West region (+6%), the Mid-West region (+4%) and Mid-East (+4%) performing particularly strongly.

Helping entrepreneurs and start-ups is a key priority and Enterprise Ireland supported a total of 157 start-up companies in 2024, with 40% of these businesses located outside of Dublin. Enterprise Ireland provided €23m in Commercialisation Fund assistance to 89 projects in 2024, which is dedicated to financing to support third-level institutions and researchers on their entrepreneurial journey.

In terms of growing exports, Enterprise Ireland's expanded network of 42 international offices and global team of in-market advisers provide a wide range of services to help Irish companies, achieving record international sales of +7% in 2024, with new records in every geographic market. Enterprise Ireland client exports to North America increased +8%, to the Eurozone by +10% and to the Nordics +24%. The sectoral performance was equally encouraging with the food and sustainability sector recording growth of 5%, the industrial and life sciences sector growing by 9%, while technology and services sector exports increased by 7%.

The objectives, targets and outcomes for Enterprise Ireland for the period 2025 to 2029 and to be funded as part of the Department's Sectoral Plan are set out in its new five-year strategy 'Delivering for Ireland, Leading Globally (2025- 2029)'. These include the goal to increase employment in companies supported by Enterprise Ireland to 275,000 over the five-year period, to increase exports by those companies to €50 billion by 2029, and to support 1,000 new start-ups. Enterprise Ireland will also work to increase the number of Irish owned companies of genuine scale, including having 150 large Irish exporting companies of more than 250 employees and to increase expenditure in the Irish economy by Enterprise Ireland-supported companies to €55 billion in 2029.

Enterprise Ireland will invest over €355 million directly in promoting and supporting indigenous enterprises through its capital programmes over the next 5 years. These programmes will include equity investments and grants to support Irish businesses to grow as well sustainability supports through its joint Environmental Aid Programme with IDA, as set out later in this Plan. The capital supports provided to indigenous companies by Enterprise Ireland have been key to creating and sustaining almost 235,000 jobs in client companies as of the end of 2024.

Enterprise Ireland, through its Seed & Venture Capital Scheme, will also support Irish early-stage, high-growth companies by investing in private venture capital funds to bridge funding gaps, boosting innovation and creating jobs.

Enterprise Ireland will also implement the commitment in the Competitiveness and Productivity Action Plan to establish a Scaling Fund to increase the available public capital for direct and indirect investment to support scaling, improve access and choice for founders and encourage new private capital into the Irish market.

Enterprise Ireland will continue to support regional enterprise development through its Regional Enterprise Development Fund, its Smart Regions Scheme and its Capital Investment Scheme.

Further details of the specific Enterprise Ireland programmes that will be funded over the next 5 years are set out below.

3.1. Enterprise Ireland Grants Programme Investments - €355 million

Enterprise Ireland's Grants Programme is focussed on supporting indigenous Irish companies across a wide range of sectors to scale and grow by providing support at every stage of their journey.

The Grants Programme offers tailored grants in areas such as employment, training, sustainability etc. to assist their clients to grow and become more productive, reach their global ambition and become leaders in their field.

The success of the Grants Programme is demonstrated by the fact that almost 9% of the total number of people employed in the State are employed by clients of Enterprise Ireland.

The funding committed to the Grants Programme over the lifetime of the National Development Plan will be key to implementing Enterprise Ireland's strategy of 'Delivering for Ireland, Leading Globally (2025-2029)' which commits to increasing jobs in client companies to 275,000 and to increasing exports to €50 billion by 2029.

3.2. Local Enterprise and Regional Development - €350 million

The Programme for Government and the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity both recommit to supporting balanced economic development across all regions of the country. The Department will support a number of programmes/initiatives in the area of regional development, including the Local Enterprise Office Programme, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Smart Regions Innovation Scheme Programme, the Regional Enterprise Development Funds and the Regional Enterprise Plans. The Regional Property Development Programme of the IDA will continue to deliver on the regional property solutions for EI clients where appropriate.

In terms of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Programme, the Department will invest over €250 million in the LEO Programme over the next 5 years. The network of LEO offices around the country are key to driving the development of local enterprises and promoting local, micro and small business throughout our towns and villages. The benefit of investing in the LEO programme is evidenced by the fact over 17,150 client companies of the Local Enterprise Offices were in business at the end of 2024, employing more than 38,700 employees. LEO clients created 7,104 new jobs resulting in a net increase of 2,459 jobs. The LEOs provided €20.2 million in direct financial assistance for 1,206 business projects, with 2,397 small businesses approved for Trading Online Vouchers and 1,016 businesses taking part in the Green for Business programme. Importantly, 152 LEO-supported companies transitioned to Enterprise Ireland to accelerate their international trade journey.

The funding being provided under the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan will enable the LEOs to continue to support local businesses as they seek to establish and grow and also to assist them in meeting the specific challenges of decarbonisation and digitalisation.

The Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme (SREIS), which is supported under the European Regional Development Fund, is aimed at accelerating economic growth across all regions through supports to develop regional enterprise ecosystems. The SREIS supports development of local enterprise infrastructure (e.g. enterprise centres and hubs), innovation clusters, innovation services to SMEs and early-stage feasibility and priming research. The Scheme will also support a range of other regional development priorities in conjunction with the Regional Assemblies.

The monies secured under the National Development Plan will also fund the new Regional Enterprise Development Fund which will be focussed on providing essential enterprise infrastructure and associated programmatic supports that will benefit regions across the country. This strategic investment will ensure that economic opportunities are more evenly distributed, aligning with the objectives of the Regional Enterprise Plans and the National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation.



Empowering Food & Drink Entrepreneurs through Regional Enterprise Funding



The BIA Innovator Campus in Galway provides a modern incubation and innovation hub designed for food and drink entrepreneurs including hot desks, conference rooms, training units and food-grade production units. The impressive facility was constructed with the support of a **€3,234,628 allocation under Call 1 of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund**.

BIA Innovator currently supports 15 businesses and has supported the creation of 70 jobs in its first 18 months post opening. It has already worked, together with its clients, the likes of large supermarket multiples, with a view to providing a route to mass market for small food entrepreneurs. More than 3,000 people have been involved in BIA Innovator programmes, which have included specific events around the drinks industry and fermentation, as well as work on cross-border industry development. The centre is now attracting clients from as far afield as Dublin and has seen a significant uptake on its 'kitchen space for rent' offering.

BIA Innovator has also been awarded **€237,581 in Smart Regions funding** for its BIA LUAS programme to support food sector entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs in the West to improve food sector innovation and competitiveness.



Driving Digital Transformation with Border Enterprise Development and Smart Regions Support



The AIM (Advanced Innovation in Manufacturing) Centre in Sligo is Ireland's National Manufacturing Innovation Centre for SMEs, focused on AI, hands on manufacturing efficiency demonstrations and advisory services affordable to small businesses.

The AIM Centre is backed through a collaborative partnership between the Atlantic Technological University, Sligo County Council and Leitrim County Council. The AIM Centre provides state-of-the-art facilities and support for businesses seeking to harness the power of digital transformation in manufacturing. By fostering a culture of innovation and technological fluency, the Centre aims to ensure that the West and North-West regions not only keep pace with but lead in the evolving manufacturing landscape. The Centre has developed a range of innovation programmes, in areas such as robotics, digitalisation and sustainability.

The project build was supported with **€2,529,326 under the Border Enterprise Development Fund**. The AIM Centre has also been funded for a programme exploring AI solutions for SMEs under the **Smart Regions scheme (€998,016)**.



Scaling Regional Tech Growth through Regional Enterprise Development Fund and Smart Regions Support



Platform94, formerly known as 'Galway Technology Centre', is a centre of excellence for scaling technology businesses. **Regional Enterprise Development Fund funding of €4,565,365** supported expansion of the centre by 16,000 square feet.

Platform94 aims to foster innovation, collaboration and growth within the technology sector by offering tailored support, resources and networking opportunities.

The new SCALE programme, supported with a grant of **€385,572 under the Smart Regions Scheme**, builds on Platform 94's previous work and provides scaling services to technology and similar companies. The project will strengthen community infrastructure, provide a digital platform, and offer access to international experts, networking and bespoke training.



Advancing Regional Innovation and AI Capability through Regional Enterprise Development Fund and Smart Regions Funding



The Killorglin, Kerry-based RDI (Research Development Innovation) Hub was originally funded under the **Regional Enterprise Development Fund** to the tune of **€3,817,520**. This funding helped develop the hub in addition to providing scaling and startup supports, assist in product development, and create new tech and services roles throughout the Southwest of Ireland. To mid-2025, 91 jobs have been created and supports have been provided to more than 100 different small businesses.

Using their Smart Regions funding, RDI Hub, in partnership with Galway hub PorterShed and Green Tech, will provide AI training and innovation to micro enterprises, High Potential Start Ups, and SMEs, utilising a **Smart Regions allocation of €1 million**. The project is designed to enhance the AI capabilities of these businesses through a structured training program.

The project will include masterclasses, strategy consultations, workshops, and staff training, leveraging RDI Hub's state-of-the-art facilities.



3.3. Seed & Venture Capital Investment Programme - €250 million

Enterprise Ireland, through its Seed & Venture Capital Scheme (SVC), seeks to support an active and sustainable equity investment environment in Ireland which can fund a strong innovation ecosystem across all regions of the country. The SVC supports high growth, market disruptive businesses at all stages of development from Seed to Follow-on.

The funding of €250 million committed to the SVC Scheme out to 2030 is intended to ensure that the talented pipeline of innovative, high-growth Irish-owned companies witnessed in recent years will continue to grow. In this regard, over €1.4 billion has been invested in over 600 Irish-owned companies by funds supported by Enterprise Ireland since the Seed & Venture Capital programme first commenced 30 years ago.

A recent review of the Seed & Venture Capital Scheme between 2013 to 2022 strongly endorsed the relevance and impact of the scheme in supporting high-growth Irish startups and scaleups together with the benefits to the economy in terms of employment, R&D expenditure, company valuations and likelihood of securing follow-on funding. The review found that the economic benefits associated with SVC-backed Irish firms over the 10-year period are €2.05 billion in Gross Value Added, with approximately 4,300 additional jobs created, or 28 jobs per SVC-backed firm on average.

Powering Ireland's Tech Future

SVC supports vibrant and innovative companies in key areas such as AI and life sciences. Examples of companies supported under the SVC include silicon quantum computing company Equal 1 Laboratories and financial technology solutions provider Fenergo and it is these companies that are playing a key role in ensuring that Ireland continues to enjoy a strong economy that delivers jobs and prosperity.

The further investment of €250 million over the next 5 years will ensure the continuation of the availability of risk capital (equity) for early-stage and innovative Irish companies with global potential.



Driving MedTech Innovation through SVC Support



ProVerum, the Irish medtech company founded by Ríona Ní Ghriallais and Dr Conor Harkin, recently raised \$80 million (c€68 million) in a Series B investment to support the commercialisation of its ground-breaking ProVee device.

Founded in 2016 as a spinout from Trinity College Dublin, the company is headquartered in Dublin with a manufacturing facility in Galway and has developed a novel treatment solution for patients with symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

In 2017, the Atlantic Bridge University Fund, which is backed by the SVC Scheme, was ProVerum's first institutional investor and led the seed spin-out round from Trinity College Dublin in a **€3.2 million investment which included co-investment from Enterprise Ireland**. The Atlantic Bridge University Fund participated in subsequent rounds, including a \$30m Series A investment in 2021 and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) joined the most recent funding round.

3.4. Scaling Fund - €100 million

The Department's Sectoral Capital Plan commits to providing €100 million in funding to support the scaling up of indigenous companies through a discrete Scaling Fund over the next 5 years

The Programme for Government commits to supporting the scaling up of indigenous companies as a key element of developing Ireland's enterprise base. Enterprise Ireland's strategy for 2025-2029 sets out an ambition to increase the number of world-leading Irish companies of scale.

Achieving this ambition can deliver significant economic benefits for Ireland. Through growth in international sales, investment and employment, exporting Irish companies can become the primary drivers of the Irish economy. The proposed establishment of the Scaling Fund is to ensure that there is sufficient capital available to high potential Irish companies.

The European market for scale up financing remains underdeveloped compared to other developed economies, particularly the US. Through the Scaling Fund it is proposed to increase the supply of capital for deal sizes from €3 million and above at funding rounds of Series A+ and subsequent rounds.

The Scaling Fund will be awarded following a competitive call to leverage larger funds, providing secondary capital to finance expansion and allowing them to realise the value of their investments without selling to an overseas buyer.

Closing Ireland's Scaling Finance Gap How Evidence-Based Strategy is Powering Indigenous Growth

To inform the design of more detailed proposals, such as the SME Scaling fund, the Department commissioned SQW Consultants to review the market for scaling finance in Ireland and quantify the size of the finance gap, so that any new measures are effective and appropriately targeted. The report identified and quantified a €1.1 billion funding gap, for deals from €3 million and Series A+ round over the next 3-5 years. SQW also found that Irish firms face particularly acute difficulties in getting funding at the scaling up stages, for deals in the €5m to €10m range, and the €10m to €25m range.

The Department has developed a comprehensive Finance for Scaling Implementation Strategy, informed by findings of the SQW report. This strategy, which delivers priority actions from the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity, includes a proposal for a new three-compartment State backed scaling fund model, describes relevant changes to tax policy and sets out a programme of work to develop further actions to enhance the financing ecosystem in Ireland.





3.5. Start Up Ireland

The establishment of Start-Up Ireland is a key priority under the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity. The €28 million in funding being allocated in the DETE Sectoral Capital Plan will enable Enterprise Ireland to establish Start Up Ireland with the intention of supporting 1,000 new startups over the next 5 years. The initiative will address the challenges, identified by a recent OECD report, on the Irish start-up ecosystem by providing for more integrated supports and coordinated pathways for entrepreneurs and by targeting specific funding gaps.

This new central coordinating approach will enhance alignment and collaboration across the existing start-up ecosystem which is spread across Ireland, creating a more cohesive and founder-first ecosystem. Start Up Ireland will also oversee the rollout of a new National Accelerator Programme, succeeding the National Digital Research Centre (NDRC), and will act as a national focal point for policy, investment and ecosystem development, aligning with European and global best practices.

The recent OECD report 'Supporting start-up globalisation in Ireland through incubation and acceleration' also recommended that Ireland promotes a flagship National Entrepreneurship Campus. This recommendation is reflected in the Programme for Government commitment to consider the development of a national start-up hub for entrepreneurs to engage with all Government Departments and agencies, fast-track the start-up process and collaborate with fellow entrepreneurs.

3.6. InterTradeIreland

A total of €44 million will be provided to support the capital programmes of InterTradeIreland (ITI) over the period of the Department's Sectoral Plan. ITI, as a North-South Implementation body, plays a key role in promoting trade and business on an all-island and cross-border basis. ITI's capital programmes are focussed on supporting SMEs across the island of Ireland through a combination of funding, advisory services, and cross-border collaboration initiatives.

The concrete benefits of ITI supports are evidenced by the findings of the Q4 2025 All-Island Business Monitor Report which showed that despite external pressures such as global trade uncertainties and rising overhead costs, the majority of cross border businesses (55%) maintained a stable position in 2024, with 32% reporting growth.

The funding being provided through the Department's Sectoral Plan will ensure that ITI Intertrade can continue to build the business development value generated through its programmes, which reached €132 million in 2024 as well as allowing it to expand and enhance its supports to emerging sectors such as offshore wind and hydrogen.



4 Attracting and Sustaining Inward Investment - €1.29bn

As part of the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan, IDA Ireland will invest almost €1.29 billion in capital supports over the lifetime of the National Development Plan to attract and retain foreign direct investment (FDI) to support job creation and economic growth.

Over the period 2021 to 2024, IDA Ireland won 973 investments for Ireland, resulting in the creation of 76,790 new jobs. In 2025, IDA Ireland approved 323 new investments with associated future job creation of 15,300. Employment in IDA Ireland client companies reached 312,400, marking a fourth consecutive year at a level above 300,000, with regional employment at a record high of 169,967.

IDA Ireland clients have significant impact on the Irish economy and society. In 2024, total IDA Ireland client expenditure amounted to €40.7 billion (+4% on 2023), with spending of €11.6 billion on Irish services, €3.8 billion on Irish materials, and €25.4 billion on payroll. IDA clients invested €12.8 billion in capital expenditure, driven by the delivery of major projects of scale, particularly in Life Sciences and Technology.

Balanced regional development is a key enterprise policy objective and in 2025 IDA supported 183 new regional investments. IDA clients in regions employed more than 169,967 and these companies spend almost €19 billion annually in the Irish economy.

The objectives, targets and outcomes to be achieved by IDA over the period to 2029 and funded as of the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan are set out in its new strategy, *Adapt Intelligently: A Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Innovation*. IDA also have targets to upskill 40,000 people, deliver €7 billion in new RD&I projects and help client firms to create 75,000 new jobs.

The €1.29 billion being allocated to IDA will support investment in its grants, training and employment programmes. The IDA will also support clients in reducing their carbon emissions through the Environmental Aid Programme which it operates in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland. IDA will also continue to invest in innovation and digitalisation as well as supporting the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training and Digital Manufacturing Ireland. IDA will continue to support

specific projects under the Important Projects of European Common Interest Programme.

Regional development is central to the work of all the Department's enterprise and tourism development agencies. In this regard, regional development is a core pillar of the IDA 2025–2029 strategy, which includes the aim of securing 550 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects, from a total of 1,000 outside Dublin. The Department's Sectoral Capital Plan will ensure that IDA Ireland not only continues its focus on attracting new investments but also will be able to provide ongoing support to existing clients through support for research & development together with upskilling & talent development. This is all aimed at helping companies transition to more sustainable, digital business models. Such support is intended to improve efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and integrate companies more deeply into the local economy.

In the area of regional development, IDA will continue to provide property solutions to attract regional investments through its Regional Property Development Programme. This Sectoral Plan will also ensure that the IDA, through its Regional Property Programme, can continue to deliver suitable property and strategic sites which are a critical component of the regional value proposition and to the winning of investments into the regions. In this regard, the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan will invest over €500 million in IDA's regional property programme out to 2030. This will help to ensure that the IDA can deliver on its current programme of 23 projects across 21 locations in 8 regions, primarily manufacturing buildings.

One of IDA's significant new initiatives over the next 5 years will be the acquisition of next generation sites to attract the next generation of large scale FDI investments into Ireland. Further details of the specific IDA investments in the period out to 2030 are set out below.

4.1. Next Generation FDI Sites - €100 million

Foreign direct investment continues to be a significant contributor to our economy. The investments made by the Department in conjunction with its enterprise agencies has been very successful in continuing to attract FDI to Ireland. A measure of this success is that more than 312,000 people are employed by clients of the IDA.

Recent geopolitical developments have significantly increased the competition for FDI. The Programme for Government, Silicon Island and the recent Competitiveness and Productivity Action Plan have recognised the need for a step change in our FDI offering in order to mitigate the risk of losing out on high-value, employment-rich projects in future-focussed sectors.

The development of Next Generation Sites is essential for Ireland to remain competitive in attracting large-scale, high-value manufacturing FDI such as major semiconductor and biopharma investments. The Department, through its Sectoral Capital Plan, will invest €100 million in funding to support the delivery of two Next Generation Sites (500 – 1,000 acres plus) over the next 5 years.

Enhancing our FDI offering through the availability of these Next Generation Sites will demonstrate to investors wishing to establish sizeable operations that Ireland can meet their requirements. It will send a strong and positive signal of our determination and ambition to compete for the next wave of international investment.

The investment in these sites will yield significant returns for the exchequer in terms of site rental and/or sale, as well as generating quality and skilled employment opportunities, high salaries, and contributing significantly by way of Corporation Tax, PAYE, PRSI receipts etc. The Department is amending

the IDA's legislation to allow it to partner on property development, ensuring flexibility in funding models. This Next Generation Site approach will be "plan-led", streamlining development and reducing planning risks and provide pre-permitted, utility-intensive sites, enabling swift development and certainty for investors. Each site will be developed in stages, over a number of years, to facilitate incremental investment in the necessary infrastructure.

Funding for land acquisition for the first two sites – planned for the West and East of the country – is coming from the Department's capital allocation under the revised National Development Plan and over the 2026/2030 period.

A third site is planned for the South in future years. Each Next Generation Site development will be undertaken in consultation with Local Authorities with sites of either 1,000 or 500-600 acres and IDA Ireland will engage with relevant local authorities throughout the process.

The sectors targeted by Next Generation Site will provide quality and skilled employment, paying high salaries, thereby contributing handsomely to our Corporation Tax, PAYE and PRSI receipts. Additionally, further returns on this investment will come from site rental or sale. At a local level, Irish-owned enterprises will benefit from site development opportunities as well as ongoing sub-supply to, and spin-outs from, the large-scale FDI envisaged, as has been confirmed in many studies of past FDI gains, including through our recent mapping of the semiconductor sector in our new National Semiconductor Strategy - Silicon Island.

Next Generation Site will demonstrate that Ireland has suitable locations ready for establishing a new large-scale operation to compete for the next wave of international investment.



4.2. Regional Property Programme - €500 million

In the area of regional development, IDA will continue to provide property solutions to attract regional investments through its Regional Property Development Programme. This Sectoral Capital Plan will ensure that the IDA, through its Regional Property Programme, can continue to deliver suitable property and strategic sites which are a critical component of the regional value proposition and to the winning of investments into the regions.

In this regard, the DETE Sectoral Plan will invest over €500 million in IDA's regional property programme out to 2030. This will help to ensure that the IDA can deliver on its current programme of 23 projects across 21 locations in 8 regions, primarily manufacturing buildings.

4.3. IDA's Grants Programme - €680 million

The investments made through the IDA's capital, employment and training grants programme are an integral part of Ireland's value proposition in attracting foreign direct investment and will continue to be so particularly given the reality that competition for this investment is most likely to continue to increase in the coming years.

The funding being provided through the National Development Plan will ensure that the IDA can deliver on its 2025-29 strategy, *Adapt Intelligently* which is central to safeguard and grow Ireland's existing FDI alongside a continued focus on winning new investment. The new strategy will build on IDA's

successes to date, supporting continued long-term investment through the transformation of the existing client base and leveraging new opportunities and sectors.

The strategy will ensure that IDA can also continue to provide ongoing support to existing clients to increase the competitiveness of their Irish operations. In this regard, IDA's grants programme is critical to supporting clients to increase the competitiveness of their Irish operations through investment in RDI, digitalisation, talent development and sustainability, and to the attraction of new investors to Ireland in an increasingly competitive environment.



5 Tourism Development and Promotion - €400m

The National Development Plan identifies tourism as a critical component of Ireland's economic and regional development strategy. It commits to sustained capital investment to enhance Ireland's attractiveness as a destination, strengthen regional economies and support job creation in the tourism sector. This investment is designed to improve infrastructure, develop cultural and heritage assets and enable sustainable tourism growth aligned with climate objectives and balanced regional development.

The Department's Statement of Strategy reinforces this ambition by formally incorporating tourism policy into its remit as per the Programme for Government. The Strategy highlights tourism as a key economic driver and employer, particularly in rural and regional areas, and commits to leveraging investment to deliver high-quality visitor experiences, support indigenous enterprises and drive job creation across the country. It positions tourism alongside enterprise and innovation as central to Ireland's competitiveness and prosperity, with a focus on sustainability, digitalisation and resilience.

Together, these frameworks underpin the planned €400 million investment in Tourism Programmes between 2026 and 2030, ensuring that Ireland

remains a leading destination for visitors while supporting vibrant local economies and employment opportunities.

The investment will be targeted at supporting the sustainable development of the tourism sector particularly as regards enhancing our tourism assets, improving existing attractions and activity infrastructure, delivering bespoke experiences for the visitor and showcasing Ireland as a high-quality and accessible destination for both national and international visitors. The investment will also be key to delivering on the Tourism related commitments in the Action Plan on Market Diversification, the Programme for Government and the Tourism Policy Framework.

5.1. Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund - €77 million

The Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund is key to supporting Tourism Ireland in its efforts to boost overseas tourism to Ireland and realise the ambitions for growth in the Tourism Policy, supporting jobs, benefitting businesses and communities and the economy.

The €77 million being provided to the Marketing Fund over the next 5 years includes funding from the Shared Island Fund, which may increase, and will allow for continued collaboration between the three tourism agencies, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland on specific initiatives including the Brand Collaboration Project in the North West to connect the Causeway Coastal Route and the Wild Atlantic Way and four projects under the Shared Destinations Programme that will develop sustainable tourism across the border region in such a way that the visitor is motivated to stay longer and spend more thereby bringing greater economic benefit to the region.

The Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund will also fund specific initiatives to grow and scale up investment in multiple content programmes/formats (travelogue/documentary/nature) and distribution across multiple markets/languages.

The funding will also be directed at activities in overseas markets in Mainland Europe, the USA and Canada and new and emerging markets that support Market Diversification. This includes a Strategic Air Access Programme to maximise the opportunities presented by new direct routes to Ireland from both established and new markets where there is export or inbound tourism potential.

Specific funding will also be invested in screen tourism innovation to promote large scale screen tourism production that showcase Ireland, e.g., Game of Thrones Version 3.0 as well as maximising the power of AI to optimise the consumer journey and to provide a platform to apply AI to marketing and communications.

5.2. Tourism Product Development - €200 million

The Tourism Product Development programme essentially funds infrastructure investment, and strategic support for sustainable tourism growth through discrete projects which are aimed at creating high-quality visitor experiences, enhancing attractions, promoting food tourism, and developing destination towns, with a particular focus on sustainability and long-term economic and environmental contribution.

Investment through the Product Development Programme in recent years has focussed on the development of discrete types of tourism infrastructure, visitor attractions and activities including investments in large scale attractions (e.g., Westport House, Mayo), Water sports facilities (e.g., Fenit, Kerry), Gala Dinner Venues (e.g., New/ expanded gala dinner venues such as Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick) and strategic Partnerships (e.g., Dublin Castle Visitor Experience).

The funding secured in the National Development Plan will enable Fáilte Ireland to continue to deliver on sound capital investment projects that will strengthen Ireland's tourism offering and play its part in delivering a tourism sector that is economically resilient and regionally dispersed.

The Product Development Programme will also focus on expanding Ireland's tourism offering by developing the tourism potential of lands in state ownership; this is currently undertaken through strategic investment partnerships with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Office of Public Works, Waterways Ireland and Coillte as well as specific investment projects with Bord Na Mona. This is an important element of product development, and it is expected that further investment in collaboration with these bodies will continue over the next decade.

The funding being provided under the Sectoral Capital Plan will also be focused on improving business efficiency and productivity through digitisation and spreading the economic benefits of tourism to less mature regions.

Transforming the Competitiveness of Tourism SMEs through Digital Technology

Digital that Delivers is Fáilte Ireland's flagship digital transformation programme for tourism SMEs running from 2021 – 2026. It is designed to enhance the digital capabilities of tourism SMEs including visitor attractions, activity providers, day tours, tourism-focused festivals and tourism-focused golf clubs across Ireland. The programme supports businesses through structured digital maturity assessments, tailored digital roadmaps, and capital grant funding to implement digital solutions that improve online presence, customer experience, and operational efficiency.

To date, up to 600 tourism SMEs have participated in the programme, benefitting from a total investment of €14.6 million in grant funding. Businesses that have completed the initiative are reporting revenue growth of 10–15%. The programme is projected to deliver a return on investment of 9:1 return from 2021 to 2031, with each euro invested expected to generate €9 in economic activity and €2 in tax revenue.



5.3. Shared Island Tourism Initiatives

The Department's Sectoral Capital Plan is also predicated on the expectation of funding continuing to be allocated from the Shared Island Fund (SIF) to support discrete SIF capital programmes under the Department's Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund and through SIF projects supported by ITI.

In terms of the Overseas Tourism Marketing Fund, the Shared Island element of that Fund will be targeted at promoting all-island cooperation on tourism through the North South Ministerial Council and north south alignment project delivered through Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland.





6

Enterprise Innovation and Commercialisation - €1.33bn

As the foundation for Ireland's long-term economic resilience, the NDP prioritises investment in enterprise, innovation and digital capability. It recognises that future competitiveness depends on accelerating the green and digital transitions, supporting indigenous businesses to scale and foster research and commercialisation. Department will complement this investment by outlining policy actions to enable enterprise growth, champion innovation and embed digital transformation across all sectors. This Department positions digitalisation as a core driver of productivity and competitiveness, while also emphasising sustainability and inclusivity. Again, the National Development Plan sets out the capital investment framework while the Statement of Strategy provides the operational roadmap, creating a coherent approach to building a high-value, innovation-led economy that supports quality jobs and positions Ireland as a leader in the digital age.

This strategic approach is reflected in the allocation of €1.329 billion under the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan for enterprise, innovation and commercialisation programmes for the period 2026–2030, ensuring that Ireland's enterprise ecosystem is equipped for both global challenges and opportunities.

This funding will be targeted at supporting and promoting the Department's existing suite of enterprise-led innovation programmes, expanding on a number of those Programmes as well as implementing several new innovation priority actions. The Innovation and Commercialisation programmes and actions that will be funded under the Department's Sectoral Plan include:

6.1. Enterprise Ireland Technology Centres - €190 million

The Technology Centres Programme, funded under the Department's Vote and operated by Enterprise Ireland, is a key catalyst in enabling indigenous Irish industry to benefit from the expertise and facilities of the regional institutes of technology, assisting them in adopting competitive new and improved technologies.

A total of €190 million will be invested in scaling up the Technology Centres Programme over the next 5 years. This scaling of Technology Centres reflects the Government's commitment to enhancing competitiveness and was identified as a priority action in the recently published Action Plan on Competitiveness & Productivity.

Specifically, the enhanced investment will enable the significant scaling of IMR (Advanced Manufacturing) and CeADAR (Artificial Intelligence), ensuring companies have access to advanced expertise, demonstrators, testbeds and strategic roadmaps in Industry 4.0, AI, robotics, and sustainability. This will boost research and innovation uptake among indigenous and FDI companies, foster sectoral collaboration, and accelerate the commercialisation of research; resulting in more prototypes, pilots, and industry-led innovations.

This investment is central to Enterprise Ireland's strategy to deliver 10,000 enterprise engagements with Irish businesses through the Technology Centres. It will help Irish companies lead in technological innovation, remain globally competitive, and drive sustainable growth and employment.



6.2. European Space Agency - €170 million

Ireland's participation in the European Space Agency Programme is a key element of the National Space Strategy for Enterprise, which is focussed on strategically investing in space, harnessing new opportunities, supporting the development of a highly skilled and adaptable workforce together with encouraging awareness of space among the public and private sector. Through our participation in the ESA Programme, Irish companies have been successful in securing contracts commensurate to the value of our national investment in the programme. This has enabled Irish companies to develop and enhance their competency in relevant space systems and to exploit the potential of space innovation to other sectors, which in turn has yielded positive returns in terms of the growth of those companies and increased employment by them.

A total of €170 million will be invested in the European Space Agency (ESA) Programme over the lifetime of the National Development Plan. This will ensure that Ireland not only meets its obligations as regards the mandatory contribution required to partake in the ESA Programme but will also enable Irish companies to partake in a significant number

of ESA optional programmes. Optional programmes allow targeted investment in areas aligned with national capabilities and industrial strengths, support co-funded projects and open access to commercial space markets and cross-sector technology transfer. This additional funding is therefore essential to ensure Ireland can continue to participate in these high-impact programmes.

Ireland's engagement with the ESA has delivered strong enterprise outcomes, with the number of Irish-based companies securing ESA contracts increasing from 20 in 2010 to 120 by Q1 2025. As these companies build space heritage and move up the value chain, national support must grow to meet both the needs of new entrants and the ambitions of established players.

From 2026 to 2030, increased investment will enable Ireland to focus on ESA programmes that align with industry priorities, including Earth Observation, Navigation Innovation and Support Programme, Communications and Secure Connectivity, and the General Support Technology Programme.



6.3. Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund - €196 million

The purpose of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) is to invest in the development and deployment of disruptive technologies and drive collaboration between Ireland's world-class industry and research base, based on existing challenges. DTIF supports enterprises wishing to engage in 'industrial research' and/or 'experimental development' for collaborative research to develop and deploy disruptive technologies on a commercial basis.

Funding of a further €196 million will be invested through the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) over the lifetime of the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan.

Investments under DTIF have been extremely successful, with a total of €491 million being allocated to support 124 projects to date. The support of the Fund is highly valued by both industry and academia as it promotes collaboration, de-risks high impact research and supports national and EU innovation strategies, is leveraging private sector investment in RD&I and importantly encourages the transfer of research knowledge and expertise across sectors.

The fund targets high-impact sectors with strong potential for transformation, including:

- ICT (AI, quantum computing, advanced software)
- Health and life sciences (medical devices, biotech)
- Energy, climate, and sustainability (decarbonisation, renewables, circular economy)
- Advanced manufacturing and materials (smart production, new composites)
- Food technologies and business services, where disruptive innovation drives efficiency and competitiveness.

Over the next five years, DTIF funding will support a new Call, complete existing project commitments, and cover any remaining successful proposals that emerge from Call 7. This continued investment will stimulate high-value research and innovation activity, create quality jobs, and accelerate the commercialisation of cutting-edge research—enhancing Ireland's global competitiveness.





Driving Disruptive Innovation in Drug Discovery Hooke Bio's High-Throughput Screening Platform



Hooke Bio Ltd, in collaboration with Munster Technological University and University of Galway, developed an end-to-end high throughput drug screening platform using patented microfluidic and 3D cell culture technology. The goal was to reduce drug development costs, improve accuracy and minimize animal testing.

Funding

- €1.9 million from the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)
- Additional €12 million from private, angel and public sources, including €5.7 million from the European Innovation Council Accelerator.

The Mera project has significantly advanced drug discovery by introducing a high throughput screening platform that reduces preclinical development costs by up to €120 million and minimises reliance on animal testing. It has created highly skilled jobs in regional areas and strengthened Ireland's position as a global innovation leader in pharmaceutical technology. The project successfully delivered a validated system capable of generating physiologically relevant data using 3D micro-tissue models, improving the accuracy of preclinical testing and increasing the success rate of drug candidates entering clinical trials. This innovation positions Hooke Bio to compete internationally in toxicology screening and personalised medicine, while enabling scalable applications across multiple tissue types and environmental compound testing.



Transforming Advanced Therapeutics Cellix's Gene Transfection and Cell Analysis Platform (GTCSP)



Cellix Ltd, in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and University of Galway, developed a disruptive microfluidic-based platform for cell analysis, sorting, and gene transfection. The project aimed to create a fully automated, closed-loop system for cell manufacturing in gene therapies, moving away from viral transduction methods toward safer, non-viral transfection techniques.

Funding

- €3.0 million from the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)
- Additional support through prefinance and clean room facilities at NUIG-REMEDI.

The GTCASP project has advanced the development of gene and cell therapies by delivering a modular platform that enables precise cell analysis, sorting, and non-viral gene transfection, addressing major bottlenecks in manufacturing processes. This innovation reduces reliance on viral methods, improving patient safety and supporting the adoption of CRISPR and large gene edits. The project created highly skilled jobs, strengthened Ireland's position in advanced therapeutics, and resulted in a patent filing for transfection status determination. Positive feedback from pharma and biotech customers confirms its potential to streamline workflows and accelerate commercialisation, paving the way for breakthroughs in treatments for serious illnesses and expanding applications across multiple sectors.

6.4. New Important Projects of European Common Interest - €120m

The Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity highlights the importance of enabling Irish-based firms to participate in Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI), across key strategic sectors as a means of strengthening Ireland's and Europe's capacity and capability in frontier technologies as well as building value chains to secure Ireland's competitiveness in strategic sectors.

The Plan acknowledges that IPCEIs are key instruments within the EU industrial policy toolbox for spearheading increased competitiveness of the EU. Use of the IPCEI instrument for driving innovation, enhancing competitiveness and connecting the regions of the EU by tackling grand infrastructure challenges is set to increase and this is already evidenced by the recent establishment of several EU expert working groups to develop new IPCEIs in strategic sectors such as AI, Advanced Semiconductor Technologies and Biotechnologies.

For Ireland, investment in IPCEIs in key strategic sectors for Ireland offers huge market opportunities for the industries of tomorrow, creating new, well-paid and secure jobs. Ireland has enormous potential: the skills, the people, the highly innovative companies from small firms to large multinationals and strong research institutions enabling us to engage in significant collaborative research projects such as IPCEIs and take a leading role in developing these key technologies.

The Action Plan on Competitiveness acknowledged that Ireland's current level of participation in the IPCEI programme is not at the level required to ensure our industrial base is fully engaged and investing in beyond state-of-the-art innovation that can keep up with other EU Member States. In this regard Ireland's only participation so far in the IPECI programme has been through its investment in the Microelectronics Communication Technology IPECI where Ireland is contributing €85 million over 5 years, through the IDA Ireland Grants to Industry programme, with at least €545 million being invested by the company.

The additional €120 million being allocated to the IPCEI programme over the lifetime of the National Development Plan will ensure that Ireland can increase its level of participation in IPCEI projects in strategically important sectors such as AI and Advanced Semiconductor Technologies and thereby deliver on the specific commitments in both the Programme for Government and in the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity.



7

Supporting Enterprise Decarbonisation - €300m

The funding secured through the National Development Plan is allowing the Department and its agencies to invest in the region of €300 million up to 2030 to support industry to decarbonise.

Ireland's largest industrial emitters are primarily in the cement, alumina, food & beverage, pharmaceutical and chemicals sectors. These companies are extremely important to the Irish economy. Under the Climate Action Plan, the Government has committed to reducing emissions by 51% across all sectors of the economy by 2030, compared to 2018 levels and to become net zero by 2050. Under the agreed Sectoral Emissions Ceiling (SECs), the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment has responsibility to reduce industrial on-site emissions in the manufacturing sectors by 20% by 2025 and by 35% by 2030, relative to 2018 levels.

The €300 million in funding committed to in the Department's Sectoral Capital Plan is being used by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland to support investment in energy efficiency and to promote the uptake of energy from renewable sources. In this regard, Enterprise Ireland and IDA have already approved support to 30 investments to a value of €1.2 billion, with an associated annual emissions savings of over 146,000 TCO2e following completion. These investments are spread across several manufacturing sectors, including cement, food & beverage, pharmaceutical and chemicals sectors and are being matched by considerable private investment.



Kilkenny Cheese Ltd – Cutting Carbon to Power Ireland's Industrial Climate Goals



Kilkenny Cheese Ltd, a €200 million joint venture between Tirlán and Royal A-ware, operates one of Europe's most advanced continental cheese production facilities at Belview. Processing 450 million litres of milk annually from over 4,500 farm families, the plant produces 50,000 tonnes of cheese for export.

Supported by Environmental Aid, the project implemented

- CHP Energy Generation for efficient heat and power.
- Photovoltaic Cells to harness renewable energy.
- Low-Carbon Modular Construction to reduce embodied emissions.

Impact

- CO₂ Reduction: Over 10,000 tonnes annually.
- Water Savings: 380,000 m³ per year.
- Energy Efficiency: 2.34 GWh less grid electricity demand.
- Jobs: 95 direct roles and 400 construction jobs.
- Economic Benefit: Increased export capacity and reduced seasonal milk bottlenecks.

This investment exemplifies how targeted environmental aid supports Ireland's Climate Action Plan by delivering significant emissions reductions, resource efficiency and economic growth in the food sector.





