

Northern Ireland - A world leading cyber hub

Northern Ireland has become a global cyber security hub, with specialist university research centres, innovative start-ups delivering global cyber security solutions and an impressive cluster of international cyber security investors - which is why it is the **#1 international investment location for US cyber security firms**¹.

According to the UK Cyber Security Sectoral Analysis², Northern Ireland is a hotspot for cyber security firms, which includes leading international companies such as Proofpoint, IBM Security, Rapid7, Imperva, Microsoft, Nvidia and Synopsys. It is also home to a range of leading international growth companies such as Anomali, Contrast Security and Cygiant.

In addition to cyber security product development companies, Northern Ireland has also become an international investment location for US cybersecurity services projects, such as Allstate, CME and Citi who have invested in cyber security operations in Belfast. US insurance firm Aflac has opened its Global IT & Cyber Security Innovation Centre in Belfast.

Other global players such as PwC, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, BDO, and BT all have significant cyber security operations in the region and have developed a range of solutions directly serviced from Northern Ireland.

The ecosystem in Northern Ireland also includes innovative locally grown firms, including SaltDNA, Uleska, B-Secur, Metacompliance, Titan IC (who were recently acquired by Mellanox Technologies / Nvidia), Skurio, Ampliphæ, Seven Technologies and Liopa. Companies in the region deliver expertise on advanced persistent threats to national security, government, health, automotive, critical infrastructure, capital markets, legal, e-commerce, e-learning and child safety online.

The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queen's University Belfast is a global flagship centre for cyber security. As a renowned global hub, CSIT's meteoric rise as the UK's Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) for cyber security has seen it develop into both a partner of choice for big-name multinationals and a dynamic motor of local growth. CSIT is recognised by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACE-CSR).

Did you know?

- The London Office for Rapid Cybersecurity Advancement (LORCA) is delivered in partnership with Deloitte's cyber team and the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queen's University Belfast.
- RISE – A New UK Hardware Security Institute at CSIT is one of four cyber security institutes in the UK and will be a global hub for research and innovation in hardware security.
- NI Cyber, the Northern Ireland Cyber Security Cluster, promotes international business, innovation and collaboration opportunities. The cluster includes a diverse range of sectors including finance, banking, insurance, legal, telecoms, threat intelligence, defence, security and healthcare. For more about the cluster, visit nicyber.tech
- Excellent academic and vocational training is delivered by two world-class universities, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and an extensive network of further education colleges.
- Cyber security skills programmes include: PhD in Cyber Security, MSc in Applied Cyber Security, Higher Level Apprenticeship in Cyber Security and Networking Infrastructure, Postgraduate Certificate in Cyber Security, and Pre-employment Assured Skills Programmes tailored for company needs.
- Belfast's dynamic tech networking scene includes: OWASP Belfast, the largest chapter on the island of Ireland, regular Tech Meet Ups, Incubation Space and Hackathons.

¹ fDi Markets FT 2020

² UK Cyber Security Sectoral Analysis 2020, Research report for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Entrepreneurial & International Cyber Hub

Imperva

The California-based hybrid security company opened a Belfast office in 2018 to support its European customer base. The announcement of 220 cyber security jobs is one of Northern Ireland's largest cyber security projects to date.

Rapid7

Boston based Rapid7 provides vulnerability management, compliance and penetration testing solutions for web application, network and database security. It established its software development centre in Northern Ireland in 2014, planning to hire 75 software engineers – this has grown to over 220 employees. Such is the success in Belfast that is the company's largest R&D centre globally.

WhiteHat Security

The California-based NTT subsidiary is a web security specialist and leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Application Security Testing. WhiteHat has established a Threat Research Centre (TRC) in Belfast which is supporting growth in Europe and beyond.

Proofpoint

Proofpoint provides cyber security and compliance solutions to protect people on every channel including email, the web, the cloud, social media and mobile messaging. Since the California-based company's acquisition of Northern Ireland start-up MailDistiller, Proofpoint has expanded its Belfast R&D and Operations Centre, supporting the company's customer base in EMEA.

BlackDuck by Synopsys

Organisations worldwide use BlackDuck to secure and manage open source software, eliminating problems related to open source security vulnerabilities and open source license compliance. Synopsys established its security research group in Belfast in 2016.

Microsoft

In 2020 Microsoft opened an 85 person cyber security centre in Northern Ireland to provide support to its largest enterprise customers across EMEA.

Nvidia / Mellanox Technologies

Prior to its acquisition by Nvidia, Mellanox's acquisition of Northern Ireland start-up Titan IC provided the company with a world-class team of technical expertise in cyber security. Based in Belfast, the R&D facility is now a centre for advanced network intelligence research and development.

Cygilant

Cybersecurity-as-a-Service provider Cygilant established its Global Security Operation Centre in Belfast in 2020. The Boston based company announced 65 jobs and selected Northern Ireland for its skilled talent pool, strong academic links and accessibility within Europe and to their home in the USA.

Salt DNA

Formed in Belfast in 2013, SaltDNA is an international leader in secure enterprise communications. The company provides a solution for encrypted communications between mobile devices with full, centralised control for the enterprise. Recognising that the market is awash with consumer communication solutions, Salt DNA identified that these solutions do not fit well within an enterprise's operating framework. Salt DNA's product provides secure voice, messaging, conference calling and image/file transfer.

Uleska

Uleska was founded in Belfast to address the inadequacies within software security and help businesses increase security coverage, with fewer resources and quicker than traditional security testing. Uleska has the world's first extensible DevSecOps Orchestration platform, featuring an API-first approach that fits into existing DevOps processes. A single pane of glass for software security.

MetaCompliance

MetaCompliance has developed an innovative cloud platform providing a solution for staff awareness and compliance. The platform provides customers with compliance capabilities including policy management, simulated phishing, incident management, GDPR and eLearning. It enables cyber and compliance professionals to easily track implementation progress and demonstrate ongoing accountability.

Ampliphæe

Ampliphæe is an easy-to-deploy, sophisticated and affordable cloud discovery, security and compliance platform. Quickly find all the SaaS applications in use within your organisation, minimise data-compliance risks and apply policy-defined governance to SaaS applications to ensure that your compliance and security policies are rigorously and automatically enforced.

Skurio

Skurio is an innovative digital risk protection platform that automates searching the surface, deep and dark web for critical business data and potential threats. The company enables customers to protect themselves from risks and threats to their revenue, reputation and regulatory compliance by monitoring for their data appearing outside their network.

B-Secur

B-Secur aims to make an individual's unique heartbeat the connection between their devices and them. It specialises in heartbeat (ECG) algorithms to quickly and securely identify an individual, as well as providing health and wellness metrics.

The 'go to' location for cyber security

EXCEPTIONAL TALENT

97.2%

Northern Ireland performs above the UK Average in Computing A-Level with 97.2% of NI students awarded A* - E Grade against the UK average of 94.7%.

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications - GCE A Level Results August 2019



COST EFFECTIVE

30%

Operating costs are up to 30% lower than other locations in the UK and Europe.

£

Belfast has been identified as one of the most cost effective cities in Western Europe for expats to live.

R&D

For every £1 spent on R&D, the real cost to company can be 43p.



TOP TECH CITY

TechNation reported that Belfast is now one of the best cities in the UK to work in technology - and the best place to come to work as a software developer. (TechNation Report, June 2019)

Belfast recently ranked 2nd in the UK (behind London) and 9th overall in the Top 25 Tech Cities of the Future 2020/21. (Global Outlook Tech Cities of the Future 2020/21)



For more about the sector, visit nicyber.tech

InvestNI.com

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.

