Northern Ireland is the #1 international investment location for US cyber security development projects*. It is now home to an impressive cluster of international companies, world renowned university research and innovative start-ups delivering global cyber security solutions. Companies in Northern Ireland have built upon expertise in advanced persistent threats to national security, critical infrastructure networks, capital markets and web applications.

The region’s global success can be attributed to a blend of world class talent, leading forensic science expertise, tech research excellence and highly competitive costs including attractive R&D incentives. Northern Ireland’s cyber start-up and SME tech community is thriving due to harnessing talent through incubation, a highly developed entrepreneurial ecosystem, and a vibrant networking scene.

US tech companies have been attracted to Northern Ireland by the hard-to-find skillsets being nurtured at the region’s two universities Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU), as well as dedicated cyber courses at our local colleges. We have the highest percentage of qualified IT professionals in the UK and Ireland, with more than 70 per cent holding a degree level qualification.

Masters and PhD courses in cyber technology are offered by our universities and companies such as Imperva, Signifyd, Black Duck (by Synopsis), Rapid 7, Proofpoint, Alert Logic, Anomali and Whitehat Security are among the international cyber investors, attracted by the strong pool of talent.

Did you know?

- The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at QUB is the UK’s Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) for cyber security, and the UK’s largest cyber security focused university technology research, development and innovation centre.
- 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.
- The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has a dedicated Cyber Crime Centre, led by Detectives who have developed strong professional technical and forensic capability.
- Financial services firms including Allstate, CME and Citi have invested in cyber security operations in Belfast. Global players such as PwC, Deloitte, Ernst & Young and BDO all have significant operations in the region and have developed a range of cyber security solutions directly serviced from Northern Ireland.
- 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.
- 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.

*FT fDi Intelligence 2018
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 Northern Ireland’s largest cyber security investment project to date.

**Signifyd** established a new R&D centre in NI in response to their fast-growing European customer base. Its Belfast centre will be a premier technology hub and will be a key driver of the company’s continuing innovation around the world and an incubator for e-commerce solutions that will help retailers provide friction-free buying experiences.

**Black Duck by Synopsis** Organisations worldwide use Black Duck products to secure and manage open source software, eliminating problems related to open source security vulnerabilities and open source license compliance.

**Proofpoint** Since its acquisition of Belfast start-up MailDistiller, Proofpoint has expanded its Belfast R&D and Operations Centre for Proofpoint Essentials, supporting the company’s customer base in EMEA.

**WhiteHat** The California-based web security specialist is a leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Application Security Testing, combining technology with the expertise of its world leading Threat Research Centre (TRC). WhiteHat’s Belfast TRC is supporting growth in Europe and beyond.

**Rapid7** Boston-based Rapid7 provides vulnerability management, compliance and penetration testing solutions for web application, network and database security. It is trusted by over 7,100 organisations in 120+ countries. The development centre opened in Belfast in 2014 to design, build, test and release both on-premise software and cloud-based services.

**RepKnight** is a UK cyber security company with a difference—the team at RepKnight think you should look after your data, not just your network. Its BreachAlert web application continuously monitors millions of Dark Web, dump and paste sites, watching for your data being posted online, and alerting you in real-time by email, SMS, HipChat or Slack if anything is found.

**Cyphra** is a specialist cyber security business with extensive experience in delivering services and technical solutions for a wide range of public sector, finance and private sector clients. Cyphra helps structure and implement strategic cyber security programs for businesses or enhances existing tactical projects by providing the appropriate knowledge and expertise.

**Ampliphae** 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.

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

**TitanIC** is a world-leading supplier of hardware engines for content and network processing having developed a highly-sophisticated regular expression engine to detect strings, malware and viruses in high-speed network data. Built around a highly-skilled team of leading engineers and academics, the company is located in Belfast’s Titanic Quarter which is fast becoming the cyber security hub for Europe.

**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 & wellness metrics.

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**The ‘go to’ location for cyber security**

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<th>EXCELLENT TALENT</th>
<th>COST EFFECTIVE</th>
<th>PARTNERSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>84% Of NI students achieved the top three grades in A-Level exams (77% in UK).</td>
<td>20-30% Operating costs lower than in the rest of the UK and Europe.</td>
<td>Bespoke government support packages combine practical advice and financial assistance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% Of IT professionals hold degree level qualification (62% in UK).</td>
<td>40% Reduction in typical salaries compared to London. 30% reduction compared to Dublin.</td>
<td>• Support for skills development and R&amp;D</td>
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<td>4,300 Graduates in business and technology including over 1,100 postgraduates.</td>
<td>R&amp;D The effective cost of every £1 spent on R&amp;D can be as little as 50p.</td>
<td>• Location selection intelligence</td>
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<td>• Property search and selection</td>
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<td>• Business modelling &amp; investment support</td>
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<td>• Start-up incentives &amp; infrastructure</td>
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**For more about the sector, visit nicyber.tech**

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**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.