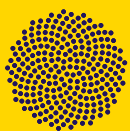


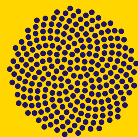
Ireland Where Digital Health Thrives



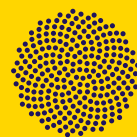
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Bringing investment to Ireland

Rachel Shelly, Department Head for Medical Technologies and Healthcare Services for IDA Ireland, talks about the digital health and why Ireland is the perfect place to support growth in this space.



IDA Ireland is the inward investment promotion agency which works with multinational companies to establish operations around Ireland. It also helps these companies grow and transform their operations once established.

Rachel says the IDA work with around 1,500 companies, across the spectrum of business. These companies range from life sciences such as medtech and biopharma companies, to engineering, financial services, technology and digital services.

Rachel, who heads up the department for medical technologies and healthcare services, says that foreign investment in the medtech industry in Ireland and the depth and breadth of the technology cluster means greater opportunities for convergence with life sciences and an ideal environment for innovations in strategic areas such as digital health.

Investment in Ireland

Rachel says that with Ireland's proven track record in medtech and technology, access to a talented workforce and highly connected industry and academic ecosystem, it is a key destination for global companies.

"Ireland is able to entice major companies because there is an ecosystem here like no other," says Rachel. "We have 9 of the top 10 medtech companies in the world located here. Nine of the top 10 technology companies and 17 of the top 20 software companies are all thriving here too. We have an incredibly diverse and talented workforce and universities are generating high calibre graduates every year.

"Ireland has this huge cluster of capability, skills, from device production, to software engineering within a supportive well regarded regulatory environment which is critical in this sector. There is a vibrant ecosystem for international and indigenous companies in the life sciences to evolve and develop their operations."

As Ireland is a small country, this can be seen as an advantage rather than a drawback. Companies and suppliers can be physically located close to each other and to internationally well-regarded universities, research centres and 3rd level institutions.

"I think we are very unique as a location in this respect. In addition, there are attractive supports provided in Ireland such as the 25% research and development (R&D) tax credit, and grants which helps to incentivise innovation in business.

And of course, support from the enterprise agencies such as IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland."

Rachel says that IDA Ireland provides assistance to companies, partnering with them from the start and helping them to set up quickly and successfully. IDA then provides ongoing assistance to companies to help them evolve and grow their operations. "Many companies have completely transformed their activities over time from pure manufacturing operations to include product/process innovation centres of excellence, and increasingly adding Global Business Services activities".

"There are many companies such as Medtronic, Stryker and Cook Medical with customer innovation centres here focused on next generation products and solutions. Other companies like BD, DePuy Synthes and Boston Scientific have important research and development activities in Ireland supporting their global businesses. The connected health space is growing in Ireland, as more companies look to integrate new technologies with their devices, generate better data and enhance patient experiences to deliver a new wave of Medtech solutions.

Rachel adds, "All of these elements really speak to the fact that it's a great time for innovation, convergence and digital health in Ireland, and there is a great appetite within the Irish system to support companies on this journey. As long as companies continue to be ambitious and forward looking, there's no doubt Ireland will continue to be a global leader in the industry."

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