"We are established in Cork for just over 20 years and in that time, Pilz group has grown worldwide by 400%. Cork has benefited from a clear government economic plan, strong academic and research institutes and a cultural identity that supports business and trade globally. We're privileged in Cork to have customers and partners in the business community that support us. All together we thrive in what Cork provides as a location, where business can be conducted and there is a strong work-life balance."

John McAuliffe
Managing Director, Pilz Ireland and
Vice President, International Services Group at Pilz

"Our workforce is multi-talented and multi-skilled, we are bringing people from all over the world into Cork, they like the work-life balance and the opportunities that they have in Cork. What we have found here is a very talented, very motivated and hard-working workforce. We're seeing an acceleration of investment into the city, both domestic and international. Cork is on the up."

Donal Sullivan
VP and GM at Johnson Controls

Government agencies such as Enterprise Ireland (EI) and IDA Ireland (IDA) together with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Údarás na Gaeltachta, Bord Bia and Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's) play a leading role in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, investment, exports and jobs growth in Cork.

Agri-food

Business Services

Cybersecurity

Financial Services

Healthcare

ICT Systems

Life Sciences

Maritime

Software

Software

Innovation lives here.

We are Cork.

www.growin**Cork**.com

Software

One of Europe's most vibrant high-tech hubs, Cork is now globally recognised for its innovative software development. With global giants mixing with a host of ambitious start-ups, it's the perfect ecosystem for tech companies to thrive.

Global leaders

The legion of leading tech companies are a major reason for Ireland's reputation as a centre of software excellence (Ireland is the world's second largest software exporter). But, it's the mix of global giants and dynamic start-ups that makes Cork so special. Here Forcepoint, Apple, Trend Micro, VmWare, MacAfee, IBM, Dell EMC, Unity, Pilz Johnson Controls and Park Place Technologies combine with successful homegrown software companies, such as Seabrook.

Legacy and tradition

Cork's famous ethos of innovation was already evident in the mid-1800s when George Boole was the inaugural professor of Mathematics at what is now the **University College Cork (UCC)**. Boole invented Boolean algebra, the basis of the electronic structure of today's computers and the world's digital information.

Apple's European home

In 1980 Mr Steve Jobs was looking to set up a European base for a little-known start-up called **Apple**. He Chose Cork City as a hub of production and innovation. Today, the majority of **Apple's** 6,000 Irish employees are still based at Cork's Hollyhill campus. It remains **Apple's** European headquarters and hosts their only wholly-owned manufacturing facility in the world.

Homegrown heroes

Cork's record of encouraging innovation has helped propel many local firms to success. These include pioneers like **8 West**, an award-winning software development company which provides business and technology solutions to clients in the healthcare and retail sectors. **Poppulo** creates ground-breaking software, used in email marketing campaigns and works with world leading companies like **Johnson Controls**, **Rolls Royce**, **Nestlé** and **Experian**.

Start-up success

A new generation of local start-ups are infusing the sector with new energy. Firms like **KM Medical** who develop software solutions to improve the efficiency of hospitals, clinics and doctors. **Teamwork** creates software to help companies organise efficiently and get the best of out of their project management and communications. Their software is used by over 370,000 organisations including **Spotify**, **Disney** and **Netflix**. Another, **Zartis**, help companies build high-performance recruitment software and whose major clients include **Ryanair**, **Google** and **Facebook**.

Leading the way in automation software

Headquartered in Cork, **Pilz Ireland** Industrial Automation has been driving innovation in automation technology for over 20 years, supporting growth in the parent group Pilz GmbH & Co. KG. The company provides automation components, systems and services for the Industrial and other sectors. This world leader operates from a state-of-the-art campus in Cork. The latest, a €7.4m software development centre opened in 2018, firmly establishes their Cork HQ as a global centre of excellence in the field.

Pool of talent

It's a win-win situation. Cork's major software companies attract the finest talent. Highly-skilled professionals are drawn by a superb quality of life and exceptional employment opportunities. But these companies can also take advantage of the many talented students in every area of software development graduating from Cork's third-level education institutions. **University College Cork (UCC)** and **Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)** both collaborate closely with leading employers, tailoring specialised BSc and MSc level degrees in software related disciplines. The **Tyndall National Institute** offers state-of-the-art research facilities in this and other high-tech areas.

85% of tech workers who have relocated to the Cork region say their work/life balance has improved.

(Collins McNicholas, Cork Tech Talent Relocation Survey 2017).

Reaching for the top

The **Boole Centre** for Research in Informatics at **UCC** is leading the way in interdisciplinary research. The ambitious project brings together the expertise of the School of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics & Statistics and the Department of Computer Science to carry out interdisciplinary research under the banner of Informatics. This unique centre is driving **UCC**'s ambition to be at the cutting edge of mathematical sciences and computer science, attracting world-class researchers.

Nimbus, Ireland's leading research centre in Cyber-Physical Systems & Internet of Things, is located at CIT. With a multi-disciplinary ethos, the cluster has research groups in the areas of smart systems integration, adaptive wireless systems and augmented materials - a fantastic asset for software companies to utilise.

The future of innovation

An ambitious development is planned to further enhance Cork's reputation for innovation.

The **Cork Science and Innovation Park (CSIP)** at Curraheen will bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, academics and technology intensive enterprises. The aim of the facility, which would be the first of its kind in Ireland, is to link **UCC** and **CIT** with private science and tech businesses. The proposed Cork Docklands project also provides a significant future opportunity as a key synergistic down-town innovation district.

Cork's software sector also benefits from the presence of the **Governance Risk and Compliance Competence Centre (GR3C)**, which is hosted by Cork University Business School at **UCC**. With research fellows funded through the Career-FIT Enterprise Ireland initiative and IDA Ireland, the centre focuses on AI for risk & compliance in the financial services industry.

Also at **UCC**, The **Health Information Systems Research Centre (HISRC)** seeks to maximise the benefit of adopting information systems within community and hospital healthcare.

The **Health Innovation Hub** in Gateway which is supported by **Enterprise Ireland** also provides assistance and access for innovative SMEs and start-ups to clinical test bed in HSE hospitals.

Industry focused research

UCC and **CIT** are also partners in **Lero**, which brings together leading software research teams from Irish universities and Institutes of Technology, in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus. Lero's industry partners include BM, HP, Toyota, Oracle, Boston Scientific, Intel, Microsoft, Siemens and Motorola.

The **Tyndall National Institute** is a European-leading research centre in integrated **ICT** hardware and systems. Specialising in electronics and photonics, the **Tyndall Institute** is at the forefront in areas such as smart sensors and systems, optical communication systems, microelectronic & photonic integration, nano materials and device processing.

Collaborate to innovate

One reason Cork is one of the best-connected software clusters in Europe is the presence of **it@cork**. A membership technology cluster for the south west of Ireland, it facilitates collaboration between stakeholders in the tech sector, from IT professionals, academics and entrepreneurs to multi-nationals and government leaders. It also addresses current and future skills needs through subsidised training solutions and promotes innovation.

Coupled with access to world-class research and a pool of highly skilled graduates, it's no wonder Cork is a leader in software development.