

Science Foundation Ireland Snapshot



Our vision is to be a global leader in scientific and engineering research, discovery and innovation.

Our mission is to progress Ireland's society and economy by supporting the best scientific and engineering research, while building an awareness of the role, impact and opportunities science creates. We believe in the ability of STEM to effect positive change in the world and to drive a sustainable international economy.



About Science Foundation Ireland

Science Foundation Ireland is the national foundation for investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research.

Science Foundation Ireland funds basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to promote and assist the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland.

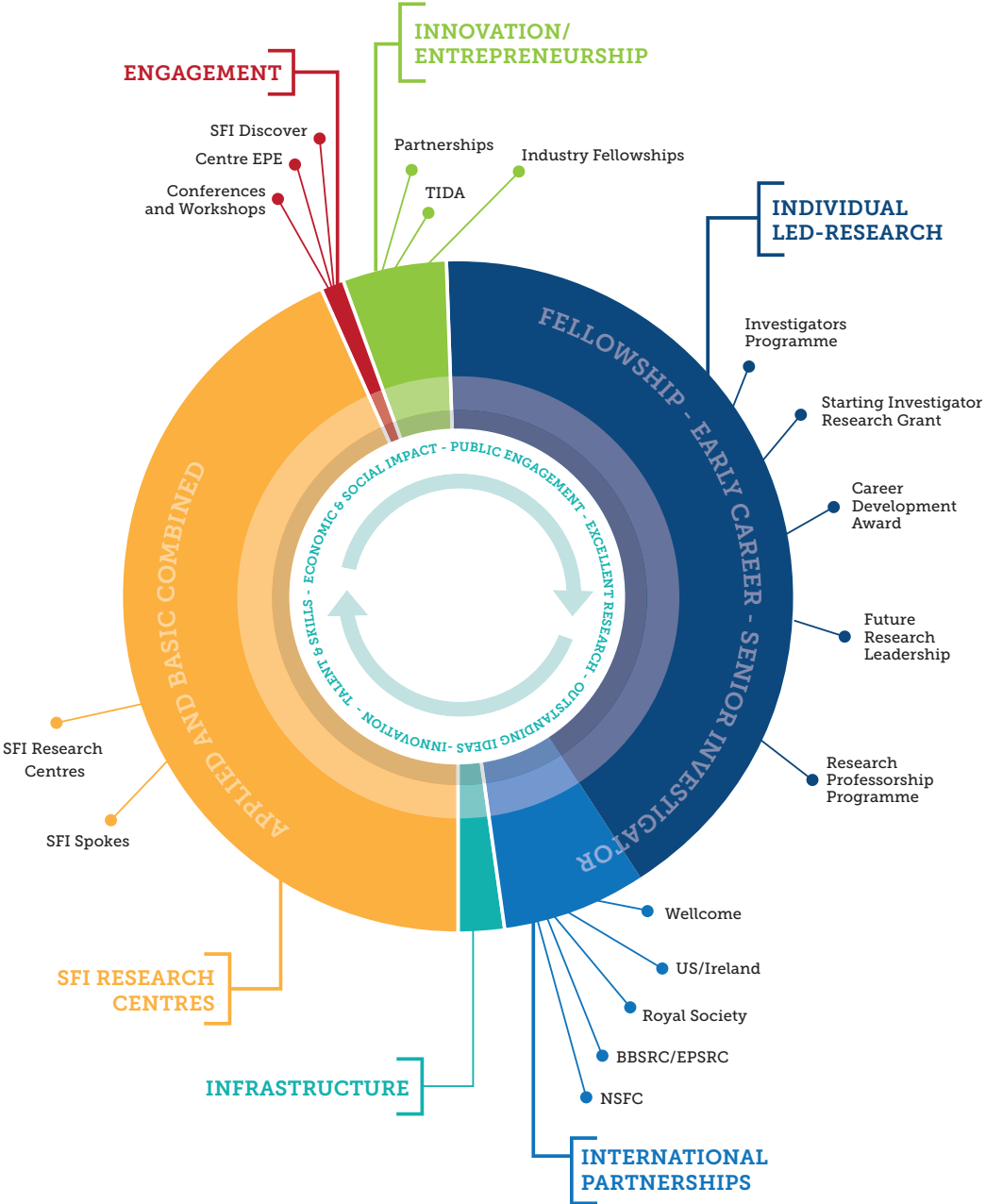
Over recent years, Science Foundation Ireland has transformed the funding of scientific research on a competitive basis in Ireland, supporting innovation and promoting collaboration, talent development, excellence and impact. This has significantly advanced Ireland's reputation for research and innovation internationally and is at the core of future-proofing our knowledge economy.

Science Foundation Ireland has been at the forefront of developing an environment that attracts and supports researchers of international standing, secures high levels of investment from industry and helps to sustain an environment in which the talent and skills agenda can flourish.

All awards are competitively assessed using independent international expert peer review. Science Foundation Ireland funds a diverse and balanced portfolio of programmes from supporting individual researchers across the career spectrum (from early-stage to established highly-esteemed research leaders), to supporting research teams in large-scale world-leading SFI Research Centres.

Science Foundation Ireland offers a range of funding programmes which support scientists and engineers to deliver research excellence as well as economic and societal impact. The majority of funding is committed to basic research projects – excellent research with impact – at Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 1 and 2.

Science Foundation Ireland Portfolio



SFI Driving Excellent Science

Ireland is **11th** in global scientific ranking

(from InCites by Clarivate Analytics)

Science Foundation Ireland-funded publications are **2.7** times more likely to be star publications* than average

*Star publications are publications in the top 1% most cited papers.

The Irish national average is 1.62%.
The SFI funding average is 2.67%
(based on citations by Clarivate Analytics).



Ireland is:

1st in the world for knowledge diffusion

2nd for knowledge impact

5th for business environment

5th for knowledge and technology outputs

6th for innovation efficiency

10th most innovative country

(Global Innovation Index 2017)

2,433 International collaborations



Science Foundation Ireland researchers were involved in **2,433** international collaborations in **66** countries

A total of **4,894** publications were reported in 2017 (17% increase)

40% are available in open access repository

Talent & Skills

4,524 people working on
SFI-supported research projects

Science Foundation Ireland
supported **1,451** postgraduate
students

29% of PhD and 30% of Postdocs
were employed by industry as
their first job

Number of female to male award
holders has increased to **28%**

1,169 international reviewers
from **623** institutions
in **40** countries took part in SFI merit
review processes

Education & Public Engagement

593 primary schools received SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Awards

Science Week reached **250,000+** people across Ireland

41 projects supported by the SFI Discover Programme (€4.4 million)

1,600 Smart Futures volunteers engaged 120,000+ students, providing STEM careers advice

Public engagement activities carried out by SFI-funded researchers increased **60%** in 2017

Innovation Driving Economic Impact

€173 million

spend across SFI programmes generates an additional

€116 million non-exchequer funding, which includes:

€70.4 million in EU funding



€32 million in business and enterprise funding

Over €10 million from other international funding sources

Winning in Europe

51

ERC awards have been secured by Irish-based researchers

31

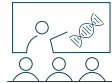
of these were won by SFI-awardees

SFI Research Centres have won approximately **€100 million** competitive H2020 funding, which equates to more than 50% of funding to Irish Higher Education Institutes.

787 conferences and workshops, with 10,933 international delegates

Projected local economic value to Ireland: **€13.8 million**

(up from €10.5 million in 2016)



32

SFI-funded researchers in **8 Institutes of Technology** are collaborators in SFI Research Centres



There are
23 active SFI awards
with the Institutes of Technology, with a value of **€7 million**

SFI award holders:



spun out 10 companies

(up from six in 2016)

↑ **+67%**

were granted 36 patents

(up from 22 in 2016)

↑ **+64%**

SFI Driving Regional Development



Science Foundation Ireland directly and indirectly supports

31,200

jobs in Ireland



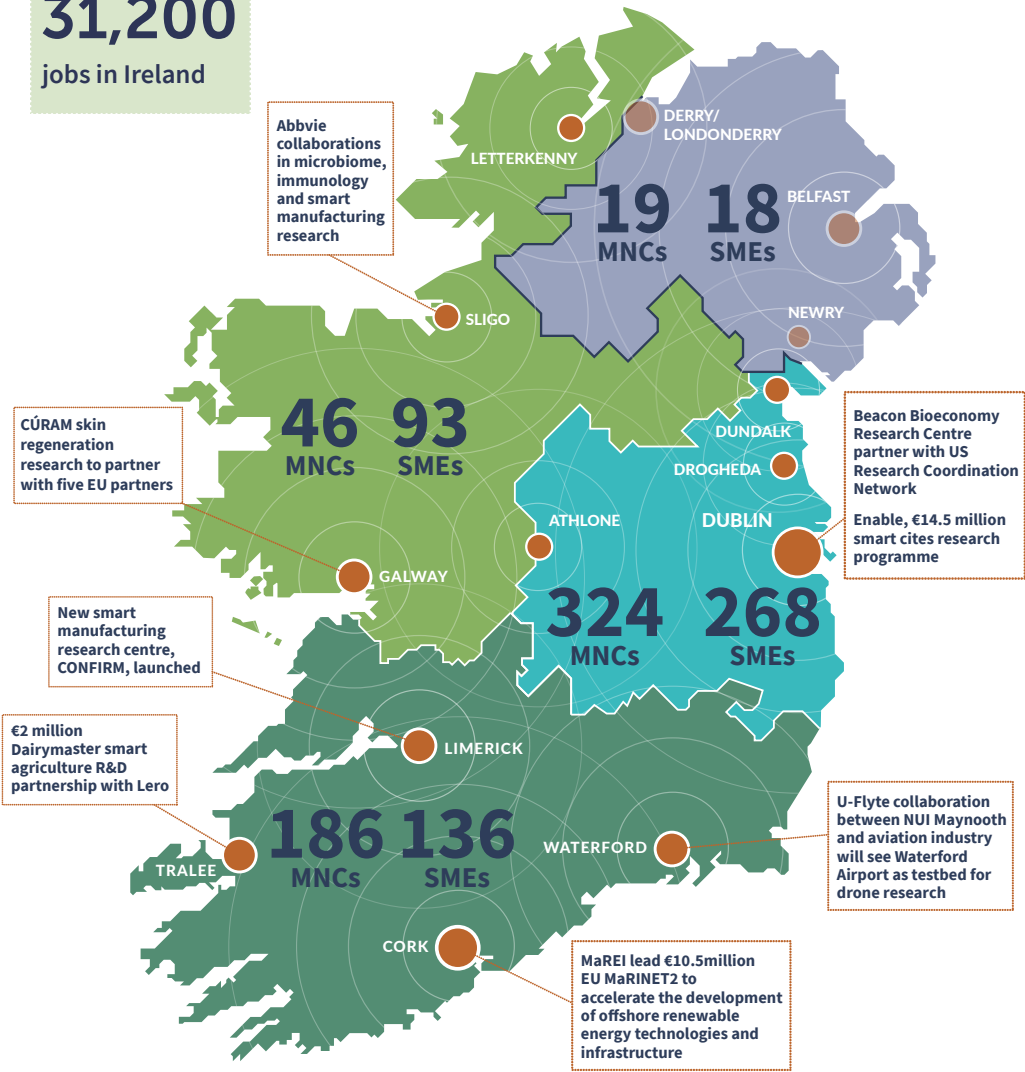
Industry Collaborations

1,521 industry collaborations supported

911 collaborations with **463** MNCs

610 collaborations with **464** SMEs

SFI-INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS



SFI Research Centres

World-Leading Centres of Scale, Excellence and Impact

**Excellent
Science**



**International
Engagement**

**Industry
Collaboration**



Skills

Software
Pharma
Nanotechnology
MEDICAL DEVICES
Geosciences
Digital Content
Additive and Smart Manufacturing
Neurological Diseases
Telecommunications
PERINATAL RESEARCH
Bioeconomy
Nano Materials
Functional Foods
PHOTONICS
Dairy
BIG DATA
Marine and Renewable Energy

SFI Research Centres

Excellent Science

5,443 
Journal Publications

3,347
Conference Publications

74
Coordination of Major EU Research Projects

23 
ERC Awards



Talent & Skills

587 
PhD Graduates

33% 
of trainee departures with industry as first destination

92 
MSc/MEng Graduates



Economic Impact

1,521 
Collaborations with industry

20
Spinout Companies

€173m 
Funding from non-exchequer sources

248
Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Awards

132
Licence Agreements

€42m
Cash Received from Industry

Partnerships

with international and national funders



What Science Foundation Ireland does:

- Makes **grants** to Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Ireland
- Based on competitive, international merit review for scientific **excellence** and **impact**
- Trains **people**
- Builds **infrastructure**
- Produces **scientific results** and technology (Research Output)
- Transfer of the **research output** to existing and new companies for **economic and societal impact**
- Supply of appropriately trained people along the entire **science and technology pipeline**
- **Significant industrial collaboration** attracting, anchoring and starting companies
- **Leverages** other research funding e.g. Industrial / EU / Charitable / Philanthropic / International
- Fosters high levels of **collaboration** between academia, industry, charity, disciplines, sectors, institutions, people and countries
- Operates in an **open, agile** and **engaged** mode with a willingness to **seize** new opportunities
- Engages the **public** to **grow scientific literacy** and citizenship

We believe in the ability of science, technology, engineering and maths to effect positive change in the world and drive a sustainable economy.

SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND

**#Believe
InScience**

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