KTI Knowledge Transfer Ireland

Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey

2024

Supported by Enterprise Ireland

In 2024

€880m
RPO research expenditure

1,363
R&D projects with companies live at 31st December 2024

79
New patent applications filed

30
New products and services launched

25
New spin-out companies

7
Acquisitions of spin-outs

2,098
Jobs in Active Spin-out companies

446
New invention disclosures

166
Active Spin-outs (3+ years post incorporation) at 31st December 2024

221
LOAs signed

2,270
New R&D and consultancy agreements with companies and non-commercial entities

Introduction

The Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey (AKTS) is published by KTI in conjunction with the Higher Education Authority (HEA). It provides a review of business engagement and commercialisation activity (knowledge transfer, KT) in the State funded research sector. Data are submitted to KTI by each Research Performing Organisation (RPO), coordinated by its Technology Transfer Office (TTO)/Innovation Office and include information from other departments such as the Research Office, the Finance Department and individual research departments.

More information about knowledge transfer, including case studies of business impacts, may be found on the KTI website at www.knowledgetransferireland.com.

KTI was established in 2014 by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment as a national initiative to maximise access to publicly funded research by companies and entrepreneurs and to help facilitate the commercialisation of that research to deliver impact. To that end, KTI has developed national frameworks and guidelines that standardise the system and make the process of engagement more straightforward. A single portal to research, expertise and how to engage, KTI also offers a broad suite of supporting materials and resources. These include directories and guides, a set of template legal agreements, a tool to find funding to support research and innovation, a comprehensive event calendar and more. KTI's resources are available to companies of all sizes and in all sectors.

The HEA leads the development of the higher education and research system with the objective of creating a coherent system of diverse institutions with distinct missions, which is responsive to the social, cultural and economic development of Ireland and its people and supports the achievement of national objectives.

Foreword

Marina Donohoe
Head of Research & Innovation,
Enterprise Ireland

By embedding research and innovation as core drivers of economic activity, Ireland is positioning itself as a leader in the global knowledge economy. Knowledge transfer plays a pivotal role in Ireland's economic development, acting as a bridge between academic research and industry innovation.

Enterprise Ireland (EI), Ireland's lead agency for Industrial Research and Innovation, plays a central role in advancing the country's national objectives in research and development. Within EI, Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) serves as the national office dedicated to facilitating the flow of expertise, technology, and intellectual property from publicly funded research institutions to industry. KTI's mission is to streamline the process for businesses to discover, connect with, and collaborate on innovative research, making it easier for companies to leverage Ireland's rich research landscape for commercial success.

Enterprise Ireland's investment in research and development (R&D) helps Irish companies grow through innovation, improve productivity, and stay competitive both locally and globally. These supports allow businesses to keep pace with market changes, tackle challenges, and spot new opportunities.

By working closely with third-level institutions, companies can access top-tier research, skilled talent, and advanced facilities, which in turn helps create high-quality jobs regionally in areas like research, manufacturing, and internationally traded services.

Insights from Enterprise Ireland's Annual Business Review 2024 show that upskilling in AI and machine learning is now the top priority for companies, followed closely by digital skills. Increasing R&D investment, tapping into the expertise of Ireland's technology centres, and strengthening our research capabilities are key ways to meet this growing need.

Impact 2030 Irelands National Research and Innovation strategy puts knowledge transfer at the core of its mission to address societal, economic and environmental changes. KT Boost, the successor to TTSI, was launched in 2024. The KT Boost Programme is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-27 and the ERDF Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-27. The aim of this programme is to develop capacity and capability in the Technological University sector; to support knowledge and technology transfer and to increase knowledge transfer; outcomes in the both the University and Technological University sectors.

Encouraging more High Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs) from research spin-outs helps bring new ideas to market and supports business growth. A rise in the number of licences granted to companies shows that research is being used in practical ways that benefit industry. Similarly, more collaboration agreements between researchers and businesses reflect stronger connections between academia and enterprise. These developments highlight how knowledge transfer can make research more accessible and useful, contributing to innovation and economic progress across different sectors.

Collaboration between companies and third-level institutions is vital for innovation. It gives businesses access to expert knowledge, specialised equipment, and highly trained people—leading to better products, stronger processes, and long-term resilience. Over the past five years, 137 companies have spun out from Ireland's research-performing organisations (RPOs), showing the strength of our innovation pipeline.

There have also been over 12,700 R&D and consultancy agreements with commercial and non-commercial partners—an average of more than 2,500 each year.

Investment in RPOs plays a major role in Ireland's economic success. It boosts productivity, nurtures talent, drives collaboration, and supports broader societal progress. Since 2020, research spending in these organisations has grown by around 36%, highlighting their increasing importance in shaping Ireland's future.

This report offers an overview of how Ireland's research system is performing in terms of commercialisation and business engagement. Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), part of Enterprise Ireland, gathers and analyses data from universities, technological universities, institutes of technology, and other publicly funded research bodies. Together with the Higher Education Authority (HEA), KTI produces the Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey (AKTS), which tracks activities such as licensing, collaboration, consultancy, and the creation of spin-out companies. The findings from the 11th edition of the survey shows steady growth in licensing activity, the formation of spin-outs, and the development of new products reaching the market.

Enterprise Ireland, through Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI), will continue to work closely with Research Performing Organisations to support and promote innovation across Ireland's business landscape. This ongoing collaboration, along with other Enterprise Ireland research and innovation programmes, aims to strengthen engagement between companies and the Irish research base. These efforts directly contribute to the ambitions of Impact 2030, particularly in fostering a more connected innovation ecosystem, addressing talent development, and showcasing the value of research-driven enterprise. By encouraging more businesses to engage in innovation, Ireland is laying the groundwork for stronger, more competitive companies with global reach.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Dr Christian Stafford
Head of Knowledge Transfer Ireland,
Head of R&I Stakeholder Engagement,
Enterprise Ireland

The Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey (AKTS) serves as a comprehensive barometer of the performance of Ireland's public research and innovation ecosystem, capturing data across a broad spectrum of knowledge creation and knowledge transfer activities. Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) has been collecting this data for many years, enabling the monitoring of long-term trends and providing annual insights into system performance.

The 2024 survey includes contributions from a diverse group of Research Performing Organisations (RPOs), comprising eight universities, five technological universities, two institutes of technology, two colleges, Teagasc, the Marine Institute, and Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR).

The 2024 AKTS marks the first year of the new KT Boost Programme, co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-27 and the ERDF Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-27. KT Boost aims to significantly elevate knowledge transfer outcomes through comprehensive support for all higher education institutions, including Technological Universities, strengthen and regionally distribute KT infrastructure, provide a sharper focus around the creation of High Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs) from the 3rd level system and the enhancement of collaborative innovations between enterprise and the public research system.

Key Highlights from AKTS 2024:

- A record **€880 million** research expenditure
- **1,363** live R&D projects industry
- **221** executed Licence, Option, and Assignment (LOA) agreements
- **25** spin-out companies created
- **2,098** jobs in active spin-outs
- **2,270** new R&D and consultancy agreements with industry and non-commercial entities of which 1,686 were with industry – **78%** with Irish companies, **58%** with Irish SMEs

The 2024 survey reflects a significant milestone, with research expenditure soaring to €880 million—an increase of €46 million or 5.5% compared to 2023. Universities accounted for **76%** of this spend, with Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology contributing **14%**, and Colleges and State Research Organisations making up the remaining **10%**.

This continued increase in public research funding plays a pivotal role in strengthening Ireland's innovation ecosystem, building capability and expertise, supporting talent development, and enabling the high-impact knowledge transfer that fuels economic competitiveness.

Spin-out activity remains strong, with **25 companies** established by nine RPOs in 2024. The five-year average (2020–2024) stands at **27 spin-outs on average per year**. As activity funded under KT Boost progresses, it is expected that there will be further growth in high-quality spin-outs. By year-end 2024, there were **166 active spin-outs**, employing **2,098 people**, up from **163** and **1,845** respectively in 2023.

Deepening collaboration between research institutions and industry is a critical priority, as it accelerates innovation, supports SME growth, and contributes directly to Ireland's knowledge-based economy. In 2024, **1,686** R&D and consultancy service agreements were signed, with industry partners. These ranged from innovation vouchers to large-scale collaborative programmes. Notably, **78%** of these agreements were with Irish companies.

In terms of direct technology transfer, **221 LOAs** were executed in 2024: 42% options, 39% licences, and 19% assignments. The majority of these agreements related to **patented IP (24%) and software (15%)** which is a significant change compared to 2023 (21% and 31% respectively). Further along the commercialisation pathway, **30** new products and services were introduced to the market, reflecting the tangible economic value generated from Ireland's research investments.

Following a decline in 2023, patent activity has begun to recover, with a modest increase in 2024 to **79** patent applications filed—representing almost **4%** uplift. While incremental, this upward movement is encouraging and is complemented by a rise in invention disclosures from 422 to **446**, signalling a healthy pipeline of early-stage innovation and reinforcing the foundational role these metrics play in driving research commercialisation and economic impact.

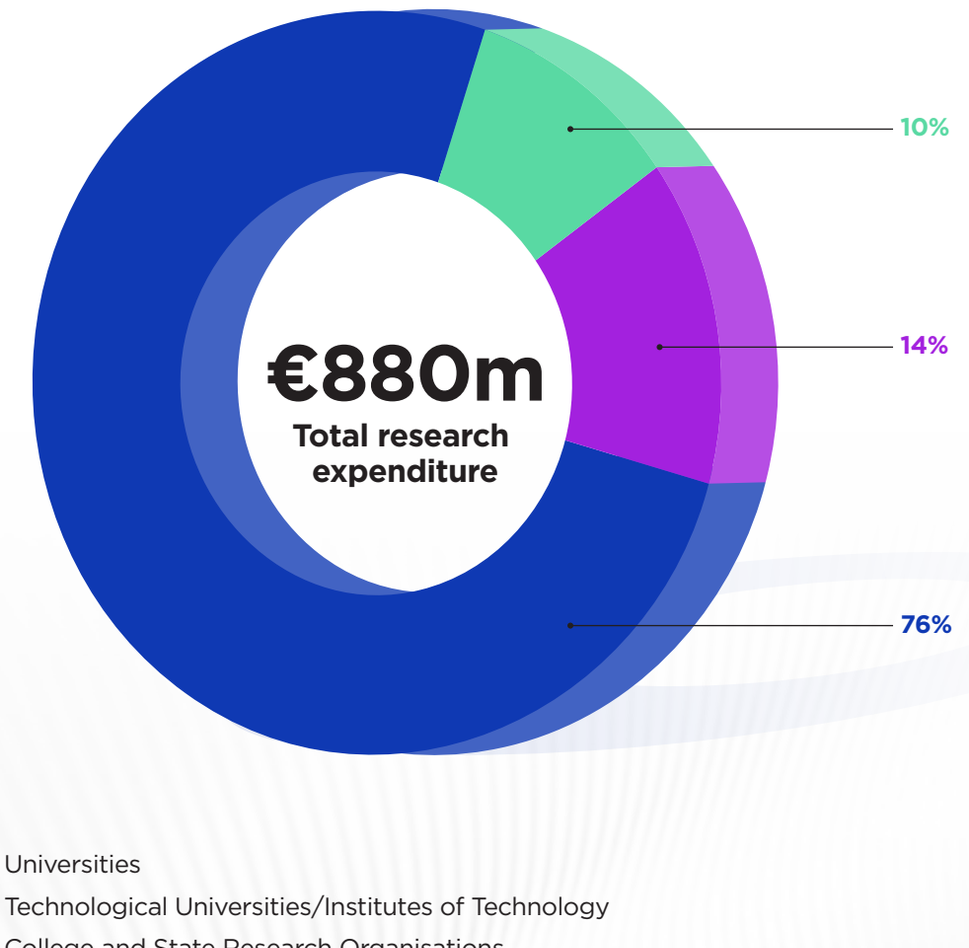
In conclusion, the 2024 AKTS presents a positive outlook and a solid foundation for future progress. As Ireland advances toward the goals outlined in **Impact 2030**, continued collaboration among academia, industry, and government will be essential to ensure a high-performing, impactful knowledge transfer system.

Research Funding in Ireland

Research Funding in Ireland

The AKTS utilises annual data on actual research expenditure provided by individual RPOs, facilitating a more direct comparison with data from other countries. This data excludes block grants and capital expenditure. In 2024, total research expenditure amounted to €880 million, reflecting a 5.5% increase or €46 million more than the previous year.

Research Expenditure by RPO Type 2024

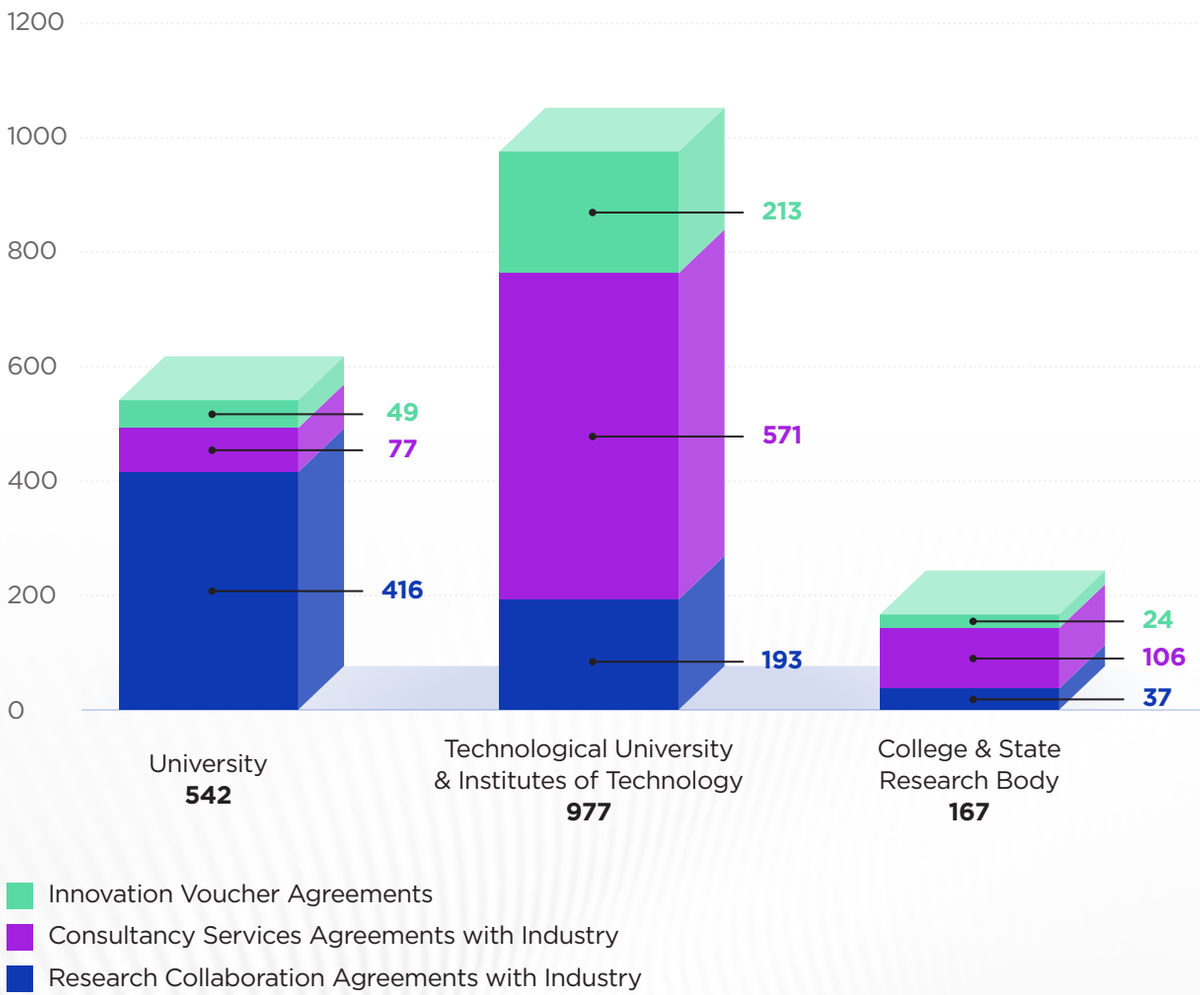


Working with Companies & Non-commercial Entities

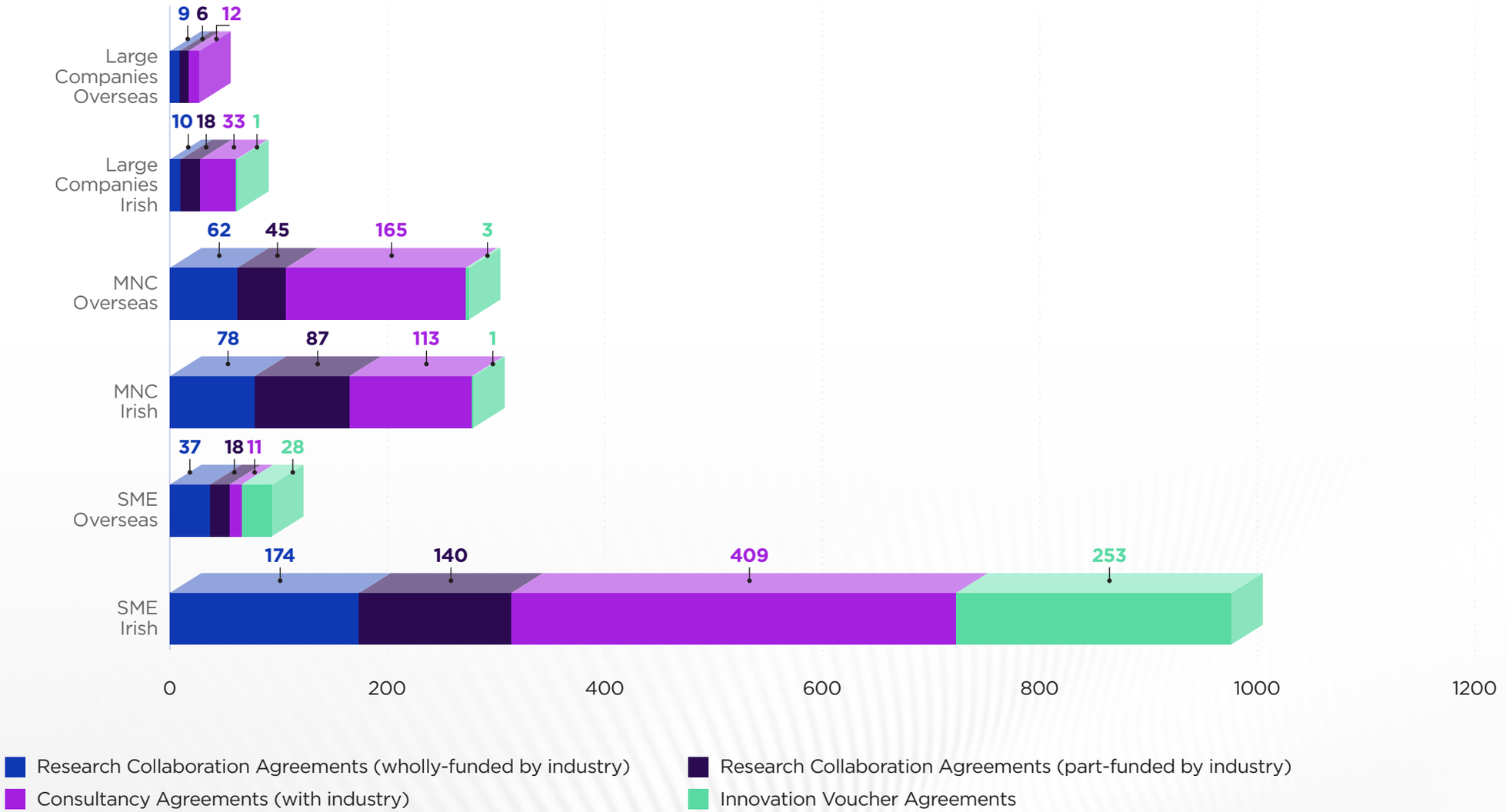
R&D and Consultancy

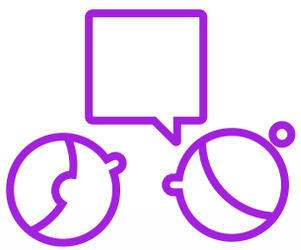
Engagement with the Irish research ecosystem is essential for both industry and non-commercial organisations in Ireland, particularly for industry, to drive sales growth and maintain competitiveness in global markets. Collaborating with Irish Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) facilitates the generation of new knowledge and provides access to consultancy services that leverage existing expertise to deliver tailored solutions to clients. In 2024, there were 1,686 R&D and Consultancy Service Agreements with industry, with 58% involving Irish SMEs. This represents an increase of just under 1% in total agreements with industry compared to the previous year. In comparison to the previous year, there was an increase of 44% in the number of R&D and Consultancy Service Agreements with non-commercial entities, which typically include public sector organisations and charitable institutions.

No. of R&D and Consultancy Service Agreements with Industry 2024 - RPO Type



No. of R&D and Consultancy Service Agreements with Industry 2024 - Company Type





58%
of all R&D & Consultancy Agreements in 2024 involved Irish SMEs or
78%
involved Irish Companies

44%
increase in the number of R&D and Consultancy Agreements with Non-Commercial entities

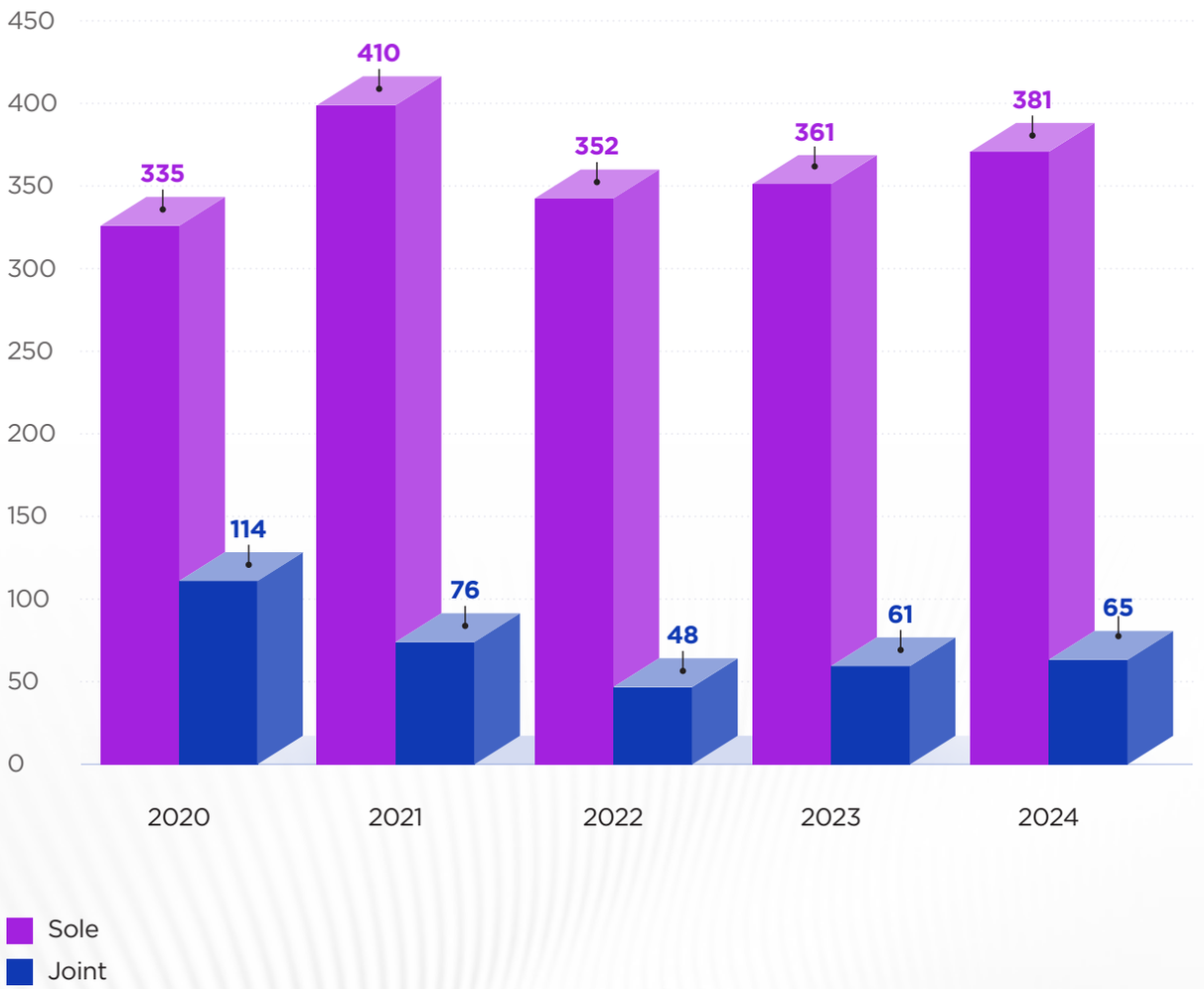
12,937
R&D and Consultancy Agreements with Industry and Non-Commercial entities over the past five years

Inventions, Intellectual Property and Licensing

Inventions, Intellectual Property and Licensing

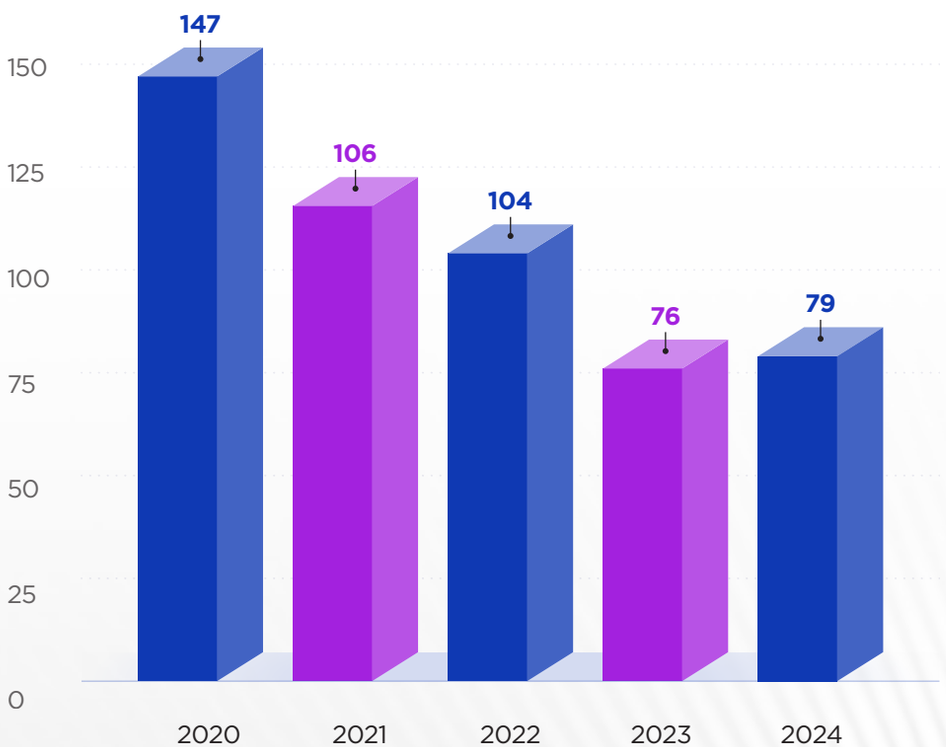
Over the past five years, there have been a total of 2,203 new invention disclosures. Notably, 2024 saw a 5.6% increase in these disclosures. The prevailing trend indicates that the majority of these disclosures are sole inventions, involving only a single Research Performing Organisation (RPO).
The distribution between sole and joint invention disclosures has remained relatively consistent throughout most years.

Invention Disclosures 2020-2024

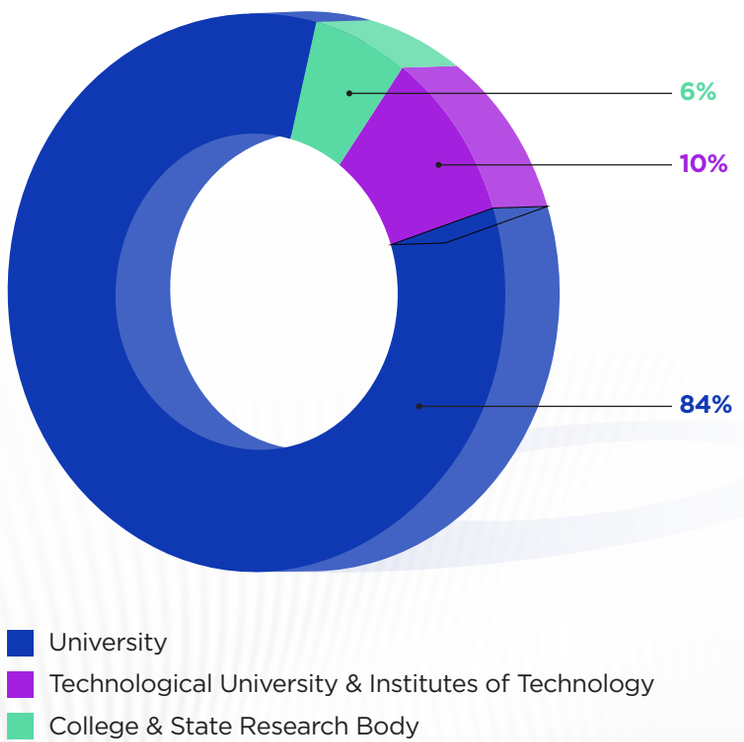


In 2024, there was a small increase in the number of patents filed compared to 2023 going from 76 to 79. Of the 76 patents filed in 2023, 62% advanced to PCT applications in 2024, representing an increase from the previous year. The UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO) continue to be the preferred initial filing offices, with 86% of the total patents filed in 2024 being submitted in these jurisdictions.

Priority patent applications filed 2020-2024



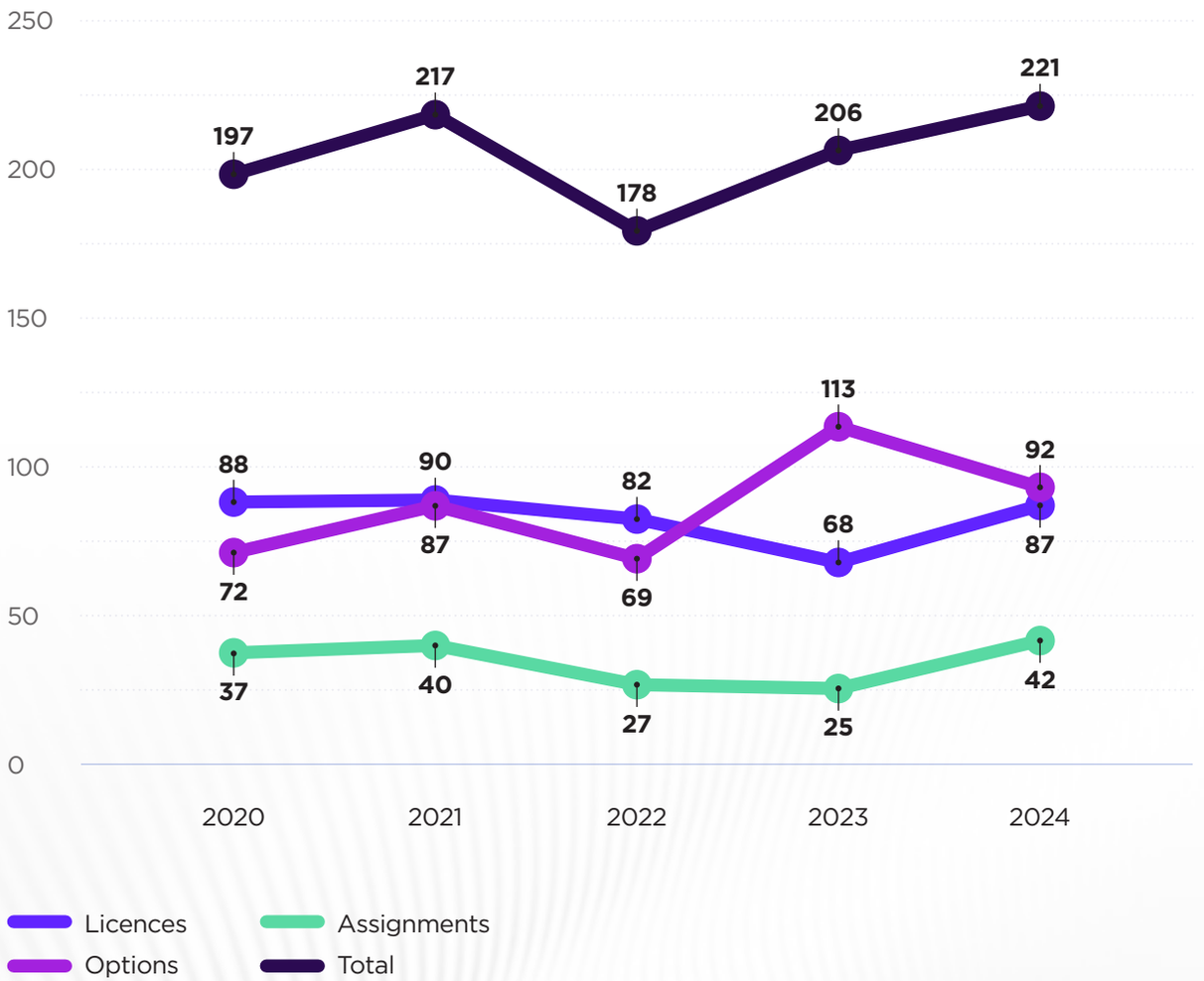
Priority patent applications filed by RPO Type 2024



Licensing

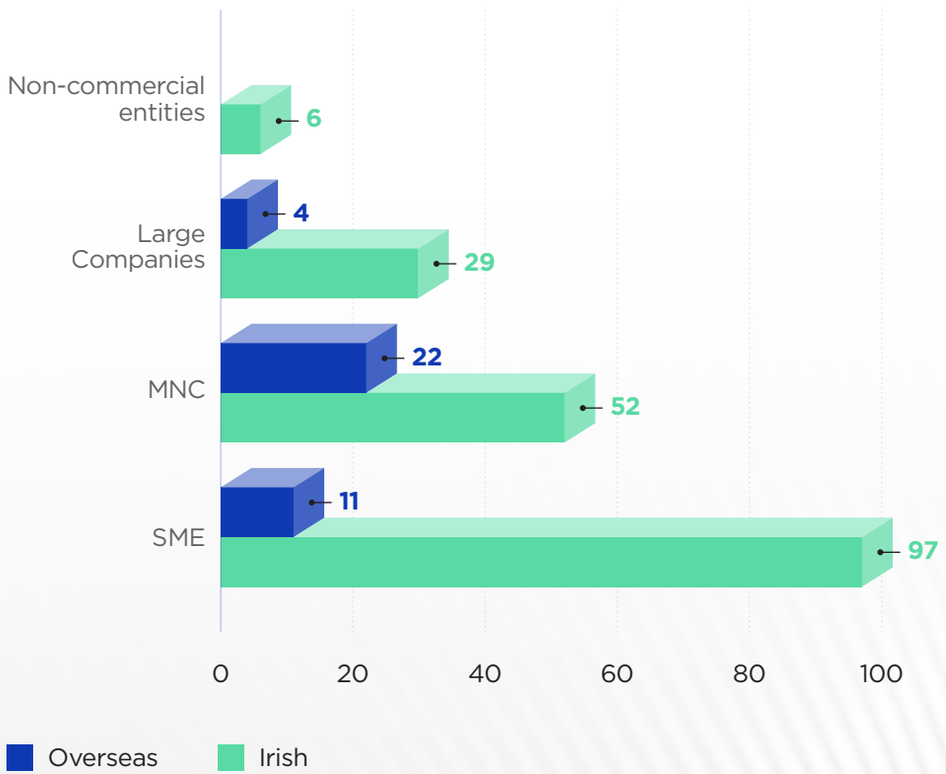
Licences, Options, and Assignments (LOAs) saw an increase of just over 7%, from 206 in the previous year to 221 in 2024. Over the past five years, a total of 1,019 LOAs have been issued, with Options comprising 42%, Licences 41%, and Assignments 17%.

No. of Licences, Options & Assignments executed 2020 - 2024

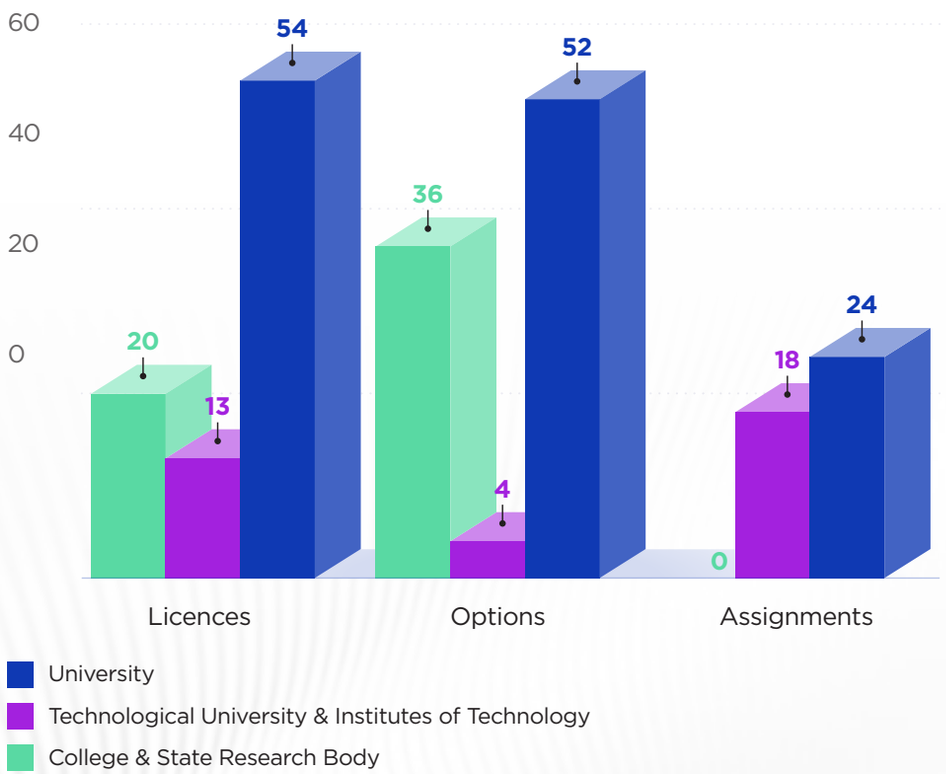


Of the 221 LOAs issued, the majority (81%) were granted to Irish companies, with 44% going to Irish SMEs. While this represents an overall increase in the number of LOAs issued to Irish companies, the number of Irish SMEs executing LOAs has slightly decreased compared to 2023. The university sector accounts for 59% of executed LOAs, while colleges and state research bodies account for 25%, and the technological universities and institutes of technology sector account for 16%.

No. of Licences, Options & Assignments by Company Type 2024

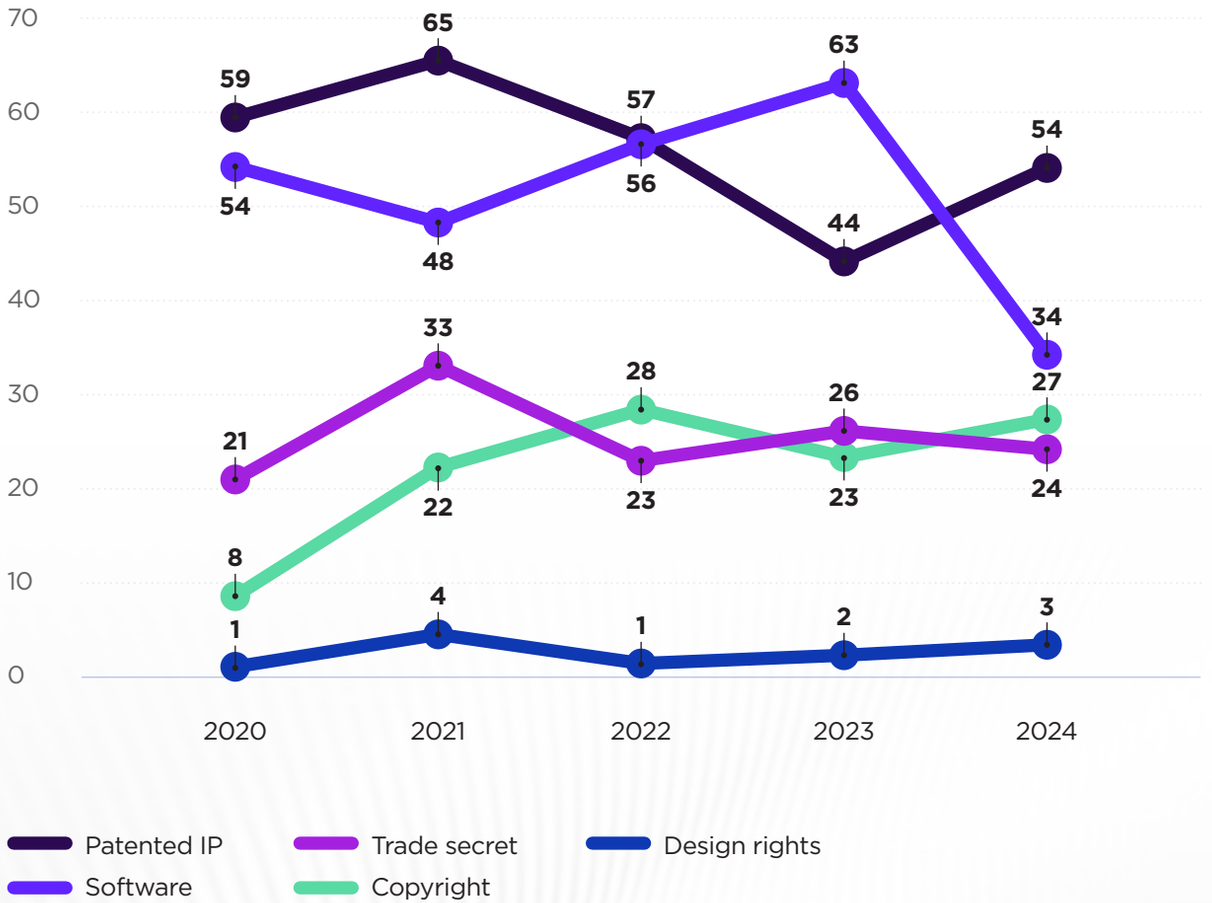


No. of Licences, Options & Assignments by RPO Type 2024



Over the period 2020 to 2024, patented intellectual property and software are the most prevalent type of IP in LOAs, comprising around 50% combined of the total over this five-year period.

No. of Licences, Options & Assignments executed 2020 - 2024



NOTE: there are other response categories not covered in above, e.g. Research Materials, plus other please specify (e.g. know-how, etc.)

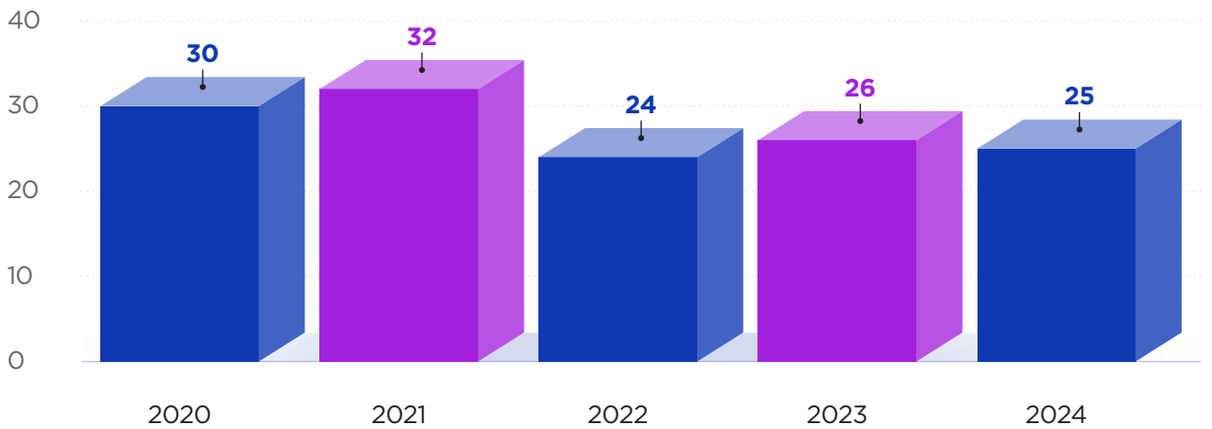
New Company Creation

New Company Creation

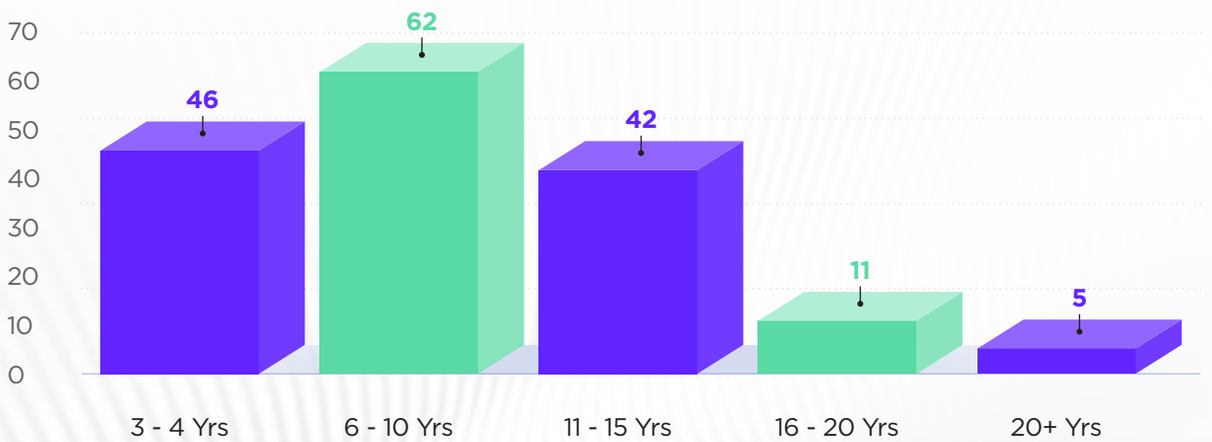
In 2024, 25 new companies were spun out from 9 RPOs, compared to 26 from 9 RPOs in the previous year. Over the period from 2020 to 2024, a total of 137 new companies were spun out from RPOs, averaging 27 per year, slightly down compared to the previous year's average of 28. Additionally, seven spin-out companies were either acquired or merged with other companies in 2024.

By the end of 2024, the total number of companies in which the RPO held equity or share options had risen to 236, marking an increase of 24 from 2023. There were 166 active spin-outs (those at least three years post-formation) at the end of 2024, collectively employing 2,098 full-time equivalents. This represents an increase of 3 active spin-outs compared to the previous year however, an increase of 253 jobs. It is important to note that this figure reflects employment as of the end of 2024 and does not account for individuals employed throughout the lifetime of the spin-out.

Spin-outs established 2020-2024



Active Spin-Outs - No. of Years Incorporated



Success Stories

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Soothing Solutions and MTU – Validating Innovation in Children's Healthcare

Soothing Solutions Ltd, trading as Tonstix™, is an Irish SME that manufactures over-the-counter honey jelly pops designed to soothe sore throats and dry coughs in children. To strengthen the scientific credibility of their product, the company partnered with the Centre for Applied Bioscience Research (CABR) at Munster Technological University (MTU) to validate its efficacy.

Led by Dr Niall Burke and supported by Ms Dhanyamol George, the CABR team developed a cell-based assay to test the product's biological effects. The study demonstrated that Tonstix™ has both wound-healing and anti-inflammatory properties, providing robust scientific evidence to support its therapeutic claims. A detailed technical report and a consumer-friendly summary were produced to communicate the findings effectively.

> **"This scientific validation has significantly strengthened our belief in the product and enhanced our credibility with retailers and the medical community."**
>
> — Sinead Crowther,
> CEO, Soothing Solutions Ltd

The collaboration was facilitated by MTU's Innovation Office, with Commercialisation Specialist AnnMarie Barrett ensuring smooth negotiation and alignment of interests. The project enabled CABR to work with a new cell line, expanding its research capabilities and opening doors to future industry collaborations.

The results have empowered Soothing Solutions to explore new clinical applications and product variations tailored to specific age groups and conditions. The company plans to engage with healthcare professionals to validate broader use cases and expand into clinical markets.

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Enhancing Retail Efficiency through IoT – Kernan Group and ATU

Kernan Group, an SME operating multiple retail outlets, sought to improve operational efficiency, reduce resource consumption, and enhance sustainability. Facing challenges such as manual processes, inefficient order optimisation, and inefficient monitoring systems, the company engaged with European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH), DATA2SUSTAIN at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), for expert consultancy.

The project was led by Dr Stephen Seawright, WiSAR Gateway Manager, who brought deep expertise in Internet of Things (IoT) and applied analytics. The consultancy focused on streamlining operations, automating procedures, improving water and temperature monitoring, and enabling data-driven decision-making.

Dr. Kieran Ryan, Head of Knowledge Transfer at ATU, provided advisory support from the early stages. The Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) guided the consultancy process, ensuring effective collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The consultancy delivered tangible benefits, including enhanced operational efficiency, improved product safety, reduced manual effort, and better resource management. Real-time data analytics empowered the Kernan Group to make informed decisions, supporting both profitability and sustainability goals.

The project has positioned Kernan Group for continued operational improvements and digital transformation. While no further engagements have been confirmed, the collaboration has laid the groundwork for potential future partnerships.

> **"Working with ATU on the Data2Sustain project was an excellent experience for Kernans. The collaboration brought real value to our business by showing us how data can be harnessed to drive sustainability and operational improvements. As a business, we have become more innovative and are now constantly asking the question: what can technology do to make this process better, make life easier for staff, and improve the customer experience? From my own perspective, I am now using AI to develop internal systems that are already speeding up retail and accounting processes. The ATU team were professional, innovative, and very easy to work with, and we look forward to building on this partnership in future projects."**
>
> — JP Gorman
> Kernan Group

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

FoReSight – A Multi-Company Collaboration Advancing Data-Driven Decision-Making in Pharma Manufacturing

FoReSight is a collaborative research initiative led by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC) at the University of Limerick (UL), involving five multinational pharmaceutical companies: Eli Lilly, MSD Ireland, Astellas Ireland, Janssen Sciences, and Alkermes Pharma. The group has its origins in the work of the PMTC data analytics good practice guide, published in late 2020, and in the Data Analytics *Community of Practice* for Pharma (DACoPP) established by PMTC in February 2021.

Thereafter, a subgroup of 5 industry partners with the PMTC at UL and IMR began a discussion on what is a "data analytics lifecycle". This project aimed to develop a regulatory-aligned framework for using data analytics, machine learning, and AI to support risk-based decision-making in drug manufacturing.

Led by Dr. Marcus O'Mahony, Senior Research Fellow at UL, the project built on the prior PMTC work and the Data Analytics Community of Practice for Pharma. Over 12 workshops and 52 industry participants contributed to the framework's development, which was reviewed by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and aligned with ICH Q9 (R1) and FDA guidance. The resulting methodology enhances confidence in data-driven decisions across regulated manufacturing environments.

The framework was published in the *Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Regulatory Science* and received strong endorsement from regulators and industry leaders. UL benefited through funding, enhanced expertise, and recognition of PMTC as a centre of excellence.

The project also led to keynote presentations and workshops at major industry events, and a follow-on initiative is in development.

Margaret Lawlor, Case Manager at UL's Innovation Office, played a key role in managing complex IP negotiations and ensuring collaborative agreements were in place across all partners.

> **"Regulators are continually pushing for a digital transformation. Data is the heart of everything we do. I feel we (industry) tend to have high level strategy discussions, but this *[FoReSight]* paper could help drive a tangible conversation that means something to everyone."**
>
> — Leading project FoReSight partner

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

StylAI and TU Dublin – Generative AI for Smarter Fashion Retail

StylAI Limited, trading as *Sizible*, is an innovative fashion tech SME founded by Aideen Bodkin, a TU Dublin alumna and Enterprise Ireland New Frontiers participant. The company is developing a smart-matching tool that uses Generative AI to enhance the online retail experience by improving clothing size recommendations and customer engagement.

Seeking technical expertise in AI, Aideen engaged with TU Dublin's Centre for Sustainable Digital Technologies (CSDT). Led by Dr. Steven Davy and supported by Dr. Mark Magumba, the team provided advanced consultancy on image manipulation using Generative AI. This collaboration helped define the technical roadmap for Sizible's development.

Sorcha Hyland, Business Development & Consultancy Manager, played a pivotal role in connecting StylAI with the right research team and guiding the funding process. The Innovation Office supported project management, contract negotiation, and strategic planning for future funding opportunities.

The consultancy enabled StylAI to refine its product vision and secure a second Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher, bringing total funding to €15,000. The research laid the foundation for a working proof-of-concept, enhancing the company's value proposition, investment potential, and user experience.

StylAI is exploring further collaboration with TU Dublin through larger Enterprise Ireland funding streams, including potential Innovation Partnerships. The company is positioned for growth in the fashion-tech sector, leveraging AI to deliver scalable, user-centric solutions.

> **"The consultancy has been truly important and valuable to the future development of StylAI. The research team's expertise in cutting-edge technology has given us a clear path to building a commercially viable product."**
>
> — Aideen Bodkin, CEO, StylAI

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

La Dolce Acqua and TUS – Designing Luxury Floating Furniture for Global Hospitality

La Dolce Acqua Ltd is a micro-enterprise specialising in premium poolside furniture. With the rise of luxury hospitality experiences, the company envisioned a high-end floating pool lounger tailored for upscale hotels. To bring this concept to life, La Dolce Acqua partnered with the Applied Polymer Technologies (APT) Gateway at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), leveraging design and prototyping expertise.

Led by Gavin Keane, APT's Lead Design Engineer, and supported by PhD candidate Bart Peterson, the team transformed the initial concept into a production-ready design. The hull and mattress were engineered using CAD and rotational moulding techniques to ensure durability, structural integrity, and aesthetic appeal. A 1:10 scale SLA prototype was produced, and CE certification guidance was provided. The final design was transferred to the company, which engaged Sturdy Products Ltd for manufacturing.

TUS's Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation Office, through Operations Officer Siobhán Lee, facilitated collaboration agreements and project setup. The partnership enabled TUS to apply advanced polymer technologies to a real-world commercial challenge, enhancing its research portfolio and impact metrics.

La Dolce Acqua plans to expand its product line and target international luxury hotel markets. The collaboration has laid the foundation for future innovation and export opportunities.

> **"TUS had the skills and expertise we needed to get the project to a commercial level. The professionalism and clear communication were key to our success."**
>
> — Mark McInerney,
> CEO, La Dolce Acqua Ltd

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Telenostic Ltd and UCD – Revolutionising Veterinary Diagnostics with AI

Telenostic Ltd, a spin-out from CF Pharma, is a pioneering SME in digital parasitology. The company develops AI-powered diagnostic platforms that deliver real-time, species-specific parasite detection via a web application. To bring their vision of an automated Faecal Egg Count (FEC) device to life, Telenostic partnered with University College Dublin (UCD) through an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher and later an Innovation Partnership Programme project.

The multidisciplinary UCD team—spanning veterinary medicine, imaging, engineering, and physics—developed a novel cassette-based system for parasite egg flotation, concentration, and digital analysis. The collaboration resulted in the launch of OvaCyte™, a flagship diagnostic platform now used in over 450 veterinary clinics and labs worldwide, with more than 150,000 scans completed. The technology has created 20 full-time jobs, with a 50% increase projected over the next three years.

> **"The research carried out in UCD forms the basis for the core technology of the entire OvaCyte platform."**
>
> — Trish McOwen, Product Development Director, Telenostic Ltd

UCD's Technology Transfer Office, led by Dr Stacey Kelly, played a pivotal role in identifying expertise, managing IP negotiations, and facilitating licensing. A patent was filed and licensed to CF Pharma, later transferred to Telenostic Ltd. Ongoing collaboration continues to enhance the platform's capabilities, including the upcoming OvaCyte Plus and a dual cassette for improved sustainability.

Telenostic is expanding into the U.S. companion animal market and exploring applications in human diagnostics and global markets including Asia and ANZ.

COMMERCIALISATION

Trinity Licences IP to Kora Healthcare

Trinity College Dublin licensed two key pieces of intellectual property to Kora Healthcare, an Irish SME specialising in supportive, genitourinary, and consumer care medicines. The IP originated from two Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Programme projects focused on fertility enhancement and sperm health diagnostics. Led by Professor Vincent Kelly and colleagues, the research resulted in two European patent applications addressing male infertility through a novel fertility gel and a biomarker-based diagnostic tool.

Exclusive licences were signed in 2021 and 2024, enabling Kora Healthcare to commercialise these innovations. The fertility gel, designed to reduce oxidative stress—a major contributor to male infertility—targets a market projected to reach €19.2 million by 2025.

The sperm health diagnostic tool, now under development, addresses a global market expected to reach $4.7 billion. These products expand Kora's sexual health portfolio into reproductive health, with potential for significant clinical and commercial impact.

Trinity's Technology Transfer Office (TTO), led by Samantha Williams and Emma O'Neill, played a central role in IP protection, licensing negotiations, and ongoing patent support. The collaboration between Trinity and Kora Healthcare exemplifies successful knowledge transfer, with both parties continuing to explore further opportunities beyond the licensed IP.

Kora Healthcare is advancing regulatory approvals in the EU and US, with product validation underway. The partnership demonstrates how Irish research excellence can translate into impactful healthcare solutions, supporting both innovation and economic growth.

> **"The ability for Kora Healthcare to access the technical expertise and supporting infrastructure has been pivotal to Kora Healthcare's continued therapeutic and diagnostic developments within genito-urinary development and more specifically sexual health and fertility. We hope that we can continue to enjoy close collaboration to transfer this knowledge into real diagnostic and therapeutic benefit."**
>
> -Conor O'Daly
> CEO, Kora Healthcare

COMMERCIALISATION

Licensing Smart Surface Technology – SETU and FLI Precast Solutions

A collaborative research initiative between South East Technological University (SETU) and FLI Precast Solutions led to the development of a novel Smart Surface Technology. The project, conducted between SETU's Carlow campus and FLI's Kilnock facility, was spearheaded by Dr. David Culliton and Dr. Phuoc Huynh of engCORE, alongside Alex Flynn of FLI. The innovation addresses leak failures in large subterranean concrete liquid containment systems through a flexible, corrosion-resistant surface solution integrated with remote leak-detection capabilities.

"The application of the integrated geomembrane concrete tile in the refurbishment of underground liquid storage assets is an innovative way to renew the liquid containment aspect of these structures, and to help in protecting the environment from being damaged by leakage or seepage of contaminants in fuels and chemicals. The next phase of the invention is to incorporate a 24/7 remotely monitored leak detection system- which should help the insurance companies who insure such assets- if there was a leak at some future point due to mechanical damage while in operation it would be identified with pinpoint accuracy and can then be repaired. The remote monitoring feature will also provide real time data on the functioning of the integrated lining system when in operation and provide early warning information if there is a weak point in the refurbished storage structure".

— Michael Flynn
FLI Global

The IP, developed over a two-year period (2022–2024), was licensed to FLI Precast Solutions under a NERF agreement. This enables the company to pilot the technology, validate its technical readiness, and build a commercial case with reduced risk. The Innovation Office at SETU, led by James O'Sullivan, played a key role in drafting and negotiating the licensing terms and continues to support post-licence management.

The project exemplifies successful industry-academic collaboration. Dr. Culliton, recipient of SETU's 2025 Research Impact Award, highlighted the global nature of the partnership, including contributions from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology. Ongoing collaboration through the Innovation Partnership Programme ensures continued development and commercialisation of the technology.

FLI Precast Solutions is exploring further development to increase the technology's readiness level and is in active discussions with SETU for continued collaboration. The project was funded through Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Partnership Programme.

Loci Orthopaedics and University of Galway – Advancing Thumb Joint Innovation

Loci Orthopaedics is a multi-award-winning medical device company dedicated to addressing unmet clinical needs in orthopaedics, with a focus on the small joint and extremities market section. Founded in 2017 as a spin-out from the University of Galway and University College Cork (UCC) through the BioInnovate programme, Loci Orthopaedics developed the world's first evidence-based implant that replicates the complex biomechanics of the thumb base joint.

The company has completed a successful initial clinical trial and recently raised €12.8 million in Series A funding—the largest orthopaedic investment for an indigenous Irish start-up. This funding supports team growth, further clinical studies, and commercialisation

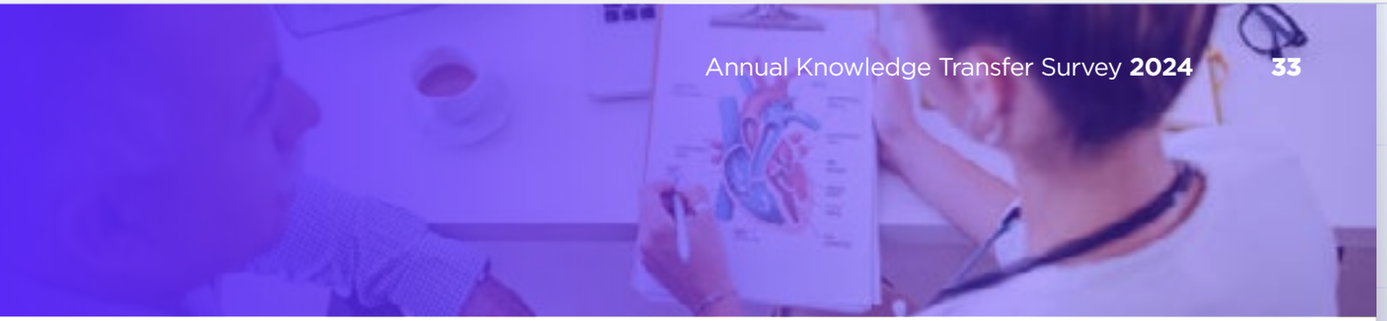
Loci Orthopaedics licensed key patents and know-how from the University of Galway maintains a strong collaborative relationship with the institution. The Innovation Office played a critical role in the company's formation, supporting IP strategy, licensing, and investor engagement. Ongoing support includes strategic collaboration agreements and ecosystem facilitation.

To date, Loci Orthopaedics has raised over €22 million, expanded to larger premises, and announced 20 new jobs. The company has built a strong patent portfolio and actively mentors emerging entrepreneurs within the university ecosystem.

Loci Orthopaedics aims to grow its Irish team to 32 employees, advance clinical programmes to support regulatory approvals, and launch commercial operations in the US and EU markets.

> **"The BioInnovate programme enabled first-hand identification of a patient need. University support helped validate and de-risk the technology. Without the backing of the University, the Innovation Office, and Enterprise Ireland, our commercial journey would not have been possible."**
>
> — Loci Orthopaedics

COMMERCIALISATION



Pumpinheart – An RCSI Spin-Out Advancing Heart Failure Treatment

Pumpinheart Ltd., a spin-out from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), is developing implantable medical devices to treat heart failure, with a focus on Heart Failure with preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF). The company was founded in February 2022 by Dr. Aamir Hameed, Andrew Malone, Donald Hickey, and Darragh Colgan. It was officially spun out in April 2024 following a €600k seed funding round, building on earlier support from Enterprise Ireland's Pre-Seed Start Fund.

"Dr Aoife Gallagher and Dr Derek John managed the spinout process from initial concept curation and validation, to commercial management selection, through accelerator engagement, spinout license negotiations, share transfer execution and post spinout publicity while creating multiple opportunities to showcase the novel therapy and that allowed the founder team learn from other MedTech development pathfinders."

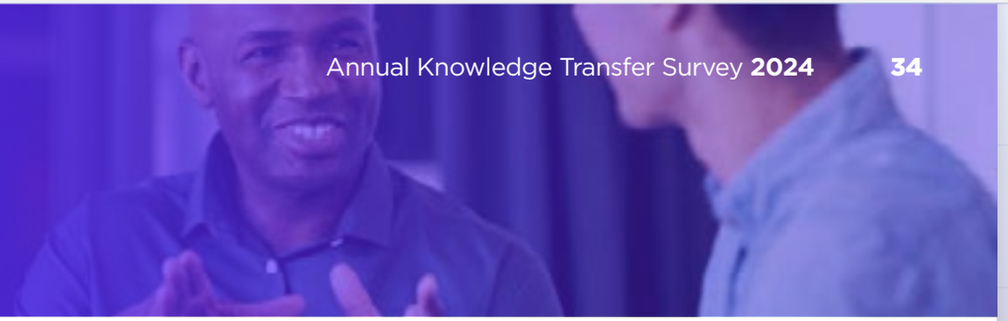
— Donald Hickey
CEO, Pumpinheart

The company is commercialising the "PReduction" device, a novel Left Atrial Pressure Reduction technology developed in Dr. Hameed's lab. Currently at pre-clinical TRL5, Pumpinheart has raised €611k in seed capital, won Gold at the 2024 National Start-up Awards, and established its headquarters at the ATU iHub. The team includes four employees, two interns, and R&D subcontractors.

RCSI holds an equity stake and has licensed patents and know-how to the company. The RCSI Innovation Office has been instrumental from the initial invention disclosure in 2019 through to IP protection, commercialisation funding, investor engagement, and spin-out formation. Ongoing support includes consultancy, investor introductions, and showcasing opportunities at RCSI events.

Pumpinheart is currently raising an additional €2.5M to complete a €3.1M seed round by mid-2025, with the goal of advancing pre-clinical studies. The company is engaging with Enterprise Ireland to achieve HPSU status and plans to target the US and European markets, with future expansion into China and Japan.

COMMERCIALISATION



Wrky and DCU – Transforming People Analytics Through AI

Wrky Limited is a next-generation employee insights and predictive analytics platform that spans the entire employee lifecycle—from onboarding to offboarding. Founded in 2021 as a spin-out from Dublin City University (DCU), Wrky leverages AI to deliver actionable insights that enhance organisational performance. The platform integrates data from multiple systems to support engagement, pulse surveys, and employer Net Promoter Scores.

The company was founded by Dr. Brian Slattery, formerly Assistant Professor of Behavioural Science at DCU, following a successful Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund project. Wrky became operational in April 2022 and has since grown rapidly.

DCU Invent played a pivotal role in Wrky's formation, supporting IP licensing, business planning, and investor engagement. The university holds equity in the company, and the Innovation Office continues to support Wrky through collaboration opportunities and strategic guidance.

Wrky has raised €3 million to date, including €1 million in an oversubscribed 2023 seed round and €2 million in 2024 from DataOp. The company has achieved High Potential Start-Up (HPSU) status with Enterprise Ireland, grown to a team of 10, and secured enterprise clients in Ireland, the UK, and the US. It is also in advanced negotiations with a global consulting firm to become their preferred analytics engine.

Wrky is expanding internationally and exploring further collaborations with DCU and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. The company is also targeting funding from the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund and the European Innovation Council.

> **"DCU has been fundamental to the success of the company. The initial support I was given to pursue the opportunity cannot be understated. DCU Invent helped me access the right funding to make the idea a reality."**
>
> — Dr. Brian Slattery, CEO, Wrky

COMMERCIALISATION

Puritee – A TU Dublin Spin-Out Empowering Water Safety

Puritee Ltd., founded in May 2024 by TU Dublin Product Design student Jack Doyle, is developing an at-home water quality testing device for private well owners. The solution eliminates the need for third-party testing, increasing compliance and reducing health risks from contaminated water. The company emerged from TU Dublin's iVenture Student Accelerator and was supported by the Innovation Office and academic mentor Dr. Colm O'Kane.

Puritee is currently at an early stage, having developed a working proof-of-concept and preparing for initial trials. The company has secured €30,000 in funding through Enterprise Ireland's Student Awards, New Frontiers Phase 2, and an Innovation Voucher.

TU Dublin Innovation provided foundational support, including IP protection, branding, mentoring, and company formation costs. A Design Right has been filed, and discussions are underway regarding a patent and licensing agreement.

The Innovation Office has played a central role in Puritee's development, offering strategic guidance, investor connections, and promotional support. The founder has since partnered with a co-founder and developer, with plans to expand the team following further funding. The company has gained national visibility through media coverage and is preparing to showcase at the 2025 National Ploughing Championships.

Puritee is pursuing Enterprise Ireland's Pre-Seed Start Fund and aims to achieve HPSU status. The company plans to launch a SaaS platform targeting water testing labs via B2B and joint venture models, with T.E. Labs in Carlow as a potential trial partner.

> **"TU Dublin Innovation have been an invaluable support to Puritee since we began my journey straight out of university. They provided not only the tools but also the confidence to take on this opportunity. Whenever we reached a crossroads, their experience and guidance helped us make the right decisions. Puritee are very grateful for their support over the past 18 months."**
>
> — Jack Doyle
> Puritee

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary data by RPO

Selected data relating to the returns made by the 20 RPOs are presented in tables A1-C2.

A1: Research Expenditure, research agreements and consultancy with Industry 2024: Universities, Colleges & State Research Bodies

RPO	Research expenditure (less block grant) in the reference year (€)	Research expenditure derived from industry	Number of collaborative research agreements with industry	Number of innovation vouchers with industry	Number of consultancy agreements with industry	Total number of collaboration, innovation voucher and consultancy services agreements with industry
University						
Dublin City University	41,022,856	2,100,370	39	3	2	44
Maynooth University	61,985,749	1,958,750	7	9	7	23
University of Galway	89,759,817	6,283,187	51	1	0	52
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	31,401,404	2,951,732	30	1	3	34
Trinity College Dublin	130,011,922	7,930,727	76	24	19	119
University College Cork	127,833,656	8,948,356	102	3	15	120
University College Dublin	143,962,000	6,795,006	72	6	27	105
University of Limerick	45,211,182	7,563,831	39	2	4	45
Total	**671,188,586**	**44,531,959**	**416**	**49**	**77**	**542**
College & State Research Organisations						
National College of Art and Design	156,420	118,879	1	9	43	53
National College of Ireland	747,000	-	0	1	0	1
Teagasc	58,100,000	9,877,000	13	6	33	52
Irish Manufacturing Research	13,161,791	789,707	22	8	30	60
Marine Institute	10,935,000	-	1	0	0	1
Total	**83,100,211**	**10,785,587**	**37**	**24**	**106**	**167**

A2: Research Expenditure, research agreements and consultancy with Industry 2024: Technological Universities & Institutes of Technology

RPO	Research expenditure (less block grant) in the reference year (€)	Research expenditure derived from industry	Number of collaborative research agreements with industry	Number of innovation vouchers with industry	Number of consultancy agreements with industry	Total number of collaboration, innovation voucher and consultancy services agreements with industry
Technological University/Institutes of Technology						
Atlantic Technological University (ATU)	16,050,503	914,879	95	27	75	197
Munster Technological University (MTU)	32,785,627	2,491,708	28	49	58	135
South East Technological University (SETU)	20,800,292	1,726,424	14	53	196	263
TU-Dublin	30,925,582	773,140	23	13	49	85
Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)	18,478,863	1,108,732	29	39	188	256
Dundalk Institute of Technology	4,286,000	42,860	4	19	5	28
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	2,736,334	-	0	13	0	13
Total	**126,063,201**	**7,057,742**	**193**	**213**	**571**	**977**
Grand Total	**880,351,998**	**62,375,288**	**646**	**286**	**754**	**1686**

A3: Research Expenditure, research agreements and consultancy with non-commercial entities 2024: Universities, Colleges & State Research Bodies

RPO	Research expenditure (less block grant) in the reference year (€)	Research expenditure derived from non-commercial entities	Number of collaborative research agreements with non-commercial entities	Number of consultancy services agreements with non-commercial entities	Total number of collaboration and consultancy services agreements with non-commercial entities
University					
Dublin City University	41,022,856	6,132,917	0	11	11
Maynooth University	61,985,749	812,013	16	20	36
University of Galway	89,759,817	10,771,178	3	0	3
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	31,401,404	4,930,020	11	1	12
Trinity College Dublin	130,011,922	4,420,405	179	21	200
University College Cork	127,833,656	5,113,346	26	10	36
University College Dublin	143,962,000	14,093,880	99	27	126
University of Limerick	45,211,182	1,089,589	3	0	3
Total	**671,188,586**	**47,363,350**	**337**	**90**	**427**
College & State Research Organisations					
National College of Art and Design	156,420	-	2	49	51
National College of Ireland	747,000	-	0	0	0
Teagasc	58,100,000	4,648,000	0	7	7
Irish Manufacturing Research	13,161,791	-	1	1	2
Marine Institute	10,935,000	-	0	0	0
Total	**83,100,211**	**4,648,000**	**3**	**57**	**60**

A4: Research Expenditure, research agreements and consultancy with non-commercial entities 2024: Technological Universities & Institutes of Technology

RPO	Research expenditure (less block grant) in the reference year (€)	Research expenditure derived from non-commercial entities	Number of collaborative research agreements with non-commercial entities	Number of consultancy services agreements with non-commercial entities	Total number of collaboration and consultancy services agreements with non-commercial entities
Technological University/Institutes of Technology					
Atlantic Technological University (ATU)	16,050,503	128,404	21	9	30
Munster Technological University (MTU)	32,785,627	-	0	36	36
South East Technological University (SETU)	20,800,292	474,247	2	2	4
TU-Dublin	30,925,582	-	0	1	1
Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)	18,478,863	184,789	14	10	24
Dundalk Institute of Technology	4,286,000	42,860	1	1	2
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	2,736,334	-	0	0	0
Total	**126,063,201**	**830,299**	**38**	**59**	**97**
Grand Total	**880,351,998**	**52,841,649**	**378**	**206**	**584**

B1: IP and IP Transactions 2024: Universities, Colleges & State Research Bodies

RPO	Total number of invention/ software disclosures received during the year	Total number of new patent applications filed during the year	Previously filed priority patent applications filed progressed to PCT in year	Total number of patents granted in year	Total number of patent families owned by the RPO at year end	Total number of licences, options and assignments executed (LOAs)	Market launches of products or services in year based on RPO licence
University							
Dublin City University	30	1	0	15	51	5	1
Maynooth University	8	3	0	3	21	0	0
University of Galway	42	4	1	7	97	13	2
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	15	3	3	3	33	8	0
Trinity College Dublin	60	16	11	54	183	29	13
University College Cork	69	10	11	8	77	33	5
University College Dublin	62	25	8	11	158	27	2
University of Limerick	22	4	4	12	71	15	2
Total	**308**	**66**	**38**	**113**	**691**	**130**	**25**
College & State Research Organisations							
National College of Art and Design	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
National College of Ireland	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teagasc	27	3	0	1	33	49	3
Irish Manufactuirng Research (IMR)	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Marine Institute	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**34**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**34**	**56**	**3**

B2: IP and IP Transactions 2024: Technological Universities & Institutes of Technology

RPO	Total number of invention/ software disclosures received during the year	Total number of new patent applications filed during the year	Previously filed priority patent applications filed progressed to PCT in year	Total number of patents granted in year	Total number of patent families owned by the RPO at year end	Total number of licences, options and assignments executed (LOAs)	Market launches of products or services in year based on RPO licence
Technological University/Institutes of Technology							
Atlantic Technological University	14	0	0	1	3	0	0
Munster Technological University	18	2	1	0	11	12	2
South East Technological University	18	1	2	0	11	6	0
Technological University Dublin	36	4	4	1	40	11	0
Technological University of the Shannon	9	1	1	0	0	4	0
Dundalk Institute of Technology	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dun Laoghaire IADT	8	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total	**104**	**8**	**8**	**2**	**66**	**35**	**2**
Grand Total	**446**	**79**	**47**	**116**	**791**	**221**	**30**

C1: Spin-out companies, start-ups and use of facilities 2024: Universities, Colleges & State Research Bodies

RPO	Number of spin-outs established during the year	Number of staff or student start-ups established during the year	Number of active spin-outs in existence at the end of the year	Number of spin-outs merged or acquired during the year	Number of contracts with companies for use of facilities and equipment at the RPO
University					
Dublin City University	1	10	11	0	12
Maynooth University	0	0	5	0	4
University of Galway	4	0	23	0	0
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	1	0	3	0	0
Trinity College Dublin	5	0	41	1	62
University College Cork	3	5	21	1	0
University College Dublin	6	0	21	2	0
University of Limerick	1	0	16	1	182
Total	**21**	**15**	**141**	**5**	**260**
College & State Research Organisations					
National College of Art and Design	0	0	0	0	11
National College of Ireland	0	0	1	0	0
Teagasc	0	0	3	0	50
Irish Manufactuirng Research (IMR)	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Institute	0	0	0	0	5
Total	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**66**

C2: Spin-out companies, start-ups and use of facilities 2024: Technological Universities & Institutes of Technology

RPO	Number of spin-outs established during the year	Number of staff or student start-ups established during the year	Number of active spin-outs in existence at the end of the year	Number of spin-outs merged or acquired during the year	Number of contracts with companies for use of facilities and equipment at the RPO
Technological University/Institutes of Technology					
Atlantic Technological University	0	0	0	0	75
Munster Technological University	0	3	4	0	4
South East Technological University	1	0	7	1	0
Technological University Dublin	3	0	9	1	2
Technological University of the Shannon	0	0	0	0	86
Dundalk Institute of Technology	0	0	1	0	0
Dun Laoghaire IADT	0	0	0	0	3
Total	**4**	**3**	**21**	**2**	**170**
Grand Total	**25**	**18**	**166**	**7**	**496**

Appendix 2 - List of Ireland's Research Performing Organisations

Reporting sector	Institution	Year of foundation of TTO
University		
	Dublin City University	2007
	Maynooth University	2005
	University of Galway	2005
	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	2007
	Trinity College Dublin	1987
	University College Cork	1982
	University College Dublin	2003
	University of Limerick	2005
Technological University/Institutes of Technology		
	Technological University Dublin	2000
	Technological University of the Shannon	2008
	Munster Technological University	2009
	Atlantic Technological University	2024
	South East Technological University	2008
	Dundalk Institute of Technology	2012
	Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	2012
Colleges and State Research Organisations		
	Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR)	N/A
	National College of Art and Design	2013
	National College of Ireland	2011
	Marine Institute	N/A
	Teagasc	2011

Appendix 3 - Ireland's Internationally Recognised Technology Transfer Professionals

	Name	Institution/Organisation
2015	Dr Andrew Marsh	IBM ex. TU-Dublin
2015	Dr Anthony Morrissey	University College Cork
2016	Dr Aoife Gallagher	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
2015	Dr Carolyn Hughes	I-Form ex. Dublin City University
2015	Dr David Corkery	University College Cork
2016	Dr Derek John	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
2015	Dr Emily Vereker	The National Office for Research Ethics Committees ex. Trinity College Dublin
2015	Dr Ena Walsh	University College Dublin
2015	Dr Gordon Elliott	Trinity College Dublin
2015	Dr Graham McMullin	Trinity College Dublin
2015	Dr Jacinta Thornton	University of Galway
2015	Dr James O'Sullivan	South East Technological University
2018	Dr Joan O'Sullivan	University of Limerick
2015	Dr Karl Quinn	Lifebit ex. University College Dublin
2017	Dr Kieran Ryan	Atlantic Technological University
2016	Dr Margaret Lawlor	University of Limerick
2016	Dr Miriam Walsh	Teagasc
2017	Dr Paul Maguire	Technological University - Dublin
2015	Dr Paul Tyndall	Maynooth University
2015	Dr Peter Olwell	Dublin City University
2024	Dr Sally Cudmore	University College Cork
2020	Dr Samantha Williams	Trinity College Dublin
2016	Dr Seamus Browne	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
2017	Dr Siobhan Mac Sweeney	Munster Technological University
2017	Dr Stacey Kelly	University College Dublin

	Name	Institution/Organisation
2020	Dr Stephen Donoghue	University College Dublin
2019	Mr Aidan Browne	Dundalk Institute of Technology
2021	Mr Brian Callaghy	Trinity College Dublin
2019	Mr Brian Ogilvie	South East Technological University
2016	Mr Conor Morris	University of Limerick
2020	Mr David Gardiner	Technological University - Dublin
2019	Mr Ian Gallivan	University of Galway
2016	Mr John Gleeson	CONFIRM ex University of Limerick
2015	Mr Kevin Dalton	University College Cork
2016	Mr Kieran O'Connell	Technological University - Dublin
2021	Mr Michael Lonergan	Technological University of the Shannon
2016	Mr Neil McLoughlin	Dundalk Institute of Technology
2015	Mr Patrick O'Boyle	Dublin City University
2015	Mr Paul Dillon	University of Limerick
2016	Mr Peter Conlon	Maynooth University
2015	Mr Richard Stokes	Independent Consultant ex. Dublin City University
2015	Mr Ronan Coleman	Munster Technological University
2012	Mr Tom Flanagan	Independent Consultant ex. University College Dublin
2020	Mr Vincent Coole	Trinity College Dublin
2016	Ms Breda Lynch	Technological University of the Shannon
2024	Ms Emer O'Shea	University College Cork
2015	Ms Emma O'Neill	Trinity College Dublin
2020	Ms Josette O'Mullane	Munster Technological University

Appendix 4 - Glossary

Active Spin-out: An Active Spin-out is an RPO-created spin-out company that is at least three years' post-formation (three years since being reported as an RPO spin-out) and, as at the end of the reference year, has at least one paid employee and has raised equity and/or has booked sales revenue. It is an incorporated entity which at the time of formation was dependent on the exploitation of specific intellectual property rights of the RPO. The RPO will have executed a licence to the spin-out for the IPR and/or will hold equity in the spin-out. (Excludes Start-ups, companies to whom your RPO licensed IP but where the academic founder(s) were based at another RPO – this will prevent double counting and Spin-out companies that have been acquired by or merged with another company).

Assignment: Contract transferring ownership of right in IP to a third party.

Collaborative Research with industry: A research project/programme between an industry party and an RPO. The project/programme may be: wholly-funded by the industry party or; part-funded by the industry party (in cash and/or in kind, including participation in the research itself) and part-funded by the State or other external sources. Collaborative research may involve two or more parties.

Characteristics of collaborative research with industry: The purpose of collaborative research is the generation of new knowledge. Typically, there will be an expectation of publication although the project may be governed by aspects of confidentiality. Intellectual property may be created and how the company benefits will be determined in the collaboration agreement and will depend on the contribution to the project made by the company. (Includes Collaborative Research agreements with industry wholly-funded by industry, Collaborative Research agreements with industry part-funded by industry, Innovation Partnerships) and (Excludes Consultancy Services, Academic collaboration, Research Grants, Collaborative Research with non-commercial entities, Innovation Vouchers, Cases where a company funds a research chair).

Collaborative Research (with non-commercial entities): A research project/programme between non-commercial entities and an RPO. The project/programme maybe: wholly-funded by the non-commercial entity or; part-funded by the non-commercial entity (in cash and/or in kind, including participation in the research itself) and part-funded by the State or other external sources. Collaborative research may involve two or more parties.

Characteristics of collaborative research with non-commercial entities: The purpose of collaborative research is the generation of new knowledge. Typically, there will be an expectation of publication although the project may be governed by aspects of confidentiality. Intellectual property may be created and how the non-commercial entity benefits will be determined in the collaboration agreement. (Includes Collaborative Research agreements with non-commercial entity wholly-funded by non-commercial entity, Collaborative Research agreements with non-commercial entity part-funded by non-commercial entity, Innovation Partnerships.) and (Excludes Collaborative Research with Industry, Consultancy Services, Academic collaboration, Innovation Vouchers, Cases where a company funds a research chair).

Consultancy Services: RPO provides professional-level work to an external client organisation through an academic, researcher or other member of RPO staff in exchange for a commercial fee. The work is specified (or agreed) by the client against deliverables agreed with the RPO.

Characteristics of consultancy services: The purpose of consultancy is not typically the generation of new knowledge, rather it draws on existing knowledge. There will usually be no expectation of publication, results will be confidential and will be transferred to the client. The type of work might typically involve one or more of the following: advice; analysis; production of a report. Projects will generally be of a short term. (Includes Consultancy agreements, "Contract services" or Research Services agreements, Projects contracted under a work order) and (Excludes Collaborative research (wholly- or part- funded by industry), Innovation Vouchers, Academic collaboration, Research Grants, Training and provision of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

EI ID No: This is the reference number generated on submission of KT Boost Metrics for Spin-outs, Active Spin-outs, start-ups etc.

Equity: Shareholding in a legal entity.

FTE: Full Time Equivalents - People working part-time are only included for the fraction that they are employed.

Gross Licence Revenue: Total Revenue from all types of know-how and IP (e.g. patents, copyright, software, designs, materials etc.) achieved through LOA before disbursement to the inventor or other parties.

Innovation Vouchers: Innovation Vouchers worth €10,000 are available to assist a company or companies to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider (i.e. higher education institutes, public research bodies).

Invention Disclosure: The "invention" disclosure is the first actual recording of potential new intellectual property (IP). The researcher/inventor and TTO/ Innovation Office will complete an Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) which is a written, signed and dated record. The IDF contains basic information, including supporting data, which helps to evaluate and subsequently, potentially protect and commercialise the intellectual property. For avoidance of doubt, the IP may be software which, in some situations may be disclosed under a Software Disclosure Form (SDF).

Innovation Office: The team responsible for managing KT services, including intellectual property management, licensing, partnering with industry and the creation of new companies. Also referred to as TTO.

Joint Invention Disclosure: Simultaneous reporting of an Invention Disclosure for the same invention or software to more than one RPO that has been created jointly by more than one RPO via the TTO/ Innovation office.

KT: Knowledge Transfer – the sharing of expertise, capability, technology and intellectual property between the research base and industry or the public sector with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes and services that deliver societal and economic benefit.

Large Company: A company which is based in one country only and which has more than 250 employees and has either an annual turnover greater than €50M or an annual Balance Sheet total greater than €43M. (Excludes companies returned under MNC).

Large Company Irish: A Large Company which is based in Ireland

LOA: Licence, Option or Assignment – these encompass agreements between a public research organisation and one or more commercial or non-commercial undertakings, whereby IP rights are transferred, or are agreed to be transferred, to that undertaking for the purpose of commercialisation. LOA must be for tangible IP i.e. IP already created.

- Licence – a grant of rights for the purpose of commercialisation of IP
- Option – a grant of a time limited right to secure a position in respect of IPR that may or may not lead to a licence depending on development of the IPR and/or evaluation of the technology/IP and/or external circumstances e.g. company tech development, fundraising etc.
- Assignment – a grant of ownership of IPR for the purpose of commercialisation of IP.

MNC: A multinational corporation that has its facilities and other assets in at least one country other than its home country. Such companies have offices and/or factories in different countries and usually have a centralized head office where they co-ordinate global management. (Excludes, SMEs and Large Companies).

MNC (Irish): An MNC which has its HQ based in Ireland and/or which has a significant R&D presence in Ireland.

Multi-party: A Research collaboration agreement or Consultancy Agreement where there are multiple companies/non-commercial entities involved. The 'Company Type' Table will allow for this data to be captured.

NERF: Non-Exclusive Royalty-Free (NERF) Licence Agreement.

Non-commercial entity (NCE): Public sector organisation, charity or other (excludes government funding agencies and EU).

PCT: Patent Cooperation Treaty – the Treaty makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries by filling an "international" patent application.

Priority Filing: The first filing of a patent application which will establish a priority date from which all national patents will derive. Depending on patent strategy the priority filing may be done as a provisional application or national patent application or regional or international (PCT) patent application.

Reference Year: The twelve-month reporting period from 1st January to 31st December 2024.

Repeat Business: Number of companies with whom the RPO has executed collaborative research or consultancy services agreements or LOAs in the reference year that represent repeat business i.e. with whom RPO has entered into a commercial transaction on at least one other occasion in the past 3 years. By default, previous commercial transaction will exclude engagements such as giving talks, lecturing, sitting on advisory groups etc.

Research Grant: An academic grant not involving industry. An award to an RPO by a research funding agency (e.g. government agency, charity) to perform a programme of research with the intention of disseminating the research results and in which an industry party is not involved. Typical research funders may include: SFI, ERC, Welcome Trust etc.

Research Services: Research services typically provided using RPO equipment or laboratories.

Revenue: The amount of money that the RPO actually received during the reference year which may also be considered as the "top line" or "gross income".

RPO: Research Performing Organisations. Universities, Technological Universities, Institutes of Technology and other research institutions funded primarily by public funds.

SME: Has less than 250 employees and has either an annual turnover not exceeding €50M or an annual Balance Sheet total not exceeding €43M.

SME (Irish): SME which has its head office in Ireland.

Sole Invention Disclosure: An Invention Disclosure for an invention or software created by one RPO and reported to that RPO via the TTO/ Innovation office.

Registered Spin-out: A registered spin-out company is an incorporated entity which at the time of formation was dependent on the exploitation of specific intellectual property rights of the RPO. The rights to the company can be linked to a specific researcher who was within the RPO at the time of company formation and who would be considered an academic founder. The RPO will hold equity in the spin-out and/or has issued the company with a licence to the IP. (Excludes, start-up companies).

Start-up: Company formed by staff or students from the RPO not based on knowledge or IP generated by the RPO and where there is no formal IP licence or equity share with the RPO. (Excludes spin-out companies).

TTO: Technology Transfer Office – the team responsible for managing KT services, including intellectual property management, licensing, partnering with industry and the creation of new companies.

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