



THE
IRELAND
FUNDS

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION 2018

In partnership with



BEST
PLACE
TO
START

For further information, visit www.ndrc.ie

#IrelandFundsBPC

Have a great idea for a new technology product or service?

We want to hear from you!

The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition, now in its seventh year, seeks to nurture creativity and hone entrepreneurial skills amongst Irish-based early-stage technology entrepreneurs. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop their business ideas and compete for the opportunity to pitch for a place on one of NDRC's investment programmes, cash prizes and other supports.

What is it?

The Ireland Funds has partnered with NDRC to help you bring your idea from concept to pitch. Applications will be accepted until noon on Wednesday, 25th April 2018. Ten business ideas will then be selected to receive mentoring and support from NDRC through a series of workshops during May and June, with the opportunity to compete to pitch for a place on one of NDRC's investment programmes, €16,000 in prize money and other supports.

First prize

The opportunity to pitch for a place on one of NDRC's investment programmes along with €10,000 cash prize. NDRC is Ireland's most successful digital accelerator, specifically designed to enable entrepreneurial teams transform solid ideas into commercially viable startups.

Runner-up prizes

€5,000 cash prize (first runner-up)

€1,000 cash prize (second runner-up)

All finalists will receive detailed feedback on their business ideas and pitches from the NDRC Venture Investment team and judging panel.

Who is eligible?

The Ireland Funds Business Plan Competition is open to residents in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland at pre-investment stage.

Specifically we are looking for three things:

- 1 A technology/digital proposition
- 2 Global scalability potential
- 3 Team (must be more than one person)

General guidelines

- 1 Applicants must apply online by noon on Wednesday, 25th April 2018 at www.ndrc.ie
- 2 Applicants should be part of a team (more than one person). There are no limits as to the number of members each team may have, however teams may only select up to three participants to complete the workshop days.
- 3 The competition is open to residents in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at pre-investment stage.

Selection

We are looking for smart new business ideas amongst Ireland's early-stage technology entrepreneurs. Convince us that your business idea is the next big thing and you will receive support to develop your business idea from concept to pitch. Ten companies will be selected to participate on four pre-acceleration workshops. At the final, our judging panel comprising leading entrepreneurs, executives and investors, will select the winner and runners-up.



The Ireland Funds

The Ireland Funds is a global philanthropic network established in 1976 to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland, and Irish-related causes around the world. With chapters in 12 countries, The Ireland Funds has raised over \$550 million for deserving causes in Ireland and beyond, benefitting more than 3,000 different organisations.

For more information, please contact:

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Timeline

- › **Thursday, 1st March 2018 – Applications open.**
Apply online until noon on Wednesday, 25th April 2018 at www.ndrc.ie
- › **Friday, 4th May 2018**
Shortlist selection of ten companies announced
- › **Workshop Days**
(teams must be available on all days)
- › **Workshop 1: Wednesday, 16th May 2018**
Business Model Canvas and Introduction to The Ireland Funds
- › **Workshop 2: Wednesday, 23rd May 2018**
Customer Validation
- › **Workshop 3: Wednesday, 30th May 2018**
Value Proposition and Market Opportunity
- › **Workshop 4: Wednesday, 6th June 2018**
Pitch Preparation
- › **Final pitches and prize presentation**
Final pitches and prize presentation will take place in Limerick on Wednesday, 20th June 2018.



NDRC

NDRC has a mandate from the State (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment) to make commercial investments in early-stage start-ups, ensuring digital entrepreneurship is a vibrant and growing part of the economy.

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