Science Foundation Ireland **SFI** For what's next

Lero - The Irish Software Research Centre
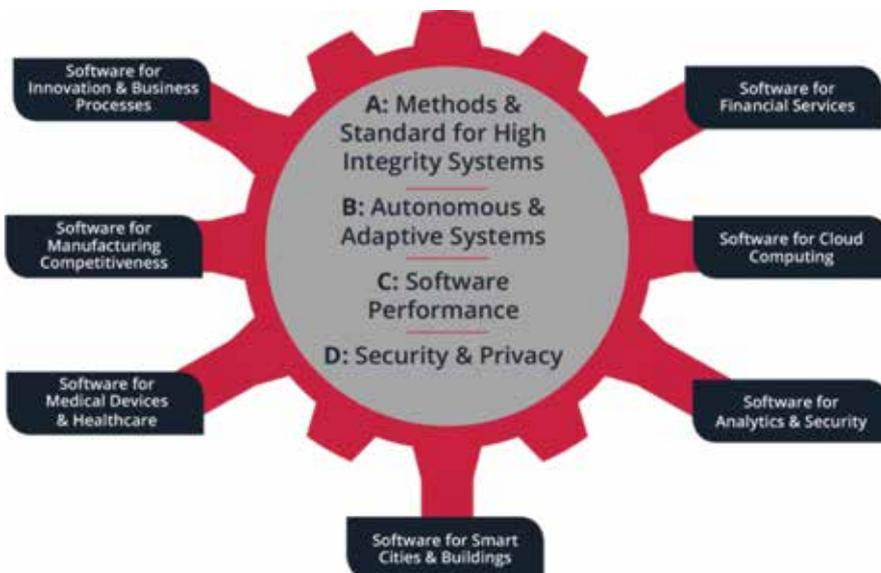
Lero THE IRISH SOFTWARE RESEARCH CENTRE

Lero brings together leading software teams from universities and institutes of technology in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus.

Ireland has a vibrant and successful software sector, with nine of the world's top 10 multinational technology companies having a significant presence in Ireland. Lero is a key pillar of that sector. Since it was founded in 2005, it has become one of the best known and most highly regarded software research centres in the world. It is home to 289 researchers and funded to the tune of €41m.

Research programmes

Research Areas

Lero's broad research focus is on evolving critical systems (ECS). These systems change over time ("evolving"), are strategically important to their users or owners ("critical"), and are often significantly – although not necessarily exclusively – software intensive ("systems"). ECS increasingly characterises a large proportion of software systems in development and use today, from business-critical systems (such as airline websites), to safety-critical systems (such as an automotive braking control system), to product critical systems (such as the core modules of a large software product).

Industry and commercialisation

Lero works with a wide range of industry sectors, state agencies, educational bodies and international collaborators to deliver on its twin goals of research excellence and social and economic relevance.

Industry partners include:

- ACI Worldwide
- ADA Security Systems
- Aerogen
- Allstate Insurance
- Almir Business Ltd
- Analog Devies
- Blu 5 Labs
- Bluebridge Technologies Ltd
- Comfort Keepers
- dabl Health
- Data Direct Networks
- Dell
- DMF Systems
- Entellexi
- Ericsson
- European Space

- Agency
- Fidelty Investments
- Fijowave
- Hermitage Medical Clinic
- Horizon Globex
- IBM
- Information Mosaic
- Intel
- Logitech
- METAFrame
- Microsoft
- Movidius
- Ocuco Ltd
- Portable Medical Technology
- QAD

- Rigney Dolphin Group
- S3 Group
- Salaso Healthcare
- Software Quality Systems
- STATSports
- Storm Technology
- sysTeam
- Toyota
- Tullow Oil
- Two-Ten Health
- United Technologies Research Centre
- Vitalograph
- Volkswagen
- Vu2Vu

Education and Public Engagement:

Lero, in collaboration with Science Foundation Ireland, is involved in many local and national events including Smart Futures, Thesis in 3, Coder Dojo, Hour of Code, Pint of Science, Scratch Competition, and Techweek. Lero has significant involvement in introducing computer programming into the primary school curriculum.

Lero promotes awareness in technology through initiatives such as:

- Scratch Programming in primary schools
- The Junior Cycle Short Course in Coding
- Summer Computing Camps

Lero is also involved in computer science at Leaving Certificate and has conducted research for the NCCA around the provision of computer science in upper second level education internationally. Lero develops and delivers CPD for teachers in computer science, in collaboration with Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT).

Key Contacts

Prof Brian Fitzgerald
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Professor Brian Fitzgerald has been a Science Foundation Ireland Principal Investigator (PI) since 2002. He was one of the pioneers of research into Open Source software and is widely recognized as a global leader in the study of software development processes and methods. He was one of the founding PIs in Lero where he has been a researcher since its inception, apart from a period from 2008-2011 when he served as Vice-President Research at the University of Limerick. He has been Chief Scientist in Lero since 2013. He also holds an endowed professorship, the Frederick Krehbiel II Chair in Innovation in Business & Technology, at the University of Limerick.

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