



Asiera

Advancing Services for Irish Education, Research & Academia

Asiera Strategy 2026 – 2030

asiera.ie

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Chairperson Foreword

Asiera was launched on 1 January 2026, following the merger of HEAnet and EduCampus, bringing their strengths and expertise together under a unified organisation. The name forms an acronym for **A**dvancing **S**ervices for **I**rish **E**ducation **R**esearch and **A**cademia, and on behalf of Asiera, it is my pleasure to introduce the Asiera Strategy for 2026-2030.

Our strategy is anchored in our vision to empower through digital excellence and in our mission to be a trusted partner, delivering innovative digital solutions that advance education and research. Asiera has the expertise, breadth, and capability to play a transformative role in delivering digital shared services across the education and research sector in Ireland. Our ambition is built on a clear understanding of our clients' evolving needs and a commitment to respond with agility and insight. Over the lifetime of this strategy, Asiera will focus on six priorities that strengthen and extend our role as Ireland's digital partner for education and research.

In an age of rapidly evolving technology, we will continue to advance our national network to ensure it remains resilient, scalable, and energy-efficient. Through key collaborations and planned upgrades, Asiera will strengthen its infrastructure to meet growing client demand and future technological needs. As cyber threats continue to rise, Asiera will strengthen its security capabilities to protect the education and research community. Our enhanced security services and new cybersecurity initiatives will be central to safeguarding clients against an increasingly complex threat landscape.

We will deepen our commitment to empowering research and supporting open science principles in Ireland by delivering the digital research infrastructure needed for impactful research and strengthening our national research ecosystem.



Our digital information platforms offering will continue to reshape how institutions across the education and research sector operate, enabling more efficient, data-driven decision-making. By harnessing high-quality, integrated data, we will empower our clients to streamline processes, enhance insights, and drive meaningful organisational transformation.

Asiera is committed to promoting sustainability across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Our strategy focuses on reducing our carbon footprint, in line with Ireland's Climate Action Plan. We are also committed to advancing social responsibility and ensuring the long term financial sustainability of Asiera. In a time of geopolitical uncertainty, it is more important than ever that Asiera is resourced to deliver essential services and to respond effectively to emerging geopolitical impacts.

Recognising that our people are our greatest asset, we are committed to cultivating a culture that values inclusion, diversity, and continuous development. By supporting our employees, we aim to maximise our organisational impact and deliver excellence in all we do.

As we move into the implementation phase of this strategy, I am confident it will position Asiera to meet future challenges and empower Ireland's education and research sector to excel.

Professor Mike Murphy

Chairperson, Board of Asiera

Emeritus Fellow, Technological University Dublin

A message from the CEO

I am delighted to share our new Asiera Strategy 2026–2030, outlining our ambitious, future focused direction for the rest of this decade. This strategy marks a key milestone for Asiera, building on our past achievements and setting a clear path for continued growth and transformation.

We are building on the proud heritage of HEAnet and EduCampus, our strategic ambition grounded in a commitment not only to sustain but to elevate the successes we have achieved together. We are focused on bringing our collective strengths together to expand our shared services portfolio to deliver even greater impact for the education and research sector.

I am excited to introduce a new Vision Statement ‘To Empower Education and Research Through Digital Excellence’ which demonstrates our aspiration to strengthen Ireland’s education and research sector by delivering world class digital services.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of technology in the education and research sector, it is imperative that we stay innovative and client-centric. Our strategy is not just a roadmap; it’s a commitment to excellence, growth, and making a meaningful impact on education and research in Ireland.

At Asiera, we are passionate about being Ireland’s digital partner for education and research. Our new strategy is built on six focus areas: digital network infrastructure, security and digital trust, research and international collaboration, digital information platforms, people and



culture, and sustainability. Our focus areas were informed by the former HEAnet and EduCampus strategies and careful consideration of the sector's current and emerging needs, which were informed by stakeholder consultations.

Asiera remains firmly committed to placing our clients at the centre of everything we do. We know that our impact is realised through their success, and we are dedicated to listening closely, understanding their challenges, and delivering solutions that not only meet their needs but help them achieve more.

I am highly optimistic for the opportunities ahead. With our talented team and unwavering commitment to excellence, Asiera is well positioned for continued growth and success in the years to come.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Asiera Board of Directors, our clients, our funders, and stakeholders for their ongoing support. Their trust and collaboration enable us to pursue our ambitious goals with confidence. As we move forward, we will continue to work closely with all our partners to advance not only Asiera's objectives but also the wider sectoral and national policy priorities in the years ahead. Together, we will help shape a stronger, more connected future for education and research in Ireland.

Mr Ronan Byrne
Chief Executive Officer



Value Proposition

Asiera's delivery of critical national digital infrastructure and services is fundamental to the functioning of the sector, supporting education, research, digital inclusion and Ireland's long-term international collaboration and competitiveness.



Who we are

Ireland's digital partner for education and research

What we do

Deliver secure digital infrastructure and services as the foundation for all learning and research in Ireland



Asiera

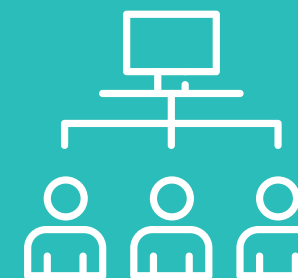


For whom

Irish government departments and state agencies, and every student, staff and researcher in Ireland

With whom

Clients, commercial partners, international partners and Irish government departments



Asiera Impact

What you see

Services and Engagement

Brokerage Procurement Frameworks
Research Infrastructure Support
Security Consulting Services
Security Operations
Helpdesk Support
Client Engagement
Technology Store
Department and Policy Engagement
International Collaboration

Enterprise Applications

Student Administration
Library Management
HR Management & Payroll
Finance Management
Academic Credentials

What you don't see

Security

SOC & SIEM Service
DDoS Mitigation
Secure Certificate Services
IP Blocking Service

ICT Platforms

Website Hosting
Media Hosting
Large File Transfer (Filesender)

Connectivity

High Speed Internet
eduroam (WiFi)
Network Security
Single Sign-On Identity Management
EuroHPC (CASPIr)
Quantum Communications Network
Time & Frequency
Fibre Sensing

Infrastructure

National Fibre Backbone
International Connectivity Links
Asiera Data Centres
Client Data Centres
Government Data Centres

Vision Statement

**To empower
education and
research** through
digital excellence



Mission Statement

To be a trusted partner delivering innovative digital solutions that advance education and research

Values



Collaboration

We work together openly and respectfully, fostering trusted relationships with colleagues, clients, and partners. By sharing knowledge and co-creating solutions, we achieve better outcomes for the sector.



Equality & Fairness

We ensure that equality, inclusion and fairness guide every decision we make. We value diverse perspectives and create an environment where everyone can contribute, participate, and succeed.



Future Focused

We embrace change and innovation to strengthen our sector.



Positive Impact

We act with integrity and accountability, and aim to deliver measurable, ethically-responsible, and sustainable outcomes that support the wider community and the sector.



Excellence

We are responsible for and committed to delivering high quality, reliable, cost-effective and efficient services.

Support for Policy

Through the delivery of secure, resilient national services, Asiera supports the effective implementation of Government policy across education and research, strengthening national capability and long-term digital resilience.

Focus Area	Department	National and EU Policy
Digital Network Infrastructure	Department of the Taoiseach	National Digital and AI Strategy 2030
		Harnessing Digital - The Digital Ireland Framework
	Department of Education and Youth	Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027
	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	National Strategy for Advanced Computing Infrastructure and Services (expected to be published in Q4 2026)
	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	SOLAS FET Strategy 2025-2029 (under development)
	European Commission	Connectivity for a European Gigabit Society - Brochure
Security and Digital Trust	National Cyber Security Centre	2025 National Cyber Risk Assessment
	European Commission	NIS 2 Directive
Research and International Collaboration	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy
		INSPIRE Research Infrastructure Investment Package
		National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030
		National Digital and AI Strategy 2030
		Research Ireland Strategy 2026-2030

Support for Policy

Focus Area	Department	National and EU Policy
Digital Information Platforms	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	Technological Universities Act 2018
		DFHERIS Statement of Strategy
	Department of Education and Youth	DEY Statement of Strategy
	European Commission	Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030
	Department of Education and Youth	STEM Education Policy
People and Culture	European Commission	Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030
	Department of Education and Youth	STEM Education Policy
Sustainability	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment	Ireland's Climate Action Plan
		Public Sector Climate Action Mandate
	Department of the Taoiseach	Harnessing Digital - The Digital Ireland Framework (Digital Inclusion)

Focus Areas



Digital Network Infrastructure



Asiera's national network underpins Ireland's education and research ecosystem, connecting clients and enabling collaboration, and innovation at scale. Looking ahead, our 2026-2030 strategy sets out a focused programme of critical investments to ensure the network remains resilient, sustainable, and fit for the future.

Future network delivery

Asiera will ensure continued access to advanced digital connectivity for clients and the wider research community through targeted upgrades and expansion of its core infrastructure, keeping the national network resilient, scalable, and future-ready. This includes integrating the new government data centre at Backweston into the Asiera core network and using advanced equipment to support the EuroHPC CASPIr supercomputer and the EuroHPC AI Antenna hosted by ICHEC, providing world-class connectivity for Ireland's high-performance computing and AI capabilities.

Building on this strong national foundation, Asiera will leverage the GÉANT network to support pan-European research collaboration and the deployment of advanced technologies, including fibre sensing, time and frequency networks, and quantum communications infrastructure. We will support access to the CERN LHCONe network and engagement with CERN to enable Irish researchers to participate in globally significant research and deepen Ireland's integration within the European research ecosystem.

Digital Network Infrastructure



Expand connection capacity and resilience

Asiera will expand network capacity and resilience to meet the growing needs of Ireland's education sector, delivering a minimum of 100 Gbps connectivity where required to all universities main campus by 2030 and resilient, high-availability connections to all Further Education Institutions. In parallel, Asiera provides secure, high-speed connectivity to over 4,000 schools nationwide and will continue to strengthen the Schools Network to support safe, inclusive digital learning and evolving educational demands across the entire education landscape.

Connecting learners at all levels of education

Asiera is committed to digital inclusion, recognising that equitable access to connectivity is essential for learners to reach their full potential. We will work with SOLAS and FET providers to deliver resilient, secure, and future-ready digital connectivity, supported by targeted investment and shared services, helping to create inclusive learning environments and ensure no learner is left behind.

Impact

Asiera delivers the digital foundation that enables learning, research, and innovation across Ireland. Through equitable connectivity for learners, world class infrastructure for education and research, and deep international integration, our ambition ensures a resilient, future-ready network that empowers discovery, collaboration, and national competitiveness at scale.

Security and Digital Trust



Trusted partnership

Asiera will look to strengthen our role as trusted partner, establishing ourselves as a source of security information awareness, helping our clients understand not just the current risk, but what is coming next and advise on how to prepare.

At the core of our expanding operational security services is the Cyber Threat Analysis Centre (CTAC) which will provide continuous monitoring and analysis of threats, providing actionable insights that enhance detection, response, and remediation across the sector. We will leverage our partnerships with national and international agencies to provide forward-looking insights into how the threat landscape for education and research is evolving. This will include predictions of emerging threats, adversarial tactics and likely attack vectors.

We will also evolve our security services governance model to ensure that representatives from our client community play an active role in shaping the direction and development of our security services portfolio.

Security and Digital Trust



ISO 27001 certification and NIS2 compliance

Asiera aims to attain organisation-wide ISO 27001 certification and full compliance with the NIS2 Directive, demonstrating our commitment to information security governance and regulatory adherence. We will advance our security posture through strengthened controls, robust risk-management practices, and consistent implementation of internationally recognised standards, ensuring the integrity of the services we provide to the education and research sector.

Impact

Through trusted partnership, evolving security services, and sector-wide intelligence sharing, Asiera will enhance cyber resilience and reduce digital risk across Ireland's education and research sector.

Research and International Collaboration



Asiera is dedicated to advancing research excellence by enabling FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data management, strengthening national research infrastructure, and promoting research collaboration. Through its support of open research initiatives, Asiera empowers Ireland's research community to innovate and succeed on the global stage.

National research data infrastructure

Asiera will continue to support national efforts to advance FAIR data management by promoting the adoption of FAIR Data principles to strengthen research excellence and societal impact. Subject to DFHERIS funding, Asiera plans to establish a minimum viable EOSC Ireland Node in 2027 and develop it into a production service in 2028, complemented by an IRL-DataSpace service and IRL-Data Space Support Centre to enable federated data and tool sharing with industry and public service data spaces.

Asiera will support Irish researchers in onboarding research infrastructure to the EOSC Ireland Node, enabling the development of Digital and Trusted Research Environments and participation in the European EOSC Node. This will enhance access to shared research assets, strengthen collaboration with European partners, and improve the competitiveness, impact, and global visibility of Irish research.

Research engagement

Asiera will promote collaboration and support opportunities across Ireland by strengthening the National Forum for Research Services and Infrastructure (RESIN) network. In parallel, we will support INSPIRE shared infrastructure investments by working with DFHERIS to promote coordination between institutions and best-practice governance. This will ensure alignment with national and European research priorities while avoiding duplication and delivering high-impact research outcomes and collaboration nationally and internationally.



Research and International Collaboration



International connectivity and collaboration

Asiera will play a role in advancing Ireland's ambition, to strengthen the country's international connectivity through the creation of new subsea cable connectivity routes from Ireland to Europe, as set out in the National Digital and AI Strategy 2030.

Enhanced connectivity through new subsea cable routes will provide Irish researchers with faster, more resilient access to global research infrastructures, data platforms, and collaborators. By securing strategic capacity on emerging trans European and trans Atlantic routes, Asiera will enable seamless participation in large scale international research initiatives, support data intensive and AI driven research, and improve the reliability of connections to HPC, scientific instruments, and global datasets.

Impact

Asiera is a critical enabler of Ireland's research ecosystem, providing the national infrastructure and international connectivity essential to research outcomes, open research, and global collaboration.

Digital Information Platforms



By 2030, we will provide the coordinated platforms and service models required to support a more connected, efficient, and responsive sector.

The ambition is to establish Asiera as the default mechanism for shared digital service delivery, supporting institutions through scalable, flexible solutions. Delivery will remain guided by ensuring that investment is prioritised, evidence-based, and aligned with sector needs.

Success will be defined by increased adoption of shared services, measurable efficiency gains, and demonstrable value delivered across the sector, alongside continued expansion into new institutions and users. It will also be reflected in the growth of capability through the introduction of new systems, enhanced service offerings, and ongoing innovation that strengthens the sector's digital ecosystem.

Transformation enabled through digital platforms

By 2030, core systems will be fully consolidated across the Technological University sector, supported by a suite of national framework agreements covering key digital platforms. We will be established as a strategic national partner for digital systems delivery.

The service portfolio will extend, deepening coverage across core management information systems and extending into adjacent institutional platforms, providing comprehensive support for institutional digital needs. Strong governance, performance monitoring, and continuous engagement will ensure services remain aligned with evolving requirements.



Digital Information Platforms



Service delivery model expansion and segmentation

By 2030, we will deliver across higher education and research, further education, and selected public sector organisations. Our client base will be broader and more diverse, reflecting our expanded role within the sector.

A structured, evidence-based approach will be fully embedded to translate sector needs into funded and delivered initiatives, supporting regular investment cycles and clear evidence of impact.

In parallel, our delivery model will be continuously assessed and refined to ensure it can scale effectively, enabling expansion into identified growth areas and supporting a wider and more diverse client base.

Digital Information Platforms



Data interoperability and intelligence

By 2030, a sector-wide data infrastructure will support interoperable data sharing and advanced analytics across institutions. Shared analytics platforms will enable real-time insight and more effective strategic planning, while increasing use of predictive analytics and automation will enhance operational performance.

We will play a central role in generating sector-level insights, supporting financial sustainability, and enabling data-informed decision-making.

This will be progressed through a phased approach, beginning with a structured exploration in 2028 to assess feasibility, value, and sector readiness. Subject to a positive outcome, initial delivery will be piloted in a controlled environment, enabling validation, refinement, and scalability, rather than pursuing large-scale implementation at the outset.

Impact

Asiera enables a more connected, efficient, and data-driven higher education, further education, and research sector through shared digital platforms — delivering measurable value, reducing duplication, and empowering better decision-making at institutional and national level.

People and Culture



At Asiera, we recognise the vital role our people play in our success and plan to further develop an environment where our people's potential can be realised. Our ambition for 2026-2030 is to expand the development opportunities for all our people, strengthening a culture in which performance, development and wellbeing is supported. We will leverage the collective skills and experience of our employees by identifying and acknowledging examples of excellence and empowering our people to share their expertise with their peers. This internal capability directly underpins effective collaboration with our external stakeholders, enabling shared and sustainable solutions across Asiera's shared services.

Impactful culture

In our strategy, we commit to ensuring that our values permeate everything that we do and who we are as a not-for-profit organisation. By fostering a culture that encourages growth, inclusivity and excellence, we are positioning Asiera for sustained success. We aim to foster a workplace culture where diverse perspectives are not only valued but actively sought, leading to innovative solutions and inclusive decision-making processes at all levels of the organisation.

Building a future-ready workforce

To ensure our long-term success, we are focused on developing and growing our talent pipelines both internally and externally. We will achieve this through further enhancing our focus on skills and career development internally and fostering new partnerships externally to meet future talent demands.



People and Culture



Valuing community

By creating a culture that values voice and community, we empower our people to reach their full potential and make a meaningful impact. Asiera is committed to ensuring that our work practices, policies and decision-making provide for this and foster a high-engagement environment where excellence is acknowledged and celebrated. This strong internal foundation enables us to collaborate effectively with our stakeholders, respond to client feedback, and refine our services, ensuring we remain a trusted and reliable digital partner to the sector.

Impact

Asiera's people and culture are mission-critical to the delivery of trusted, high-quality shared services, and underpin effective external collaboration and engagement with our stakeholders.

Sustainability



As Asiera evolves to meet the needs of a rapidly changing education and research landscape, sustainability must sit at the centre of how we think, plan, and operate. We will reduce our environmental impact through low-carbon, resource-efficient practices, maximise our social impact by supporting an inclusive, engaging and high-performing workplace and community investment, and ensure long-term financial viability through close engagement with our funders and prudent investment. Together, these priorities will enable Asiera to remain a trusted, digital partner for the sector.

Environmental responsibility

We will reduce our environmental impact by designing and operating energy efficient digital infrastructure, optimising data centre performance, and supporting low carbon technology choices across the sector. We have made significant progress in recent years in lowering our greenhouse gas emissions and improving our energy efficiency. We remain committed to building on this momentum and advancing our contribution to a more sustainable future throughout the course of this strategy and beyond.

Social impact

We have a strong record of delivering positive social outcomes, and we are committed to building on this foundation. Working closely with our stakeholders, we will continue to promote the wellbeing of our people and communities while strengthening a culture rooted in equality, diversity and inclusion. Our goal is to be recognised as an employer of choice and as an organisation that consistently contributes to meaningful social impact.



Sustainability



Financial viability

Our long-standing delivery of high-quality, cost-effective services demonstrates our ability to maximise value for the sector, even in challenging funding conditions. Looking ahead to 2030, we will strengthen this value proposition by working closely with our funders to build a sustainable and resilient funding model that makes prudent use of limited public resources. By prioritising efficiency and focusing our investments where they have the greatest impact, we will ensure Asiera remains a trusted digital partner for the sector to drive positive, long-term change.

Impact

Sustainability is central to Asiera's ability to deliver critical and responsible digital services for the sector, now and into the future.

Guiding Principles



Client centricity

Prioritise the needs and satisfaction of our clients in every decision and action.



Employee centric culture

Foster a collaborative and inclusive work environment where employees feel valued, supported, and engaged, by providing opportunities for growth, development, and recognition.



Implement appropriate security

Implement security measures that are commensurate with regulatory requirements, aimed at preventing, mitigating, and recovering from cyber incidents.



Be risk aware

Proactively identify, assess, and mitigate risks to protect the interests of stakeholders and ensure business continuity.



Financial viability

Maintain sound financial management practices, optimising resource allocation and ensuring long-term financial stability.



Operational excellence

Strive for excellence in operational processes, ensuring efficiency, quality, and reliability in delivering our services.



Partnering for faster delivery

Integrate external services with internal expertise to deliver our services promptly, whilst preserving in-house intellectual property.



Foster and sustain collaborative relationships

Cultivate strategic relationships to leverage complementary strengths and drive growth and innovation.



Transparency and integrity

Uphold the highest standards of transparency, integrity and ethical behaviour in all interactions, both internally and externally.



Be climate aware

Integrate sustainability into our service lifecycle, from design and development to deployment and end-of-life management, to minimise our carbon footprint and contribute positively to the fight against climate change.

Governance Structure



Asiera Board

**Finance
Sub-Committee**

**Audit & Risk
Committee**

**Nomination
Committee**

**Remuneration
Committee**



Chief Executive Officer

Executive Management Team

Glossary

AI Factory Antennae - Thirteen AI Factory Antennae across EU member and partner states will connect with Euro HPC AI Factories in France and Luxembourg. AIF IRL-Antenna will be based in Ireland.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems capable of performing tasks that historically required human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, and visual perception.

CASPIr - CASPIr (Computation, Analysis, Simulation Platform for Ireland) is Ireland's national high-performance or supercomputer. It is expected to be operational by 2027 and once deployed it will be capable of deploying 15 million billion operations every second.

CERN - CERN also known as the European Council for Nuclear Research, of which Ireland is an Associate Member.

CERN LHCONE Network - A network spanning five continents and connecting 150 sites to the data of CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

Cyber Fundamentals Framework - Also known as CyFun, a voluntary tool to assist organisations to meet their NIS2 obligations. It offers a clear, step-by-step approach that helps organisations to protect their data and significantly reduce their risk of the most common cyber-attacks.

DDoS Mitigation - The process of protecting servers and networks from Distributed Denial of Service attacks by detecting, filtering, and managing malicious traffic to maintain service availability.

Digital Sovereignty - Digital sovereignty is the power of a country, group, or person to independently control their own data, software, hardware, and networks. It aims to reduce heavy reliance on other tech companies, protect local privacy laws, and keep critical infrastructure safe.

Glossary

EOSC Ireland Node - The EOSC Ireland Node is the designated national node being established to integrate Ireland's digital research ecosystem into the broader European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Federation.

EU Digital Identity (eID) - The European Digital Identity (eID) framework is an EU-wide initiative enabling citizens, residents, and businesses to securely prove their identity and share digital credentials across member states using a voluntary smartphone app called the EU Digital Identity Wallet.

EuroHPC - The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) is a joint initiative pooling resources from the EU, 32 European nations, and 3 private partners to build a world-class supercomputing ecosystem. Established in 2018 and based in Luxembourg, it serves as a central pillar for Europe's digital sovereignty, scientific excellence, and industrial competitiveness.

FET - Further Education and Training in Ireland is a wide variety of life-long education options to anyone above 16. FET includes apprenticeships, traineeships, Post Leaving Cert (PLC) courses, community and adult education as well as core literacy and numeracy services. FET courses and programmes are provided through the Education and Training Board network throughout the country as well as through other local providers including online through SOLAS' eCollege.

Fibre Sensing - Fibre optic sensing turns regular fibre optic cables into thousands of continuous, distributed sensors. By sending laser pulses down a glass fibre and analysing backscattered light, systems detect real-time changes in vibration, acoustic signals, temperature, and strain over tens or hundreds of kilometres without needing remote field power.

Glossary

GÉANT - GÉANT is the pan-European data network for the research and education community. It acts as a massive information superhighway that interconnects National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) across Europe. This network enables seamless collaboration on large-scale scientific and academic projects.

Ibec - Ibec (Irish Business and Employers Confederation) is Ireland's largest lobby and business representative group. The organisation serves as the national voice for Irish business and employers, representing over 7,000 member companies across domestic and multinational sectors. Together, Ibec members employ over 70% of the private sector workforce in Ireland.

ICHEC - The Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC) is Ireland's national centre for High-Performance Computing (HPC). Established in 2005, it provides crucial digital e-infrastructure, data services, and advanced computing expertise to Irish academia, enterprises, and public sector organisations.

IP Core Network - An IP Core Network (Internet Protocol Core Network) is the central, high-capacity backbone of a telecommunications or enterprise network that aggregates and routes data traffic across different sub-networks.

ISO27001 - ISO/IEC 27001 is the world's best-known international standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

KeepWell Mark - The KeepWell Mark is an evidence-based workplace wellbeing accreditation introduced by Ibec in 2017. It sets the national benchmark for health, safety, and wellbeing in Irish workplaces, helping companies attract talent and build a supportive corporate culture.

Glossary

MIS - MIS (Management Information Systems) refers to the core enterprise systems used by Higher Education Institutions for administrative functions (e.g. student records, academic credentials, finance, library, HR & Payroll).

NCSC - The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is an official government title given to several prominent national cybersecurity authorities across the globe, most notably in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

NIS2 Directive - The NIS 2 Directive (EU 2022/2555) is an EU-wide cybersecurity law that took effect on October 18, 2024, replacing the older NIS directive. It sets strict security rules, mandatory incident reporting, and executive accountability for medium and large public and private groups working in essential or important sectors across Europe.

Optical Network - An optical network is a telecommunications system that uses pulses of light passing through thin glass or plastic fibres to transmit data across local, regional, or global distances. It replaces traditional electrical signals on copper wires to deliver massive bandwidth, high speed, and low signal loss.

Post Quantum Cryptography - Post-quantum cryptography (PQC) is a set of new encryption methods designed to be safe from future quantum computers. These tools run on normal computers and use hard math problems that even powerful quantum machines cannot break. They will replace older standards like RSA.

Quantum - A quantum is the smallest possible, indivisible unit of a physical property, like energy or light. More broadly, it refers to the science of how things work at an atomic scale, where rules of normal physics change and particles can share connected states or exist in multiple places at once.

Glossary

Resilient Network - A resilient network is a system designed to maintain continuous service, absorb disruptions, and recover quickly from hardware failures, cyberattacks, or natural disasters. It goes beyond basic backup paths by actively managing, monitoring, and adapting to unexpected network stress.

RESIN - The National Forum for Research Services and Infrastructure brings together research support staff from Irish Universities, Technological Universities, other Research Performing Organisations, Research Funding Organisations and Research Infrastructures. Coordinated by Asiera, the Forum facilitates collaborative discussions between research IT staff, librarians engaged in research data management and other relevant stakeholders. <https://resin.asiera.ie>

SOC & SIEM - Asiera's Security Operations Centre and Security Incident and Event Management.

SOLAS - Is the State agency that oversees the building of a world class Further Education & Training sector in Ireland, developing skills to fuel Ireland's future. <https://www.solas.ie/>

STEM - STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Technological Universities - A category of universities in the Republic of Ireland created through the merger of Institutes of Technology according to the Technological Universities Act of 2018: Technological University Dublin, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Atlantic Technological University and South East Technological University.

Time and Frequency - Time and frequency are core concepts used to measure events, signals, and waves. Time tracks when an event happens or how long it lasts. Frequency measures how often a repeating event happens in one second, typically expressed in Hertz (Hz). They are opposite, meaning higher frequency equals less time per cycle.

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