



## **Ibec & Startup Ireland press release**

**For immediate release: XX January 2018**

### **Startup Ireland and Ibec launch Ireland's First Startup Manifesto.**

Startup Ireland and Ibec, the group that represents Irish business, have launched Ireland's first Startup Manifesto. This document was prepared following extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and represents a checklist of actions required to ensure that Ireland moves towards being a globally relevant startup hub.

Speaking as the manifesto was presented to Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys, Lorcan O'Sullivan, the Startup Ireland Manifesto Coordinator, said: "Ireland is recognised as having a lot of the essential elements to be an attractive Startup hub. However, when benchmarked against other countries, we see gaps in the ecosystem and the policy here which need to be addressed.

"If Ireland is to attract and retain entrepreneurs capable of building globally competitive startups, we need to ensure that Ireland has a startup environment better than competing locations."

The purpose of the manifesto is to highlight areas that need improvement and to offer possible solutions to ensure that Ireland becomes a globally relevant startup hub. The manifesto seeks to address issues across four key pillars – access to talent, access to finance, startup supports and the general business environment.

Ibec CEO, Danny McCoy, said: "Ireland must work harder to encourage more people to start their own business. While it is an easy place to start a business, it appears to be a difficult place to grow one. Ibec is supporting Startup Ireland to make the path of entrepreneurship easier, more resilient and above all, encouraging. Simple steps outlined in this manifesto will help achieve that. Substance requires identifying solutions, not focusing solely on problems"

Startup Ireland's hope is to reflect the views and perspectives of as many entrepreneurs, investors, advisors and other key figures within the startup scene in Ireland. This manifesto should become a living document which is updated annually to ensure relevance and accountability. Startup Ireland's advisory board will be producing position papers and budget submissions to address priority areas of concern, including the current capital gains tax treatment for entrepreneurs, employee share option schemes and access to Angel finance.

The manifesto can be downloaded from [www.startupireland.ie](http://www.startupireland.ie)

#### **Editors notes:**

##### Startup Ireland

Startup Ireland is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation representing Ireland's startup community and its supporters. It has a mission to help make Ireland the best country in the world for high growth companies to start, scale and succeed from. It is a member of the European Startup Network and the Global Startup Nations.

##### Ibec

Ibec is the group that represents Irish business both domestically and internationally. It has over 180 professional services staff in seven locations and is the umbrella group of over 40 different sectoral industry associations. It has over 7,500 members; home grown, multinational, big and small, spanning every sector of the economy. Together they employ over 70% of the private sector workforce in Ireland.

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