Making the move into business: from consultant to entrepreneur

TII Annual Conference 28th April 2016 **Oonagh Mc Nerney** Co-founder IRIS & Sapenta



A few words about myself



- Hons Degree in Marketing and
 International Business
- 1993-1997 Institut Catala de Tecnologia (ICT)- 'International Cooperation Dept.' (Tech Transfer)
- 1998-2006 Freelancer (Innovation Consulting)
 - Malta Enterprise (Foreign Direct Investment- >50 M EUR)
 - UK Business Links
 - Helping Irish & UK companies enter the Spanish market
 - Working with Research Centres and Universities in securing funding under FP5 & FP6 (> 60 M EUR)
- Jan 2007- Established IRIS with a cofounder



Why the decision to set up a business?



You see an Opportunity.

Giris

TECHNOLOGY PUSH

Universities lack the experience Industry lacks the time and resources

Consequence Research fails to reach the market

MARKET NEED

Product challenges: improved products, innovative effects, higher yields

Business challenges: Lower material, operating and fixed costs; faster production rates; more sustainable products



Mission.

To improve industry competitiveness by creating and integrating profitable high-end technologies and solutions.

Vision.

To become a European leader as an advanced engineering company applying our passion and talent to push the limits of technology.



IRIS Solutions

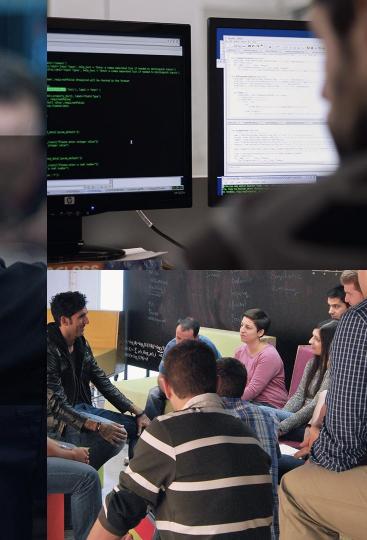
We bring innovation to your production line

IRIS Research

Inspiring a competitive future

ating your ppetitive edge.

BRIDGING



"Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort."

John Ruskin

IRIS is an advanced engineering company specialising in:

- Photonics (spectroscopy systems)
- ICTs (sensor integration, cloud computing, data management, data analytics and decision support systems)

For developing and integrating real-time monitoring and advanced control turnkey solutions for industry.



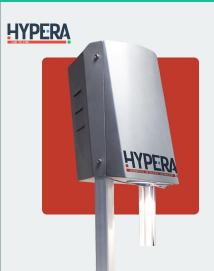




Where we are today

- IRIS: 57 staff
- **4.3 Million** Euro turnover
- 2 sites: Barcelona, Dublin
- Commercial Offices in New York and San Francisco
- Shareholding in Finnish start-up (Timegate Instruments OY)





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Leveraging H2020 for increasing our innovation capacity





18 projects in H2020

(SPIRE, FOF, BBI, NMBP, LCE, WASTE, SC2, SME INST.)

15 led by IRIS. 3 as partners.

Research lines

- 1. Optics and spectroscopy
- 2. Data processing and information systems
- 3. Novel processing
- 4. Sustainable processing



Transforming the way we work

Predict, Plan, Collaborate, Execute, Control

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

000

Tasks



Project Management STAFF MANAGEMENT



Time Leave Tracking Management

000 31 OFFICE MANAGEMENT



Purchases Expenses

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Trip

Expenses



Travel

WORK TOOLS





Communicator Reporting



What are the 5 most valuable things I have learned?



Vision & focus. Don't get lost in the 'day-to-day'.

No fear.

Define what you are willing to lose.



High performance teams. Draw a 'red line'.



Invest, invest, invest.



Resilience. Keep pushing forward.

"It Ain't How Hard You Hit... It's How Hard You Can **Get Hit** and Keep Moving Forward.

How Much You Can Take & Keep Moving Forward... That's how **WINNING IS DONE**"

Rocky Balboa

Thank you! omcnerney@iris.cat