



Leo Clancy, CEO,

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is the Irish government's enterprise development agency. They invest in and support Irish businesses to start, grow, innovate and to reach their global ambition, leading to the development of high-quality companies and jobs in Ireland. Their teams in Ireland and across their network of international offices partner with Irish companies to develop high-growth strategies and enter new markets with innovative and sustainable solutions.

Enterprise Ireland is committed to bringing positive change to the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Ireland, and that includes collaborating with others to bring sustainable improvements which will narrow the participation gap between women and men and deliver increased economic growth.

Enterprise Ireland has been championing this agenda since 2011, when only 7% of the start-ups Enterprise Ireland invested in were led by women. By 2023, that figure rose to 31%.

Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland said: *"Enterprise Ireland believes that Ireland's economic success will depend on a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem which utilises all the skills, ambition and talent of a diverse population. Increasing the opportunities for women entrepreneurs and women in management is a key focus for Enterprise Ireland, and our six-year Women in Business Strategy aims to grow the number of women becoming entrepreneurs and leaders. We've set ambitious targets, including doubling the number of female-led companies in the export market by 2025, and progress is now clear. In 2023, 31% of the start-ups we invested in were female-led, up from just 8% in 2012. 'Starting Strong' is all about reaching out to and supporting women who want to become entrepreneurs and build innovative businesses of scale, focused on export markets. I have no doubt that many of these will be leading Irish companies in the future and we look forward to supporting them on their journey."*

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