MAKE THE BRIDGE STRONGER

Ireland at the Heart of the Transatlantic Business Relationship
AmCham believes that Ireland’s prospects of economic recovery will be largely determined by its determination to show an ability for swift decision-making and implementation of decisions that will secure our global competitiveness in attracting inward investment. Ireland has a critically important job to do to explain to domestic and international stakeholders very soon how it will build its economic recovery, the key policy drivers and key partners. AmCham believes the best way to achieve this is through an ambitious and clear road-map.

2. A high-level steering group, an inward investment taskforce, should be created to be led by the Taoiseach with senior Cabinet Ministers and include senior representatives of the multinational sector to assess progress in key priority areas outlined in the road-map.

3. We recommend that Government also publishes a digital transformation road-map with public-private collaboration as a key enabler under the responsibility of a Cabinet Minister. We argue for the digitalisation of public services and the urgent completion of the National Broadband Plan to ensure that the entire population has access to quality fibre-based broadband services.

4. AmCham believes cyber-security is now of such national strategic importance, it should be included in the portfolio of either the Taoiseach or the Minister for Defence.


6. AmCham will seek to work with Government and other stakeholders to ensure our economy sustainably transitions to a carbon neutral economy by 2050 – many of our members are already aligning to more ambitious targets. We will argue for a national dialogue that is inclusive and a sectoral road-map, which includes areas of opportunity such as Sustainable Transport.

7. AmCham sees an opportunity for an appropriate upskilling/re-skilling national strategy to deal with the rise in unemployment caused by the crisis in particular in rural areas. AmCham believes the combination of rural broadband access, the opportunity to work remotely and a nationwide network of digital hubs/co-working spaces could provide excellent career opportunities to people living in rural Ireland.

8. AmCham recommends that a national programme of upskilling and best practice sharing by representatives of the MNC sector to help the domestic business base enhance productivity growth is established and its progress overseen by the Inward Investment Taskforce referred to above.

Executive Summary
The “Make the Bridge Stronger” Report contains a series of recommendations the American Chamber (AmCham) is making to Government, opposition and other key stakeholders involved in policy formation. They include:

1. Protecting global supply chains, pandemic proofing, broadband, infrastructure, digitisation of the State, education, innovation, research and development, carbon neutrality, and speed of public decision-making. These are, in AmCham’s view, the key areas requiring attention to ensure Ireland’s economy recovers from the current crisis. If we are to protect Ireland’s hard-won reputation for FDI into the future, it has never been truer than today that speed is our friend.

During the course of the COVID-19 health crisis, what has united AmCham members across every sector is the commitment shown to the well-being of their teams and their communities, the diligence and speed shown in implementing both remote working-from-home protocols and on-site physical distancing measures, and their ability to maintain continuity for their global operations. In many instances, the Irish operations of US multinationals have been exemplars. This Report also highlights examples of the contribution and the impact that teams from our member sites are making for the economy and society during this crisis period. We are fortunate to have teams whose innovation supports thousands of small and medium sized businesses across Ireland; organisations whose world-class teams provide, for example, lifesaving/enhancing support to 4 million cardiac patients and to 1.5 million diabetes patients globally. Other teams are working on treatments and potential vaccines for COVID-19 – while many others have donated their time, technology and PPE to the women and men on the front-line of our medical services. We are deeply grateful to all the workers and businesses who show exceptional courage and resilience, both to treat the sick and to provide vital goods and services during the pandemic.

Key Recommendations
1. AmCham believes the centre of a vibrant two-way transatlantic bridge - between the world's two largest and most integrated economies. The two-way relationship is evidenced by the fact that Irish companies employ almost as many people in the United States as US companies employ in Ireland. The US operations of Irish companies are leaders in many sectors from construction supplies to life-sciences to nutrition.

2. Make the Bridge Stronger – the centre of a vibrant two-way transatlantic bridge - between the world's two largest and most integrated economies. The two-way relationship is evidenced by the fact that Irish companies employ almost as many people in the United States as US companies employ in Ireland. The US operations of Irish companies are leaders in many sectors from construction supplies to life-sciences to nutrition.

3. Choosing Ireland – the centre of a vibrant two-way transatlantic bridge - between the world's two largest and most integrated economies. The two-way relationship is evidenced by the fact that Irish companies employ almost as many people in the United States as US companies employ in Ireland. The US operations of Irish companies are leaders in many sectors from construction supplies to life-sciences to nutrition.

4. Choosing Ireland – the centre of a vibrant two-way transatlantic bridge - between the world's two largest and most integrated economies. The two-way relationship is evidenced by the fact that Irish companies employ almost as many people in the United States as US companies employ in Ireland. The US operations of Irish companies are leaders in many sectors from construction supplies to life-sciences to nutrition.
Introduction

2021 will mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland (AmCham). AmCham was founded in 1961 to ‘promote trade and commerce between the United States of America and Ireland in both directions’. At that time, Ireland was an emerging economy – an island located on the periphery of Europe. In its neighbour - Great Britain’s - shadow. Due to the foresight of a number of political and civil service leaders, Ireland was preparing to throw off the shackles of four decades of protectionism and isolationism - ready to enter global markets and supply chains.

Today, Ireland is one of the most open and innovative economies in the world – a member of the European Union and a key trade and investment partner with the United States. It has proven itself to be resilient and reliable as a member of the global community and a key component of diversified global supply chains responding during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The political and economic progress Ireland has made in sixty years is evident when we consider that the Discussion Document that formed the basis of Irish Government formation six years is evident when we consider that the Discussion Document that formed the basis of Irish Government formation talks in mid-2020 sets out a determination that Ireland will continue to act as a bridge between the EU and the USA.1

This Report summarises what the American Chamber believes to be the key fundamental success in attracting inward investment which has sparked its transformation into an inclusive, outward looking society. Ireland is now an open internationalised economy, characterised by innovation and competitiveness. It also sets out AmCham’s vision for how Ireland can now Make the Bridge Stronger.

- Section One of the Report explains why diversified global supply chains and a multilateral approach provides the best avenue for enhancing quality of life and living standards for the global community.
- Section Two summarise the scale of inward investment in Ireland and its importance to the domestic and international economy.
- Section Three brings the data in Section Two to life by providing case studies of the impact Irish-based operations are having on global markets.
- The particular contribution these operations have made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are discussed in Section Four through case studies.
- The policies that Ireland has followed and the environment it offers that have sustained a competitive, innovative and talent-friendly economy are summarised in Section Five.

COVID-19 – A Test of Ireland’s Meitheal

On the eve of the centenary of its independence, Ireland has demonstrated its capacity to respond to an unprecedented, devastating global pandemic – within ten years of bouncing back from a deeply damaging recession. Government and its key agencies followed expert medical advice and international best practice in protecting public health. Our public health system, the brave women and men on the medical front-line and their colleagues supporting them responded with determination and compassion to the challenge of a lifetime.

Our civil and public servants showed again the depth of their expertise and their willingness to do what it takes for the public good. And the general public demonstrated the power of a rules-based democracy governed by consent. The business sector has demonstrated its willingness to ‘step up to the plate’ in the best interests of the community. Both essential workers and those switching overnight to working-from-home continue to get the job done. Employers took unprecedented steps to provide a safe working environment for essential workers.

The multinational sector is playing a central role – providing the technology and digital infrastructure enabling Ireland to keep delivering - so families and friends can remain in touch and keep up so our vital public services can stay up and running; to ensure operations continue to maintain production of essential med-tech and pharma products to preserve patient lives globally; to continue producing semiconductor and related technology driving the globe’s ability to stay connected and functioning; while others again are providing essential financial services that allow individuals and businesses to stay in business.

Ireland’s brand is its promise. Its world-famous “Meitheal” (Irish for community spirit). Its commitment to political stability at home and its belief in a rules-based multilateral global trading system. It is these attributes that the American Chamber continues to believe set Ireland apart. As we navigate through the New Normal, this Report shines a light on the outcomes of sixty years of delivering on this promise.

In Section Six we set out AmCham’s policy recommendations to Government and key stakeholders in Ireland which we believe are necessary to maintain Ireland’s hard-won reputation on the global trade and investment stage.

1 A draft document between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael to facilitate negotiations with other parties on a plan to recover, rebuild and renew Ireland after the COVID-19 Emergency” p.22

SECTION ONE

Why Bridges Matter

Consider for a moment the difference in the quality of life of a global citizen when the major economies of the world pursue a policy of globalisation in trade and investment to when they pursue one of protectionism. Contrast, for example, the quality of life and opportunity for an average US citizen of the early 1930’s compared to the early 1990’s – or that of any family in an EU Member State ten years before they joined the Union versus ten years later. For smaller economies Ireland is a perfect test case. Compare the opportunities available to an Irish family in 1960 due to four decades of protectionism with those 40 years later at the turn of the millennium. Globalisation of trade and investment raises living standards, increases opportunity and provides greater choice Globalisation is not perfect – it needs guard-rails to protect the disadvantaged; to set standards and monitor adherence and to safe-guard human rights, but history has shown us that it truly is far better than the alternative.

The benefits of diversified global supply chains are that they deliver regulated and cost-efficient products and services to the global consumer. This includes the provision of increased food and beverage products to global markets; technology and financial services that allow instant global connectivity and commercial interaction. Globalisation has accelerated scientific advances in tackling diseases, life threatening and debilitating conditions, and injury. Innovation in advanced manufacturing continues to produce unimaginably complex and game-changing technology.

Diversified global supply chains allow for access to raw materials, skilled workers, scientific expertise, research and development, SME engagement and international best practice in standard-setting at a level impossible to achieve by a protectionist supply chain. Diversification protects the supply chain’s resilience - in a time of natural or man-made catastrophe, the diversified supply chain is better prepared for unforeseen challenges. Diversification allows for speed of response, economies of scale and comparative advantage resulting in greater choice and better value for the consumer.

It has also been shown that diversified global supply chains eliminate or reduce disruption of delivery of pharma product and medicines to the global patient i.e. the more localised the supply chain, the increased likelihood that it might fall subject to stressors such as natural disasters. During the current pandemic, this has been demonstrated to be the case as the world continues to face its biggest emergency in decades.

Consider these recent examples published by the US Chamber of Commerce:2

2 “Relying entirely on domestic production does not necessarily ensure resilience or security. Consider the stress today on U.S. food supply chains: the sharp drop in gasoline use has led also to less ethanol usage. so ethanol plants have closed, those ethanol plants also produce carbon dioxide for use as a refrigerant and preservative in meat producing facilities”. The resulting carbon dioxide shortage is now threatening to affect meat availability and prices on top of closures of some meat facilities due to COVID-19 outbreaks in those plants. These food supply chains are looking fragile — even though they are almost entirely domestic.


Thomas J Donohue CEO & President US Chamber of Commerce

“Many American firms rightly have found Ireland to be among the top places to invest. Americans are impressed by the strength of Ireland’s growth and the country’s skilled workforce. … We’re seeing the benefits of increased Irish investment in the United States as well.”
As Christopher Holt, Director of Health Care Policy at the American Action Forum, writes, "the global supply chain for U.S. drugs is actually quite diverse... far from a problem, the diversity of the global supply chain provides some measure of security. Having API suppliers all over the world allows for manufacturers to shift procurement when circumstance require. If the supply chain is more localised, it’s also more likely to be impacted by natural disasters or outbreaks like the coronavirus."

Another example from the US Chamber of Commerce is ventilators, which car companies such as General Motors (GM) are beginning to manufacture. As Politico recently reported, "Each ventilator that GM intends to make requires 419 major parts, and there are literally thousands of sub-components that go into those 419 parts, especially given the complexity of several of the individual part designs," company spokesperson Jeanine Ginivan said... About 70% of the parts manufactured in the United States and about 10% in the rest of North America. The remaining 20% needs to be imported from countries including France, Italy, South Korea, Thailand, U.K., Japan, China and Taiwan. More trade barriers means fewer ventilators.

AmCham will continue to put forward the view that diversification protects the supply chain resilience. In a time of natural or man-made catastrophe, the diversified supply chain can respond – the protectionist one typically cannot.

The world’s top 5 global software companies have significant operations in Ireland
So do 14 of the globe’s 15 top med-tech companies
As well as 18 of the world’s 25 top financial services companies
All 10 of the globe’s top pharma companies have significant presence in Ireland
8 of the world’s 10 top industrial automation companies are also here.

Ireland has proven to be a powerful gateway for the United States – the most recently available data shows that the Irish operations of US multinationals accounted for exports to markets outside of North America (USA & Canada) totaling €161.1bn in that year - or 80% of total global exports.

SECTION TWO

Ireland – The Bridge between the EU and US – an Island of Talent & Innovation at the Centre of the World

Ireland remains a committed member of the European Union, demonstrated by successive Governments, while public support of the EU remains strong. Indeed, almost three in four people feel that the interests of Ireland are well taken account of in the EU. Ireland’s standing amongst its fellow Member States was made clear by their unwavering support to the principles of the Good Friday Peace Agreement throughout the negotiations of the United Kingdom’s departure from the EU. Ireland’s strong two-way trade and investment relationship is a consistent agenda item during its extensive engagement with the United States and our country continues to play a key role as a gateway or bridge to the most important global market for the United States – the European Union. The Irish operations of US companies make that bridge stronger:

US companies have proven they are not in Ireland for the short-term. One third of multinationals in Ireland have had operations in the country for over 20 years – with those here for decades are being joined by more newcomers each year. Their roots are deep, and their operations are deeply integrated into local and global supply chains. Their people are global experts within the most sophisticated technology, data, cyber, life-sciences and financial services specialisms. They are deeply embedded in their communities, supporting charities, schools, sporting organisations and community well-being.

Consider for a moment the impact of inward investment on this scale on such a small country and population (4.9m in 2019) – consider the potential for cross-sector innovation and collaboration arising from this proximity. The world’s top data/ digital companies employ thousands of individuals in Dublin’s Digital Docklands. Directly across the river Liffey, in Ireland’s capital Dublin within ten minutes’ walk, you will find Ireland’s Global Financial Services Centre – containing some of the world’s leading financial services companies.

The commitment to the community demonstrated by the Irish operations of US companies has been a constant feature over many decades. By our conservative estimate AmCham member companies’ teams support over 7,000 community projects across Ireland and donate over 600,000 volunteer hours to these projects each year. 6 out of 10 member companies have long term charity partners and 7 out of 10 have formal CSR programmes.7

An International Home

Ireland is the international home for talented teams that serve, understand and innovate for international markets. It is the home for world-class global leaders with strategic and functional responsibility for EMEA, international and global markets. As we will see in Sections Three and Four, this talent is having a major global impact and has demonstrated its capacity to deliver when a global crisis occurs.

These teams and their operations do not operate in a vacuum. Ireland has become a leading progressive society, with an internationalised economy and a multicultural talent pool. It has a highly sophisticated education and research eco-system and advanced physical and digital infrastructure – with more in the pipeline.

The presence at scale of global leaders in every sector – the very best businesses in the world both in terms of what they do and how they are managed – means that Ireland demonstrates the highest international standard in business management, in employment standards and opportunities, in corporate social responsibility, in inclusion and in sustainability.

Putting Numbers on the Relationship

The US-Ireland business relationship brings value to the Irish exchequer. For the most recent year that data is available (2018) the Irish operations of US companies spent almost €10bn on payroll, over €6.3bn on goods and services here and over €5.3bn on capital expenditure.

This vote of confidence had been returned across the Atlantic. With over 600 Irish companies having US operations with a total investment value of $146bn, Ireland is now the ninth biggest investor in the US. Ireland acts a gateway to the EU for US business, and although our geographical location is ideal for such a role, our reputation as a first-class location of choice for US investment in the EU is based on a variety of different factors including:

- A strong tradition of political stability;
- Availability of diverse talent and enterprise leadership;
- Ease of the R&D ecosystem and proven innovation capacity;
- A unique English-speaking common law jurisdiction within the EU single market.

All these variables help to explain and support the business case for continued enterprise investment in Ireland.

7 “Beyond Business: The Social Impact of US Investment in Ireland” – American Chamber – 2018
SECTION THREE
An Island of Talent with Global Impact

By reference to our share of the world’s population (10.6810 million), Ireland has a profoundly important impact on the global community’s wellbeing and how it works and lives. Irish-based teams produce 80% of the world’s medical stents and treatments and devices to combat the world’s most challenging illnesses. Below is just a snapshot of the important role these Irish-based teams perform:

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**Intel**

“Intel Ireland’s Leixlip campus, located in County Kildare, began operations in 1989. Since then, Intel has invested $15 billion in turning the 360-acre former stud farm into one of the most technologically advanced manufacturing locations in Europe. This is the largest private investment ever made in the history of the Irish State. Today, more than 4,500 people work at the campus in Leixlip. The leading-edge silicon microprocessors which are manufactured in Ireland are at the heart of a variety of platforms and technology advancements which are essential to the way we learn, live, and work today.

Intel Ireland contributes €1.08 billion each year to the Irish economy and supports 6,669 full time equivalent jobs in the economy which are in addition to the 4,900 people working for Intel. We support 771 Irish suppliers with who we spend €284 million every year. In the past 3 years Intel have donated more than €3 million to communities across Ireland and every year we contribute €1.3 million to education initiatives.”

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**Johnson & Johnson**

“The Johnson & Johnson family of companies has been operating in Ireland for 85 years employing in excess of 3,725 people. Johnson & Johnson operates 10 sites throughout Ireland, located in Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Galway and Mayo. This comprises six manufacturing plants, four commercial offices and an IT centre of excellence. Janssen Sciences Ireland UC has been manufacturing bulk active pharmaceutical ingredients in Cork since 1981. The operation in Ringaskiddy was established in 2005 with an investment of €500m producing biomedicines for both the treatment of immune related diseases and innovative cancer treatments.

Johnson & Johnson Vision care in Limerick, established in 1995 operates 24/7 and produces daily disposable and reusable contact lenses for the global market. In Galway, Correvon is focussed on delivering innovative neurovascular therapies for stroke patients. In Cork since 1997, De Puy Synthes manufactures knees and hips and in 2008 established an innovation centre to develop next generation orthopaedic products for a global market.”

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**Amazon Web Services**

“Amazon Web Services (AWS) is firmly rooted in Ireland. We first set up a software engineering office here in 2004 and in 2007 we opened our first European cloud infrastructure region in Dublin. Between 2001 and 2018, AWS investment had a cumulative impact to the Irish economy of approximately €5.5 billion, with over €2 billion of direct capital and operational spend. In 2018 alone, AWS contributed an additional €1.2 billion in Ireland, based on direct, indirect and induced efforts. Over the same period AWS has supported more than 2,000 jobs directly and 9,500 indirectly in the construction and sub-supplier sectors, as well as engaging 570 suppliers, a number of whom developed expertise in data centre development and went on to sell in 17 countries worldwide. Today, we have more than 2,500 Amazon employees across the country supporting customers in Ireland and around the world.”

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**Facebook**

“Facebook is the International Headquarters of our organisation and we have over 5,000 people enabling our community, advertisers, developers and employees for the whole EMEA region. Some of our functions serve the whole global business outside North America – for example, our Global Operations team looks after the trust and safety of 81% of our company’s global community, and our Finance team looks after various global operations including revenue billing and financial accounts. We have various other functions servicing the EMEA region including Infrastructure, Policy, HR and Recruitment to name a few.”

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**West of Ireland**

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**Major Gaming Company**

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“Our site is the single source of global market supply for multiple medical devices used across a number of disease states including Drug Eluting Stents, Peripheral Vascular Balloons, Aortic Stent Grafts and Transcatheter Structural Heart Valves. We export 60k units of finished product per week which represents a significant portion of global market share for each business in which we operate.”

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**Major Engineering Company**

“Major Engineering Company

**Mid-West Ireland**

“Our site provides technical, billing and in-game support to millions of players based in EMEA. We also support the global network operations that keep our games running in the different platforms.”

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**Global Communications Company**

“Global Communications Company

**West of Ireland**

“3 million words are translated by our team per month to support companies in communicating to their Customers, across the Banking, Travel, Technology, Industrial and Life Sciences sectors.”

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**Major Med-Tech Company**

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“Our site produces 30% - 40% of all cardiology stents used worldwide. Globally we support 4m patients per year with lifesaving & improving devices.”

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**Major Life Sciences Company**

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**Southern Ireland**

“What we make, makes a difference every day for over 15 million patients who suffer from diabetes.”

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Mike Mahoney – Global CEO, Boston Scientific

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“The heartbeat of Boston Scientific is in Ireland – a technology hub of AI, digital capacity and innovation.”

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**Major Engineering Company**

“Major Engineering Company

**Mid-West Ireland**

“Our Shannon site is market leader (+80%) in Flare Gas flow measurement for environmental controls in Oil & Gas sector. Our Moisture and gas measurement products are solely manufactured and designed at our Shannon site. Market dominance in moisture detection inspection equipment is used in aerospace and industrial processes that are critical to safe operations - we have 20% market share.”

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Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Ireland has proved herself as a global partner of the United States and of US business – a shining light in the business continuity and global operations of some of the world’s most innovative and successful firms. Irish operations and their diverse teams have played a key strategic role in US multinationals and how those operations have responded to the crisis. The attributes that makes Ireland attractive to US business remain as strong as they were before the COVID-19 crisis, if not stronger.

At national level, Ireland responded in a highly credible and effective manner throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Government’s strategy has been science-led with clear communication to the population across the country, who have been very supportive and compliant with the very significant restrictions placed on day-to-day life. The strength of Ireland’s economic performance following the global recession of ten years ago meant the Irish Government was in a position to provide large-scale support to business – both domestic and multinational.

In spite of unprecedented challenges, the Irish operations of US multinationals have delivered throughout the pandemic – they have maintained production levels – in some instances they have doubled and trebled output to meet urgent demand. Supply chains functioned; teams responded; targets were met and exceeded.

This remarkable standard of performance has been underpinned by absolute commitment to the safety and well-being of teams, customers, suppliers, and stakeholders. The protocols put in place by the Irish operations of US multinationals in many instances served as global exemplars. While the safety and wellbeing of essential on-site workers was the top priority, other on-site workers were protected. The other members of the teams switched overnight to a working-from-home protocol – with no diminution of delivery to customers.

Six decades of commitment to a stable policy environment, with a population prepared to do the right thing for the greater good meant that Ireland once again delivered as a trusted global partner – showing our customary resilience and optimism.

Many of the members of the American Chamber have pivoted and adjusted their businesses to become part of the solution to the current crisis – operators in Ireland have answered Ireland’s call through providing PPE to the hospitals & nursing homes, making & supplying face visors, and volunteering engineering support to building hospital ventilators. Others are providing millions of euro in support to CSR partners across Ireland.

However it is not just domestically, globally, our members have been responding to the global patient and customer as well throughout this crisis. US companies in Ireland are at the forefront of supporting millions of patients through the production of life-saving & life-enhancing devices.

Technologies worked on in Ireland are used in the research and development of COVID-19 pharmaceuticals and vaccines. Others are producing defibrillators, pain stimulators and deep brain stimulators and in one case over one in six pacemakers worldwide. One site produces almost four in ten cardiology stents used worldwide. Here are some examples of how AmCham members responded:

**Countering Misinformation and Working with the HSE**

Facebook

“We are working hard to keep people accurately informed throughout COVID-19. As well as enforcing misinformation policies, the company is working with the HSE to ensure people have access to accurate information. Facebook is supporting the HSE with free advertising across our platforms and anyone who searches for ‘coronavirus’ on Facebook or Instagram will be directed to the HSE website. We’re showing users messages telling them they have interacted with misinformation and directing them to the WHO’s web page where there is accurate information on debunked myths around COVID-19.”

**Adding Additional Flights**

Global airline company

“We have continued to operate within all HSE and Government guidelines throughout the pandemic. We have added an additional flight into Dublin to support the supply chain of medical products and connecting to the US market within 24 hours. We have worked closely with key customers to ensure prioritized connectivity of ventilators and critical medical equipment between Ireland and the US - being the key lane, as well as APAC and Europe.”

**Donating and Community Contributions**

**A Global Fintech Company**

Northwest Ireland

“We have joined a National Effort to Donate to #PledgeScrubs: an initiative to produce top and trousers scrub sets at a non-profit cost, vitally helping front-line health workers. We donated facemasks/sanitizers to Letterkenny Hospital and we have contributed to the Letterkenny Food Bank, an organization whose mission is to meet the emerging social needs of families and individuals in Donegal. We have increased our annual donation to Cancer Care West Respite Centre Letterkenny and we have made a charitable donation to the Irish Wheelchair Association in Letterkenny to aid their home support services, which is a vital support system in this time of cocooning and community care.”

**Producing Essential Medical Devices and Volunteering**

**Major Med-Tech Company**

West of Ireland

“Our site has responded on multiple different levels including a re-design of the physical workspace to facilitate the ongoing production of essential medical devices coupled with the deployment of over 1000 staff to a work from home environment. We are leading the way for the company globally with some of the practices and procedures we have implemented. We are also providing multiple trained personal for the production of ventilators at a sister plant. We participate in industry taskforce groups relating to COVID-19 and contributed to NSAI strategy on best practice with regard to preparing the workplace including manufacturing floor for social distancing practices. Our corporation has made a large contribution to the global crisis through its Foundation activity of which local charity partners will benefit. The site has also convened a COVID-19 Community Response team focused on how our local employee population can contribute to charity partners through donations of which our Corporation is matching 2:1 and through donation of social distancing paddles. We are promoting for example to local charities. We have several engineers volunteering their time with NUI Galway and consultants in University Hospital Galway to innovate and develop short term solutions to treat more patients and protect the lives of frontline health care providers.”

**COVID-19 Clinical Trials**

**Major Pharma Company**

Midlands Ireland

“We have publicly announced the clinical trials and compassionate use of two of our products for the treatment of COVID-19. The two sites in Ireland are intrinsically involved in the manufacturing, testing, packaging, release and shipment of these products to support these needs. Also, we have worked within the sector organisation to support the supply of chemicals leading to the manufacture of a testing buffer in support of the National COVID-19 needs.”

**Recruiting for the HSE and Housing Heroes**

Indeed.com

“Since March, Indeed has partnered with the HSE to support their recruitment campaign, working with their team to identify their priority roles across the country, and helping them to reach more candidates. This led to a significant increase in traffic to HSE roles and their company page on Indeed. We are also promoting the HSE cause through our earned and owned media channels, highlighting the urgent need for frontline workers. In addition, Indeed is supporting the Housing Heroes campaign, which aims to find housing for healthcare workers who need to self-isolate during the COVID-19 crisis.”

**Building and Supporting Volunteers**

**Amazon Web Services**

“Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Amazon Web Services (AWS) has been collaborating with public health organisations, government agencies, and businesses around the globe to support their efforts. For example, in Ireland AWS has provided patient relationship management platform MyClinic365 with AWS Activate credits. This enabled the Kerry-based start-up to offer their service to doctors and allied healthcare professionals for free for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. In response to the pandemic, Workhuman launched Thank You Healthcare, a global gathering place to share personal stories of Princes and gratitude to healthcare workers, and to witness the local impact of humanity across the globe during this time of crisis. The Thank you Healthcare application is built entirely on AWS and uses a number of AWS services including Amazon CloudFront for fast content delivery around the world. Since the start of the crisis, Irish digital health software firm Welliata has experienced a significant increase in users and is now serving over 600 GPs, allied healthcare providers, charities and Section 38 entities in the UK and Ireland with secure video consultations, messaging, digital letters, record keeping, and payment facilities integrated directly into clinics’ websites. Welliata is all-in on AWS and using AWS has enabled the platform to scale up quickly and easily to meet the increased demand for the service, while delivering a best-in-class, reliable, secure platform that complies with all regulatory standards.”
An Island of Talent
1. Ireland has the youngest population in Europe.
2. The population is forecast to increase by almost one million people to 5.75 million by 2040 – 33.3% under 25.
3. Ireland has one of the most educated workforces in the world.
4. The share of 30-34-year olds in Ireland with a third level qualification is 53.5%, compared to an EU average of 40%.
5. Almost 30% of students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) courses.
6. Proportionally Ireland has the 4th highest international workforce in the EU.
7. There were 380,000 non-Irish persons employed in Ireland in Q2 2019 (16.5% of total employment).
8. One out of every six children born in Ireland is born to non-Irish parents; over 120,000 people from 180 countries have been conferred with Irish citizenship.
9. Ireland ranks globally as:
   - 1st for flexibility and adaptability
   - 1st for attracting and retaining talent (IMD).
10. Ireland’s voluntarist industrial relations environment serves the country well by delivering workplace agility, stability and productivity.
11. Companies operating in Ireland have access to a labour pool of almost 250m people from across the EU.

An Island of Innovation
12. Ireland is 12th in global scientific ranking.
13. 1st in the world for knowledge diffusion.
14. 5th for knowledge impact.
15. 6th for knowledge absorption.
16. 10th most innovative country.
17. 2,715 international collaborations in 74 countries.
18. 17 world-leading SFI Research Centres of scale and excellence – including nanotechnology, big data, smart manufacturing.

An Island that Competes
20. Ireland has a standard corporate tax rate of 12.5% and qualifying R&D expenditure will generate a 25% tax credit.
21. Ireland is the 2nd most competitive economy in the EU and the 7th most competitive in the world according to IMD.
22. Irish hourly labour costs are mid-range in Europe and below the Euro Area average in business economy sectors.

An Island that is Connected
23. Ireland has tax treaties with 72 countries.
24. Ireland has (subject to COVID-19 restrictions being lifted) over 200 weekly flights to US destinations and the only US Pre-Clearance facilities in Europe are located at Dublin and Shannon Airports, offering a key advantage for transatlantic travel. Agreement to expand these facilities was reached in 2019.

An Island with a Great Quality of Life and an Inclusive Heart
25. The OECD Preventing Ageing Unequally Report shows Ireland saw the largest reduction in income inequality from one generation to the next.
26. According to the World Health Chart, Ireland is in the global top five for life expectancy and income levels. In December 2019, the United Nations reported that Ireland has the third highest quality of life globally.
27. The 2019 United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) shows the HDI index score of selected high-income OECD countries. In 2019, Ireland was one of the best performers in the world, with an HDI score of 0.94 significantly above the OECD average (0.93). The HDI index measures average achievement across three criteria – a long and healthy life, knowledge and standard of living.
28. Ireland was the first country in the world to vote by popular vote for marriage equality.

Six decades of consistency in fiscal and economic policies that promote enterprise, innovation and competitiveness have led to Ireland’s hard-earned reputation on the global stage as a great place to do business and a great location from which global markets can be brilliantly served. Public opinion supports Ireland’s position as one of the world’s most open and welcoming economies for FDI. Independent research commissioned by the American Chamber shows that 84% of the general public believe that US investment is critical to Ireland’s future.

Business Flexibility
Ireland provides a compelling proposition: agile, business-friendly, and known for its certain policy and fiscal environment. Remaining nimble and responsive to a highly uncertain and fast-changing global environment is key to our competitiveness.

On the next page, we summarise the reasons why Ireland remains the best business partner for the US.

“\nIn Ireland, we have some of the best talent in the world. We make life-saving medicines every day.\n”
Paul Duffy, Pfizer
“Ireland is a great place to do business, the country’s creative culture and diverse pool of technical skills make it an ideal location for our rapidly expanding business.”

Mike Beary, Country Manager, AWS Ireland

Ireland as a Global Digital Leader

Digital infrastructure and connectivity have proved to be of critical importance during this crisis period. The acceleration of its use throughout the economy and society – how we work, live and learn – means we must pivot our digital priorities to fit our ‘new normal’. This crisis leaves us with no doubt of the need to enact long overdue digital reforms, to modernise public services within the State and to execute the National Broadband Plan as a matter of extreme urgency.

1 | Lead by Example

Ireland needs to position itself as a global digital leader and the Government must lead by example. A coordinated digital transformation across Government departments and for public services is required. Responding to COVID-19 has highlighted that it is critical that government employees can work remotely, that businesses can interact digitally across all Government Departments and agencies, both local and national and that public services can be accessed online by citizens. It is critically important that digitalisation does not deepen socio-economic disadvantage – with a particular focus on the extent to which schoolchildren have access to technology and that there is no widening of the digital divide.

2 | Broadband

Ensuring that all regions and citizens in Ireland have access to high speed broadband as quickly as possible should be a top national priority. The urgency of ensuring this is even more evident with COVID-19 and the need for remote working for much of the population, ensuring that businesses can stay up and running during crisis times and that small businesses can access their markets and suppliers digitally should now be a key priority for Government. Broadband connectivity is crucial if all parts of Ireland’s economy are to be enabled to recover together as one eco-system. In their competitiveness scorecard the National Competitiveness Council points out that “Ireland also has one of the lowest proportions of fibre broadband connections in the OECD”. The European Commission has reiterated this in their most recent recommendations for Ireland noting “the crisis also highlighted the digitalisation needs of SMEs – digital infrastructures are essential for boosting the productivity of SMEs and promoting entrepreneurship”, while noting that in Ireland ultrafast broadband is only available to 5% of rural premises, well below the EU average of 25%.

3 | Digital as a Cross-Government Priority

To drive this digital transformation, the American Chamber recommends: Ministerial responsibility at Cabinet level for the digital agenda (digital economy, new technologies, data protection, digitalisation of public services and digital infrastructure). We envisage a holistic approach to the digital transformation for Government which will be required to realise the potential of the digital agenda for both citizens, enterprise and the public sector.

- We recommend that Government publishes a digital transformation road-map with public-private collaboration as a key enabler.

4 | Cyber Security

As a transatlantic bridge, an open economy with a high level of US investment (including key strategic data assets of global importance) and an exponential growth in remote working and doing business digitally Ireland must ensure that its cyber-security infrastructure and governance is world-class. We believe that Ireland’s international reputation – and in particular the regard in which it is held by the United States – will be significantly shaped by its cyber security strategy.

Importantly we believe that cyber-security is of such national strategic importance we recommend it is included in the portfolio of either the Taoiseach or the Minister for Defence.

5 | A Cloud First Approach

To realise the digital transformation as outlined above, AmCham renews its call for a ‘Cloud First’ policy to be adopted within the public sector which could act as an important lever to stimulate the adoption of cloud computing in the public sector and potentially other regulated industries, like healthcare and financial services. A ‘Cloud First’ policy sends an important and broad reaching message regarding the benefits and opportunities that cloud offers to the government, citizens, the overall IT environment and the wider economy. Cloud computing will provide the foundation enabling government to undergo a digital transformation in line with Government advice9 that provides that cloud computing is compatible with providing public services. Not only this, cloud adoption will also enable significant public sector cost savings, increased security, scalability and a capacity to innovate far greater than what is possible with an on-premise infrastructure.

9 “Ireland’s Competitiveness Scorecard 2020” May 2020 National Competitiveness Council p54
11 Under the current organisational structure, no one Minister holds a seat at the Cabinet table with overall responsibility for the digital agenda. These areas are split across Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development; Minister of State with special responsibility for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection; Minister of State for Public Personnel Management, Open Government and Departmental Reform

In this Section, we set out AmCham’s key recommendations to Government and those with a role in shaping Ireland’s policy framework and priorities.

The current crisis has brought many competing demands to the Irish Government. It is critical now to lose sight of the overall strategy in Ireland’s response. This includes protecting the underlying economic fundamentals that support investment growth. As it did during the last recession. Foreign Direct Investment, both the installed base and the future pipeline, will play a key role in Ireland’s path to recovery. Ireland must continue to prove it is the best partner for global companies expanding and developing overseas as a competitive and cost-efficient place to do business.

Inward Investment Taskforce

The American Chamber recommends the creation of a high level steering group – led by the Taoiseach with senior Cabinet Ministers and including senior representatives of the multinational sector to assess progress in the areas covered below. It is widely recognised that the multinational sector played a central role during the global recession of ten years ago and the subsequent economic recovery. We believe it will prove even more central to how Ireland emerges from the current crisis.

A Road-Map to Recovery

People understand and respond to road-maps – they like a clear explanation of the journey, the ambition and the outcome. At the time of writing, the principal mechanism being used by Government to explain its intent and ambition to the Irish people during the COVID-19 crisis is the road-map to reopening society and business. When a previous Government wanted to explain its corporation tax strategy to both domestic and international stakeholders it published a clear road-map.

Ireland has a critically important job to do to explain to domestic and international stakeholders as soon as possible how it will build its economic recovery, and the key policy drivers and key partners that will be part of it.

Continuing to Invest in Our Overseas Network

AmCham sees key stakeholders such as IDA Ireland and our Diplomatic Missions as essential stakeholders and communicators of a road-map to recovery. The Irish organisations of multinationals will also play their part in highlighting the Roadmap to their corporate head-quarters.

The American Chamber’s priority is that Ireland remains a unique transatlantic trade and investment gateway and a location of choice for US inward investment to Europe. Trade promotion and strategic resourcing will help Ireland remain attractive to FDI.

The American Chamber strongly encourages full implementation of ‘Ireland’s Global Footprint to 2025’, the Government’s initiative to double the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint in the period to 2025.

A broad based campaign to promote Ireland as an investment destination is needed to underscore Ireland’s value as the UK completes its transition period from the EU on 31 December 2020, and the changes to the global trading environment that will be brought on by the Post-COVID-19 economic downturn.
Already, we have seen excellent examples of public services transitioning to online platforms, for example, within the Revenue Commission. More recently, during this crisis, there have been excellent examples of digital first approaches including the provision of prescriptions available online as well as registration of births and deaths online. Ireland must build on this momentum.

6 | Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI will continue to drive the digitalisation of the economy. As Ireland emerges from this crisis, it must look ahead to the future of innovation, noting that the location of R&D has a significant impact on the long-term economic growth potential of a jurisdiction. AmCham recommends that consideration is made under the R&D tax credit to expand the qualifying fields of science to include emerging areas in AI. This would ensure that the regime remains in line with Ireland’s ambition to become a leading developer, adopter and implementer of AI.

Remote Working

The American Chamber recommends an enhanced policy framework on Remote Working, to incorporate key learnings both positive and negative to take from the COVID-19 crisis. From an American Chamber perspective, COVID-19 has already prompted further analysis on remote working and the impact for both employers and employees in two parts. Firstly, how can employers reskill workers to work effectively remotely? How can organisations, both in the public and private sector, ensure that employees still have access to tools, skills, knowledge, cross-functional working and management best practices while working remotely? Secondly, what role does the digital sector have to play in supporting the public and private sectors to transition to this ‘new normal’. These are key areas that AmCham recommends the incoming Government assess in the coming period.

1 | Remote Working in the Public Sector

From a public sector perspective, the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the necessity for public sector employees to have the ability to work remotely to ensure that government services can continue to operate. Looking forward, the complete digitisation of all employment services within the public sector, which can cater for remote working, onboarding, will become a leading developer, adopter and implementer of AI.

2 | Updating Remote Working in Ireland – Future Jobs 2019

AmCham recommends a complete update of Government’s Remote Work In Ireland – Future Jobs 2019’ Report published in 2019 to take account of what we have learned from the COVID-19 crisis and what we need to consider in shaping a public-private strategy. We believe there is an opportunity for Government and the public sector to harness the considerable learnings and experience of the multinational operations in Ireland – who themselves have harnessed best-practice learnings and thought-leadership from their global operations. Areas that merit detailed analysis and consideration include: mental well-being, maintaining a sense of meaning and purpose through work, maintaining a team culture, work-life balance, supporting those who have childcare and/or dependent relative responsibilities and measuring productivity.

3 | Remote Working Hubs

We see real opportunity in the combination of rural broadband access, the opportunity to work remotely and a nationwide network of digital hubs/co-working spaces. We believe that with the appropriate up- skilling and re-skilling national strategy this combination could provide excellent career opportunities in the multinational sector to people living in rural Ireland that were previously difficult to access due to physical infrastructure challenges. AmCham will also encourage the establishment of a National Network of Remote Working Hubs.

Speed Up Planning / Public Decision Making

COVID-19 has demonstrated the capacity of the public and private sectors in Ireland to make decisions quickly and to implement them. Though some argue this was achieved in response to an existential crisis, it is nonetheless the case that Ireland demonstrated agility and a strong ability to bring a co-ordinated approach to seismic changes in how we work and live.

As one of the world’s most open economies we are now facing the most challenging set of circumstances on the global trade and investment stage – and the economic forecasts and indicators are stark. AmCham believes that Ireland’s prospects of economic recovery will be largely determined by its determination to show the same ability for swift decision making and implementation of those decisions to secure our global competitiveness in attracting inward investment.

This includes delivering critical infrastructure needs and the speedy delivery of physical and digital assets including reliable nationwide broadband coverage; robust connectivity; an agile and speedy public sector decision making including sustainable delivery of key physical infrastructure projects. AmCham will argue for continued focus on delivery of items under Project Ireland 2040 and the National Development Plan in its engagements.

1 | Infrastructure

The State’s investment in infrastructure will be a key contributor to the economy recovery post COVID-19. The American Chamber remains supportive of Project Ireland 2040 as a roadmap for the delivery of the infrastructure necessary to facilitate economic growth and the future prosperity of the island. Given the increased pressure caused by the crisis, the American Chamber encourages the Government to consider alternative non-exchequer forms of funding and to take appropriate advantage of historically low costs of borrowing on international markets – recognising that these rates will not be with us forever.

2 | Housing

The crisis is expected to have an impact on the housing and rental markets. We believe the provision of accommodation is a critical economic enabler that requires continued prioritisation for planning and capital investment; delivery of housing commitments is imperative for Ireland to remain a location that retains and attracts world class talent. It is necessary to commit adequate funding for the Land Development Agency and the Office of Public Procurement to ensure that the commitments in Rebuilding Ireland are measurable and deliverable.

3 | Review the National Development Plan

We believe that the shocks caused by COVID-19 have changed the underlying assumptions of the National Development Plan and now is the time to review the Plan to ensure the maximum delivery of its objectives.

4 | Review Planning Legislation

It is essential that robust and efficient public decision making and delivery of its objectives.

4 | Review Planning Legislation

It is essential that robust and efficient public decision making mechanisms of Government’s ambition aligning with the country’s economic model. The American Chamber is supportive of a comprehensive review of Ireland’s disparate planning legislation to produce a consolidated Planning Act by the Department of Housing to ensure certainty of process and improve the efficiency of Ireland’s planning system.

5 | Digitising the Court System

As outlined above, the provision of online public services is a necessary charge for Ireland to both meet the demands of its citizens, and it is also key for showcasing Ireland as an innovative and forward thinking island. The Court system is often the first encounter inward investors have with Ireland’s bureaucracy. Digitisation of the courts system is imperative not only to keep pace in a modern open economy, but also to bring greater efficiency throughout the system, a better user experience, and to maintain investor confidence in the speed of decision- making process within the system.

Innovation & Talent

The knowledge economy, with AmCham members at its heart, was a key component of the last economic recovery; and will be a significant driver once again. The COVID-19 crisis, coinciding with the formation of a new Government, the review of Ireland’s innovation policies, and new industrial policies at a European level - presents an opportunity for collaborative innovation across the economy. AmCham will continue to highlight the importance of supporting the knowledge economy with Government and key stakeholders.

3 | Strengthen the Bridge between the Multinational and Irish Business Sectors

The multinational sector generates a lot of business every year with the Irish business sector – we noted in Section Two that this amounted to €6.3bn worth of business in the most recent annual data that is available. However the gap between the productivity gap (2019) and the rest of the economy (0.6% in 2019) is pronounced.
AmCham recommends that a national programme of upskilling and best practice sharing by representatives of the MNC sector to help the domestic business base enhance productivity and growth is established and its progress overseen by the Inward Investment Taskforce referred to above.

Carbon Neutrality

Prior to the emergence of COVID-19 the transition to the Green Economy was a central plank of the European policy agenda. AmCham will seek to work with Government and other stakeholders to ensure our economy sustainably transitions to a carbon neutral economy by 2050 – many of our members are already aligning to more ambitious targets. Furthermore, we will continue to advocate for the delivery of upgraded and sustainable water and utilities infrastructure.

1 | National Dialogue

The American Chamber welcomes the emphasis on sustainability and green policies in public discourse surrounding the economic recovery. The transition to a carbon neutral economy will require a whole of society approach, impacting on how all of us live and work. We would welcome a national dialogue, involving all aspects of Irish society and the economy, on how Ireland should best implement the various aspects of the EU’s Green New Deal.

2 | Transitioning to a Carbon Neutral Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the powerful impact that our entire community working together can achieve, and how Ireland and public health can operate. We cannot rely on downturns in economic growth to ensure environmental sustainability. Amid the need to protect jobs, the national dialogue will frame a path to a carbon neutral economy,

3 | Sustainable Transport

The American Chamber believes there is need for a modal shift in public transport to encourage increased use of sustainable methods of travelling to work. We will work with the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ensure improved public transport, increase cycling infrastructure, micro-mobility solutions, encourage the establishment of car-sharing infrastructure and of electrical technology supports.

Taxation & Incentives

The American Chamber will argue for the criticality of tax certainty for the economic recovery, including maintaining an internationally competitive corporate and personal tax regime. The introduction of a unified approach at the OECD BEPs process, the maintenance of tax incentives for the business community, and flexibility in the implementation of new schemes.

1 | Continue to support those that need it

The post-COVID-19 period will remain very difficult for many sectors of the Irish economy. The American Chamber will advocate strongly for the Government, in consultation with enterprise supports for the many businesses and employees across the country that have been negatively affected by COVID-19. The American Chamber notes the importance of Government schemes such as the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme as an example of a much needed rapid response to protect jobs.

2 | Tax certainty to speed the recovery

Few could have predicted the changes to Ireland’s fiscal position during 2020, the American Chamber is acutely aware of the increased pressure that our national finances are under, and the need to return to the exchequer to balance.

Our members have long asserted that an internationally competitive, certain tax policy is a key component of Ireland’s ability to retain and attract substantive FDI operations in Ireland. As the National Competitiveness Council observed, “Ireland’s corporation tax regime should remain an important part of Ireland’s long-term wider competitiveness offering to support enterprises based in Ireland to invest, innovate and compete internationally.”

The American Chamber will continue to advocate across government for the certainty of maintaining an internationally competitive and personal taxation regime post COVID-19. The Corporate Tax Roadmap played a vital role in providing certainty of process throughout the implementation of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive; the Chamber recommends that a similar approach is adopted in setting out, with certainty, the next steps for Ireland’s corporate and personal tax regimes.

3 | A unified approach through the OECD and unanimity at EU level on tax matters

Despite the turmoil caused by COVID-19 international corporate tax developments are expected to continue. The American Chamber remains fully supportive of the Government’s approach in seeking a unified global solution to improving international tax rules through the OECD, as well as their strong commitment to Ireland’s sovereign decision-making authority, reaffirmation of unanimity at EU level in relation to tax matters and its support for international rules that avoid double taxation, are pro-growth and employment, and are grounded in value creation.

Pandemic Proofing

All businesses including US companies must adapt and adjust to the post COVID-19 new normal of increased working from-home protocols and incentives. Restrictions and health measures working on-site will also be in place in some form until a vaccine is developed. The American Chamber will be available to share best practice from our members on compliance with Government. AmCham is calling for early engagement to ensure that any return to heightened measures will be done in an orderly and consultative manner. We will be engaging on new measures and their impacts including protective protocols, introduction of PPE, development of testing areas, medical checks, biometric scanning and thermal monitoring.

1 | Planning and Preparing

Our members’ focus has now shifted towards preparing their organisations for the reopening of the economy. All businesses, including US companies, are adjusting work practices to ensure the safety of their workers and the extended community. The measures implemented will vary from the those already in place to ensure the continued operation of critical manufacturing sites, to the phased reopening of workplaces, to a more permanent shift towards supporting more workers working from home.

2 | Sharing Best Practice

Our members are very cognisant that restrictions and on-site health measures will be in place in some form until a vaccine is rolled out. The American Chamber is available to share best practice based on our members’ strong compliance records in Ireland and internationally on return to work protocols.

12 | Under joint proposals by Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, it is envisaged that public sector employers will be required to have 20% of staff working remotely or from home by 2021 with incentives to be provided to private sector employers to do likewise.

3 | Ongoing Employer Input

The American Chamber acknowledges the comprehensiveness of the foresight and guidance provided in the Government’s Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business. We welcome the continuation of the ongoing consultative approach as businesses around the country adopt new working protocols.

We will continue to engage with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Health and Safety Authority, and across government on the introduction of new protective protocols, including the development of testing areas, medical checks, biometric scanning and thermal monitoring.

Furthermore, we will continue to highlight the particular difficulties faced by cross border workers.

4 | Public Transport and Childcare

The ability of many of our members’ workers to attend work is contingent on the availability of reliable and affordable public transport and childcare facilities. The American Chamber will continue to build on our advocacy to the key facilitators of these services including the National Transport Authority and Department of Education and Skills.
Conclusion

This report has shown how the US-Ireland business community is playing a central role for Ireland and the globe throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

As we look to the future, it is beyond doubt now that global business models and global supply chain operability will change due to what has been learned from the crisis. This report has given the examples why the American Chamber continues to believe diversified global supply chains are best placed to respond to global needs overall and in times of crisis.

Ireland has benefited enormously from the process of globalisation that has underpinned the global economy for over four decades. Ireland is well positioned for the future with the presence at scale of global leaders in every sector demonstrating the highest international standard in business management, in employment standards and opportunities, in corporate social responsibility, in inclusion and in sustainability.

In spite of unprecedented challenges, the Irish operations of US multinationals have delivered throughout the pandemic for Ireland and the globe. At home, they have supported local communities through matched funding grant, providing PPE to hospitals, medical devices, helping to counter online misinformation about COVID-19, donating sanitary supplies, recruiting for the HSE and supporting digital health software. Globally, they have dealt with increased demand, maintained business continuity and delivered for global customers and patients. Importantly, a number of Irish operations are at the heart of efforts to find a vaccine and treatments for COVID-19.

Ireland’s position as one of the world’s most open and welcoming economies for FDI has been achieved through an agile, flexible and highly educated workforce, a society with an inclusive heart and six decades of smart policy-decision making.

As the economy plots a path to recovery, the American Chamber believes it is essential to safeguard Ireland’s reputation as a globally competitive and cost-efficient place to do business.

AmCham outlines the policy areas we believe Ireland must prioritise to move ahead as one economy for the FDI and the domestic sector. This includes making Ireland a Global Digital Leader, Speeding up Planning and Public Decision Making, Pandemic Proofing, Carbon Neutrality, making Ireland a home of Innovation and Talent, Enabling Remote Working and ensuring Certainty and supports for Business.

Ireland entered this crisis as one society and has demonstrated resilience and cohesion throughout it. The American Chamber believes it is vitally important now to ensure that all parts of Ireland - urban and rural - recover together. We advocate for the next Government to provide a Road-Map to Recovery to plot this course. As they did during the last downturn, the members of the American Chamber stand ready and willing to give their fullest support to this effort to rebuild the economy.