

Cork bee tech ApisProtect deal with Microsoft as sweet as honey

To coincide with World Bee Day Cork bee monitoring player ApisProtect has forged a strategic partnership with Microsoft.

[ApisProtect](#) has joined the [Microsoft for Start-ups programme](#). This strategic partnership will allow ApisProtect to use Microsoft technologies to scale its business for the next two years.

The Microsoft for Start-ups programme already supports 70 Irish companies and 4,200 start-ups worldwide. The programme allows Microsoft to help early-stage, B2B start-ups with a cloud-based solution, to scale through technical and commercial support with the ultimate goal of connecting these startups to Microsoft's global network of enterprise customers.

Founded by preeminent researchers at UCC in the use of sensors in beehives, ApisProtect provides real-time hive monitoring powered by intelligent sensor technology. ApisProtect gives beekeepers actionable insights and alerts to help prevent losses and increase colony productivity.

ApisProtect uses beehive sensor technology and machine learning in its bee monitoring technology. This beekeeping technology combines the sensor data on hive conditions, strength and activity levels with its proprietary big data and machine learning techniques, to deliver a 24/7 early warning system about at-risk hives and give beekeepers actionable insights and to help prevent losses and increase colony productivity.

Save the bees and you feed the planet

Dr Fiona Edwards Murphy, CEO and Co-Founder of ApisProtect is among the most widely published authors on Internet of Things and honeybees.

“Our bee monitoring technology will enable beekeepers to manage their apiaries more effectively and focus on cultivating larger and stronger colonies. We are delighted to be working with Microsoft as we scale our company globally over the next two years.”

She said that initiatives like World Bee Day help raise the awareness of our pollinators and the vital

role they play in food production. In many countries, up to 41pc of hives (UN FAO) are dying annually. In the USA, beekeepers lost 40pc of their colonies in 2018/2019, the highest in 13 years.

B2B or not to bee

In Ireland alone, we have 98 different species of bee: the honeybee, 20 different bumblebees and 77 different solitary bees. We know that one-third of Irish bee species are threatened with extinction.

Contributing [€153bn](#) worth of pollination to the agri-food industry annually, honey bees play an essential role in [global food production](#). [One-third](#) of all food that we eat depends on pollinators, and there are [91m managed beehives](#) worldwide.

Dr Edwards Murphy adds, “In many countries, up to 50pc of our honeybees are dying every year. A host of problems, diseases, and pests are devastating hive populations around the globe. It’s becoming harder and harder every year for beekeepers to manage the variety of problems their bees are experiencing. By providing beekeepers with insights into what is happening in the hive, we can help beekeepers reduce losses and improve the health of honeybees worldwide.”

“Our mission at ApisProtect, is to save the honeybees, because if we don’t take action now, we’ll lose our most important insect ally. We want to secure the supply of one-third of our diet, and make sure we can nourish and feed the 9.7bn people on planet earth by 2050.”

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