

Malta *a place to be*



Aġenzija Komunità Malta



AĠENZIJA
KOMUNITÀ
MALTA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Aviation, Maritime – **Transport Malta**

Education – **Ministry for Education**

Finance – **FinanceMalta**

Gaming – **GamingMalta**

History, Heritage – **Heritage Malta**

Industrial Innovation – **INDIS Malta Ltd**

Investment Sectors – **Malta Enterprise**

Community Investment in Research

The University of Malta Research, Innovation & Development Trust

Technology – **Tech.mt**

Tourism – **Malta Tourism Authority**

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INTRODUCTION

Community Malta Agency is a Maltese Government Agency which is set up to process applications for Maltese citizenship. Our role is to welcome individuals and families into the Maltese community and make them feel part of our diverse and uniquely historic nation.

Being a Maltese Citizen is a privilege that carries with it the honour and prestige of forming part of a nation relishing a great culture and deep historical roots. Being a country positioned right at the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, acting as a bridge between the European and African continents and a gateway between the East and West, Malta has for thousands of years been central to civilisation.

Consequently, the Agency employs the highest levels of diligence when processing applications to ensure that Maltese citizenship is granted to those who truly deserve it. We pride ourselves as being global leaders in our field and continue to strive with an open mind to enhance our standards.

We welcome you on this exciting journey which we hope will bring new opportunities for us both – you as an investor, wealth creator, entrepreneur, talented individual and a family, and us as a nation always seeking to break new ground and strive to be at the forefront of innovative ideas, technologies, industries, culture and humanity.





AVIATION

Malta has maintained a Register of Civil Aircraft for over fifty years and has an established and proven infrastructure that enables it to maintain an excellent safety oversight of aviation related activities. Manned by highly skilled technical personnel, the Civil Aviation Directorate has the capacity to certify operators of commercial aircraft and issue Air Operator Certificates in terms of EASA for fixed wing and helicopter aeroplanes. It enjoys a growing recognition as an aviation services provider and is fast becoming a favourable aircraft maintenance location with facilities of major international companies. Malta is seeking to promote the development of aviation cluster business for a wholly integrated services set-up and not limitedly to aircraft registration. Malta is a signatory to major aviation related international conventions and has a strong legal framework that is highly sensitive to the rights of secured lenders and provides effective remedies for the prompt enforcement of their rights.



Advantages of Registering your Aircraft in Malta include:

- Robust legislative framework and extensive network of Double Taxation Agreements.
- Competitive minimum depreciation periods for aircraft and aircraft equipment.
- Broad registration possibilities for aircraft not used in commercial air transport.
- More visibility of rights and interests in aircraft.
- Recognition of fractional ownership of aircraft.
- Implementation of the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its Aircraft Protocol facilitating the acquisition of aircraft and granting extensive powers to secured lenders to enforce their rights.
- An efficient, cost-effective, skilled, experienced and multi-lingual workforce.



- The Civil Aviation Directorate provides a wide range of services including the licensing of air operators.
- Business oriented, efficient, and prompt responsive service.
- A clear strategic political vision supporting business, the aviation industry, and its clusters.
- High standards of safety and security.
- Availability of a wide range of aviation services ranging from aircraft and engine maintenance, repair and overhaul to software development, aircraft management, aircraft maintenance training and ancillary support services.
- Malta-EASA member state, politically stable, and a leading maritime and financial services jurisdiction.

A Private and Commercial Aircraft Register

Maltese law provides for the registration of both private and commercial aircraft engaged in air transport services. It is also possible to register aircraft in the Maltese aircraft register whilst under construction or temporarily not being operated or managed. The requirements relating to, inter alia, the airworthiness surveys are suspended until completion of the aircraft.

The eligibility requirements for aircraft not used in air service were largely broadened by means of the Aircraft Registration Act, enacted in 2010. In late 2016, a number of general amendments were introduced by means of the Registration (Amendment) Act, to ensure better protection to holders of rights and interests in aircraft and engines, and to provide for an enhanced legal system which would better support the needs of the ever-evolving aviation industry.

The Civil Aviation Directorate

The Civil Aviation Directorate within Transport Malta provides a wide range of regulatory oversight and licensing services, including but not limited to:

- Aircraft registration.
- Air operator certification.
- Continuing airworthiness management organisation.
- Aircraft maintenance organisation approval.
- Aerodrome licensing.
- Air navigation services.
- Pilot training organizations' approval.
- Licensing of aviation personnel including flight crew, aircraft maintenance certifying staff, and air traffic control officers.
- Aircraft maintenance training organisation approval





EDUCATION

In Malta, responsibility for the education system lies with the Ministry for Education (MFED). Malta's education policy is underscored by three main pillars: equity, inclusion, and the provision of high-quality education. This commitment is evidenced by an inclusive policy across all levels of education and the provision of free compulsory education up to tertiary level in state institutions for all Maltese and EU citizens.

Compulsory education in Malta is from the age of 5 to 16 which is regulated by the Education Act (Chapter 327). This stipulates that every citizen should have direct access to a quality education up to the age of 16 irrespective of gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and religion. As from October 2017, all education provisions throughout compulsory schooling are aimed to achieve the learning levels set by the Learning Outcomes Framework (LOF). The LOF has been developed from The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) (2012) and is based upon the context of the Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta 2014-2024.

The Maltese educational system is based on the UK model, English being the other official language of Malta together with Maltese, thereby it is not only taught throughout compulsory schooling, but Malta can boast of a bilingual education. Adding to this, our University of Malta courses are widely recognised, even in the UK, whilst a number of international institutions operate in Malta offering a wide range of courses.

In Malta free childcare for children between 12 weeks and 3 years of age is offered free, thus helping parents in employment or engaged in education to proceed with their careers. Following early childcare education, children progress to kindergarten which is provided for children aged 2 years 9 months to 5 years of age. Although it is not mandatory, parents are encouraged to enrol their children into these centres. Compulsory education consists of an 11-year programme (age level 5 to 16). Maltese educational setting also offers excellent independent schools up to sixth form level.

Malta promotes an inclusive educational system which requires that different learning programmes are provided in mainstream schools to meet the students' needs. The implementation of 'My Journey: achieving through different paths', which provides unique educational/ learning pathways to different students

with diverse learning aptitudes, abilities and skills is one such initiative. As of September 2019, through the My Journey reform, secondary school students are given the possibility to choose from academic, vocational and/ or applied subjects in addition to the core curriculum.

Lifelong learning and adult education are central to the Maltese educational system. Courses for adult learners are provided both during the day and as evening classes, both in state educational institutions and by private providers. Courses cover a wide array of vocational and academic subjects that lead to formal qualifications or personal self-development.

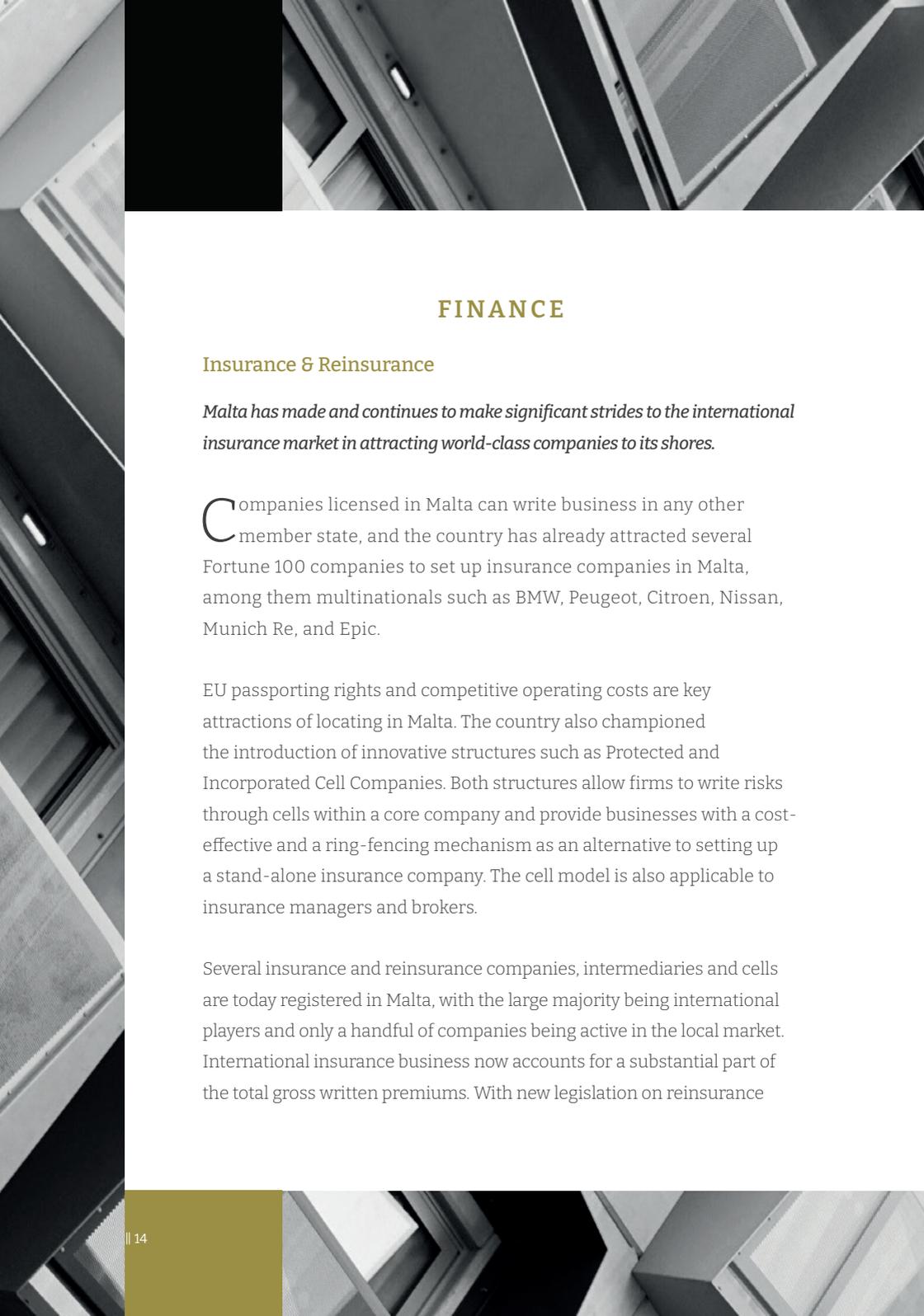
Post-compulsory institutions, namely the University of Malta (UoM), as an autonomous institution, offer tertiary general education programmes ranging from certificate and under-graduate level to post-graduate and doctorate

levels. Additionally, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) cater for vocational education in line with the European Qualifications Framework. MCAST is divided into 3 colleges, namely, the Foundation College, the Technical College, and the University College to cater for the diverse needs and aspirations of students.

The Gan Franġisk Abela Junior College provides post-secondary formal academic education and forms part of the University of Malta. It offers a two-year course specifically designed for future University students who are sitting for the Advanced Matriculation Certificate in accordance with the University of Malta's General Entry Requirements. The Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary within the state sector and the sixth forms in the non-state sector also provide academic courses leading to the said Matriculation examination.

Furthermore, student's maintenance grants are provided by the Government of Malta for students in higher education. The students' maintenance grants scheme operates under a set of regulations and the respective Legal Notice which determines eligibility.

All levels of the Maltese educational system are run by highly qualified teaching staff and administrators who are regularly provided with refresher upgrading courses according to local and international requirements.



FINANCE

Insurance & Reinsurance

Malta has made and continues to make significant strides to the international insurance market in attracting world-class companies to its shores.

Companies licensed in Malta can write business in any other member state, and the country has already attracted several Fortune 100 companies to set up insurance companies in Malta, among them multinationals such as BMW, Peugeot, Citroen, Nissan, Munich Re, and Epic.

EU passporting rights and competitive operating costs are key attractions of locating in Malta. The country also championed the introduction of innovative structures such as Protected and Incorporated Cell Companies. Both structures allow firms to write risks through cells within a core company and provide businesses with a cost-effective and a ring-fencing mechanism as an alternative to setting up a stand-alone insurance company. The cell model is also applicable to insurance managers and brokers.

Several insurance and reinsurance companies, intermediaries and cells are today registered in Malta, with the large majority being international players and only a handful of companies being active in the local market. International insurance business now accounts for a substantial part of the total gross written premiums. With new legislation on reinsurance

special purpose vehicles, Malta has also positioned itself to tap new markets. The Island has recognised the growing importance of insurance linked securities and catastrophe bonds, as well as the convergence of reinsurance and capital markets.

Family Offices & Private Wealth

Malta's strengths as a wealth management centre lie in its holistic offering that caters for a wide spectrum of needs, including succession planning, investment advisory, corporate structuring, investment banking and even lifestyle administration.

Hedge funds, private equity, and real estate – Malta offers all the favourite investment vehicles of high-net-worth individuals and families, while the

EU member state allows investors to protect their assets through the establishment of trusts or foundations.

The Malta trust, combining all the features of the Anglo-Saxon trust concept within a civil law framework, has quickly become the preferred vehicle for professionals and high-net-worth individuals seeking an effective and trustworthy solution to wealth management issues. Trusts have been set up in Malta to safeguard everything from heirlooms to stocks, bonds, art, and real estate. Recently, the Island modernised its trust law to bring it in line with international trends and rival trust jurisdictions, ensuring that Malta remains one of the 'go-to' names for those in search of wealth management solutions. Private bankers and asset managers cater to all levels of wealth from

the mass affluent to the ultra-high-net-worth individual. A wide range of investment vehicles is available – from simple trusts and company structures for families, to high value and more complex set-ups involving trusts, companies, investment funds and foundations for affluent clients.

Credit & Financial Institutions

With some of the safest and most liquid banks in the eurozone, Malta is establishing itself as an international credit and financial institution centre and hub for finance in the Mediterranean region.

Malta's credit and financial institution system remains well-capitalised, liquid, and profitable; however, banks' risk appetite has become ever more conservative, which means the Island is increasingly turning to fintech players for the next stages of growth.

Malta has one of Europe's healthiest and most profitable credit and financial institution sector, yet, concerns that the country is not doing enough to keep the sector free from crime, coupled with the fact that some market segments of the Island's finance centre remain under-served, mean this sector is in need of adjustment. The Island's ever-growing economy has exposed the need to expand the scope of credit and financial institution services, especially to serve smaller corporate clients. However, increasing the number of credit and financial institutions is a tough challenge as the global banking sector has retreated into

consolidation mode due to heightened capital requirements and rising compliance costs, which have affected banks' risk appetite. The good news though is that fintech companies and neobanks have Malta on their radar, and the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) expects to welcome new entrants to Malta's financial scene in the near future.

Investment Funds & Asset Management

Malta's strengths lie in the jurisdiction having established itself as the home of fund managers and administrators, while providing an environment that is attractive to smaller funds and start-up managers.

Malta has long been an established jurisdiction for alternative investment funds, and its fund regime has all bases covered, as managers are

allowed to run funds under the Island's PIF regime, outside the scope of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD), Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under the AIFMD, as well as EU-compliant and globally recognised UCITS schemes. In 2016, Malta introduced the Notified AIF (NAIF) regime. The sector gained momentum due to increased asset management and fund servicing activity, with Malta's flexible and pro-business attitude helping to consolidate the Island's claim for prominence as a fund jurisdiction. In fact, fund service providers recently voted the Island as their favoured European fund domicile. As more offshore funds choose to move into regulated onshore jurisdictions, Malta is poised to win a significant share of the business seeking an EU location.



Fintech

Malta's finance industry has expanded its portfolio into profitable niche areas such as pensions, payments and securitisation, while opening its doors to fintech entrepreneurs. Malta is fast becoming a hotbed for innovation.

Malta is positioning itself as the go-to-place for innovative fintech companies, and among them, insurtech and regtech as well as the many industry technology specialists creating and developing applications for this industry.

The Island has already proved that it can develop a global tech-based industry. The country offers financial software entrepreneurs the opportunity to be located in one of Europe's fastest-growing finance centres, in close proximity to potential contractors and investors. Companies are also using Malta as a springboard to nearby markets, in particular those of Africa, which is increasingly becoming a testing ground for new financial technologies.

Fintech companies have been drawn to Malta because the Island provides a wealth of talent, in both technology

and finance. The local labour pool is deep enough to meet the needs of ICT employers across the range of technical and creative skills, while specialist knowledge can easily be sourced from overseas due to an incentive programme for foreign workers. International connectivity is also pivotal to the further development of this sector and is guaranteed by three operators providing international gateway services via fibre-optic cables to mainland Europe.

The island's small size makes it the ideal test environment for new technologies and ventures in need of a flying start. Companies can develop and test new products and services on the diverse, yet concentrated, local market before exporting their services and solutions to Europe and further afield.

In addition, established companies, seeking more innovative and economical solutions, are ready to partner and collaborate with new players, creating exciting opportunities for companies disrupting segments such as payments, insurance, investment as well as compliance in equal measure.

GAMING

GamingMalta is an independent non-profit foundation set up by the Government of Malta and the Malta Gaming Authority (MGA). Tasked with the remit of promoting Malta as a centre of excellence in the digital and remote gaming sector globally, it is also responsible for liaising with the local relevant authorities to improve Malta's attractiveness as a jurisdiction and enhance the ecosystem surrounding the gaming industry.



GamingMalta is committed to:

- Promoting ownership of the Malta brand among all stakeholders to strengthen Malta's position with the gaming industry.
- Engaging with stakeholders and providing business support to ensure that Malta is the most attractive environment for the gaming industry to thrive.
- Standing out through innovative ideas and leading the iGaming industry through research and promotion of the Maltese jurisdiction so as to be a proactive, dynamic catalyst for change.
- Accelerating growth in the gaming sector by creating a dynamic marketing mechanism anticipating market changes.
- Bringing stakeholders together – ensuring close cooperation while creating business and networking opportunities for firms working in the sector.
- Establishing the necessary expertise and foresight to future proof the gaming sector in Malta.
- Supporting the MGA in implementing the brand strategy and road map development for the gaming industry.
- Collaborating with other Maltese sectoral promotion bodies to promote the overall image of Malta.



HISTORY

At the very epicentre of the Mediterranean and straddling the trade routes between Europe and North Africa, the Maltese Islands have always been coveted as a steppingstone to greatness.

In the annals of time, peaceful Stone Age settlers bequeathed a Neolithic legacy unparalleled elsewhere on the planet. Successive waves of invasion and colonisation by seafaring entrepreneurs and empire builders have interwoven a fascinating, multihued tapestry of language, tradition, architecture, and culture.

In 60 A.D. St. Paul was shipwrecked on the island while on his way to Rome and brought Christianity to Malta.

The Arabs conquered the islands in 870 A.D. and left an important mark on the language of the Maltese. Until 1530 Malta was an extension of Sicily: The Normans, the Aragonese and other conquerors who ruled over Sicily also governed the Maltese Islands. It was Charles V who bequeathed Malta to the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem who ruled over Malta from 1530 to 1798. No era has left such an imprint on the Islands as this 268-year rule.

The Knights took Malta through a new golden age, making it a key player in the cultural scene of 17th and 18th century Europe. From their daily lives to their valiant battles, all is documented in the archives, architecture, and folklore of the Maltese Islands.

You'll sense their presence by wandering through their palaces, courtyards, and gardens.

Across the Maltese Islands, you'll find more evidence of their stay in their military engineering and architectural feats: forts, bastions, watch towers, aqueducts, churches, and cathedrals. Not to mention the rich patrimony they bequeathed the Islands with works of art, furniture, silverware, and sculpture. Less evident, but no less important, is the place they gave the Islands in the history of medicine.

Their Sacra Infermeria in Valletta was the foremost hospital of Europe in its day.

The Maltese Cross was officially adopted by the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John in 1126. Its eight points denote the eight obligations of the knights, namely "to live in truth, have faith, repent one's sins, give proof of humility, love justice, be merciful, be sincere and whole-hearted, and to endure persecution". With time, the eight points also came to represent the eight "langues" (national groupings) of the noblemen who were admitted into the brotherhood, namely those of Auvergne, Provence, France, Aragon, Castille and Portugal, Italy, Baviere (Germany), and England (with Scotland and Ireland).

It is hard to miss the legacy of the Knights in Malta. To this very day, the eight-pointed Maltese Cross symbol of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta remains one of the Islands' best-known faces to the world.

In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte took over Malta from the Knights on his way to



Egypt. The French presence on the islands was short lived, as the English, who were requested by the Maltese to help them against the French, blockaded the islands in 1800.

British rule in Malta lasted until 1964 when Malta became independent. The Maltese adopted the British system of public administration, education, and legislation.

Modern Malta became a Republic in 1974. The foreign military bases on the island closed down permanently in 1979. Malta joined the European Union in May 2004 and the Eurozone in January of 2008.

From the sweep of the sentinel, limestone ramparts encircling the baroque pearl of Valletta to the subterranean chambers of the Hypogeum necropolis, no other country in the world contains as much concentrated history per square kilometre.





HERITAGE

Created by the Cultural Heritage Act enacted in 2002, Heritage Malta, the national agency for museums, conservation practice, and cultural heritage, was entrusted with the safeguarding and protection of this rich, variegated past.

Having more than 35 sites under its remit on land and a further 15 sites underwater, Heritage Malta is passionately committed to making these more accessible, both physically and intellectually, to the general public.

From dynastic pawn, to major player on the European Stage, the resourcefulness and resilience of its people have weathered the storms of history and risen to the challenges imposed by size, location, and a lack of natural resources.

St Paul, de Valette, Napoleon, Queen Elizabeth II, the agency's museums are not just a parade ground for the impressive roll call of personages who have cut a swathe through Maltese History, but they are also a repository of the artefacts, stories, and aspirations of a populace who, sustained by a deep-rooted faith, have had to reinvent themselves with each conquest and survive and win two great sieges.

Through its state-of-the-art Diagnostic Science Laboratories, Heritage Malta helps to restore and conserve these narratives for posterity. Conservation services range from paintings and architecture to glass, metal, stone, ceramics, wood, textiles, tapestry, books, and paper, as well as preventive conservation.



The digitisation of the national collection, interpretation centres, edutainment programmes targeted at children, temporary exhibitions, a fully-fledged publications department, online masterclasses and webinars, documentaries, public lectures, interactive events such as ‘taste history’, heritage trails, student and senior passports, help to bring our

vibrant heritage to life. Additionally, by acting as a catalyst for Malta’s tourism potential, cultural heritage contributes significantly to the economy.

Through its non-elitist endeavours to bring culture closer to the people, Heritage Malta lives up to its motto of ensuring a future to our past.





INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

Future-proofing industrial property solutions

INDIS Malta Ltd (INDIS) is the largest operator of industrial parks in Malta and Gozo and is responsible for the administration of the government-owned estates and related facilities around the islands, as well as supporting and promoting their further development.

Previously operating as Malta Industrial Parks Ltd (MIP), the company has implemented an extensive reorganization and rebranding exercise aimed at better focusing on its core vision, namely that of further strengthening its support towards investment through the continuous development and management of qualitative, sustainable and industrial innovative property solutions.

Historically, the portfolio of properties comprised mainly factories used by the various niches within the manufacturing industry, as well as two villages dedicated to local artisans.

However, over the course of the years the company has gradually evolved in its nature to reflect the changes the local economy was going through and nowadays also provides other facilities such as laboratories for the life sciences industry, hangars for the aviation cluster, as well as office type space for the ICT and other knowledge-intensive industries, among others.

As a forward-looking organization, INDIS Malta is committed to future-proof industry in the country and has thus embarked on a comprehensive infrastructural investment programme that comprises a variety of projects aimed at ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is available not only to meet the current needs, but also those for the foreseeable future.

Projects within the programme all have one common factor at their core: sustainability.

Indeed, every effort is being made in order to strike a balance between optimizing the space available, whilst at the same time respecting the environment and the communities that live and work within.

Several green initiatives are thus being incorporated to make them more welcoming to the people that spend long hours working there as well as to the clients that visit them, recognizing the importance that the environment plays in our lives.

These will be further complemented by other services such as childcare centres, health and fitness facilities, and parking areas that will be introduced within certain industrial estates to further ameliorate their users' experience.

INVESTMENT SECTORS

Malta Enterprise provides holistic support to prospective investors, from the initial provision of information, to guidance in the setting up phase, as well as allocation of industrial space.

As the economic development agency, Malta Enterprise also assists the Government of Malta in the drafting of legislation and regulation to ensure they are conducive towards doing business.

Moreover, Malta Enterprise administers an attractive incentives package aimed at facilitating investment, including:

- **Investment Aid** - as a tax credit against future income tax and may in certain instances be awarded as a cash grant.
- **Access to Finance** - guarantees which may be used to partially guarantee investment loans issued from commercial bank, or Loan Interest Subsidies on the rate of interest payable on bank loans.
- **Training and Up-skilling** - Enterprises can benefit of the Skills Development Scheme when training their employees.
- **Research and Development** - Malta Enterprise offers incentives to support and encourage businesses to engage in industrial research and experimental development, including exploitation of intellectual property through the licensing of patented knowledge.
- **Start-ups** - Malta Enterprise is leading national efforts to consolidate the start-ups ecosystem. Its financial schemes may support start-ups with up to 1.2 million Euro covering costs of salaries, equipment, relocation, and equity among others. Such assistance combines seed funding, repayable advanced grants, and scale-up grants.

Malta Enterprise focuses on 5 main industry sectors:

Advanced Manufacturing

A mainstay of the Maltese economy, with well-established roots dating back to the 1950s, this sector remains vibrant and competitive due to continuous innovation in products and processes. It is a perfect example of the Island's ability to adapt to changing circumstances. When the country first industrialized in the 1950s, it was as a low-cost, labour intensive destination.

In many ways, the bedrock of our industrial sector and one that remains an important target for us with over 200 FDI operations in areas such as precision engineering, electronic components, automotive components, plastics and rubber, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and high quality injection moulding, many with a high research and development component.

World-class products are developed and manufactured in Malta for clients such as Apple, Airbus, Boeing, Bosch, Chanel, Daimler Chrysler, FIAT, Ford, Peugeot, and many others.

Today, this sector has moved far beyond its roots to focus upon high value-added operations requiring a skilled workforce. Indeed, local operations are cited for the high quality of their product as well as their flexibility and ability to adapt to clients' needs.

Malta Freeport, the third largest transshipment hub in the Mediterranean and the Malta International Airport are also crucial enablers of Malta's manufacturing industry.

Aviation (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul)

A sector which is growing very strongly with the presence of a number of quality operators is the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) sector, as well as a growing cluster of companies working in aviation software, UAV development, flight training and back office support for the industry.

Malta is a leading European aviation hub hosting a range of activities including flight operations and charter, management and aircraft handling, Aircraft registration, UAVs testing, Flight simulation and crew training.

Malta's MRO and productive aviation industry received a further boost with the development of the Safi Aviation Park, a Malta Enterprise project designed to host MRO facilities airside at the Malta International Airport. A central location, as well as a well-trained workforce makes Malta a very viable choice for a potential investment in the field.



Digital Innovation and Data Science

Boosted by a strong infrastructure and by multiple links to the rest of the world, this sector is not in any way limited by the country's island context. Starting off from basic software development, Malta has now leapfrogged towards becoming a home for the development of the technologies of the future. In fact, the Island Nation is not only a hub for Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) including blockchain, but is also positioning itself to venture into artificial intelligence (AI) and the internet of things (IoT), with other specialised activities including Data Hosting Services, Payment Gateway Services, Cybersecurity, and Cloud-based applications.

Malta has also recently experienced important advancements in the up and coming Digital Games & Digital creative industry, with a number of Authentication, Authorisation & Accounting (AAA) and exciting independent studios companies establishing themselves in Malta.

International Education Services

While Malta is well known as a centre for the teaching of English as a Foreign Language, many are unaware of the strong presence of specialised institutions ranging from top international universities that provide prestigious medicine degrees, to schools providing training for the oil and gas sector.

The country has been identified as an ideal location to base universities catering for the large North African and Middle East student cadres, as well as students from the continent wishing to pursue their studies in English. This is an opportunity which could reap substantial benefits for any quality institution wishing to tap into these markets from a near shore location.

Life Sciences

Malta ranks 5th globally for its overall healthcare performance. With well-established operations in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, the development of software for the healthcare industry, as well as a growing health tourism sector, the life sciences sector is one of the growth areas for the Maltese economy with particular emphasis on activities having a high R&D element and health-tech.

In order to further develop this field, Malta Enterprise has developed the Malta Life Sciences Park, containing high-end facilities for the chemistry, biology and digital imaging sectors, adjoining the University of Malta, the main teaching hospital as well as the national oncology centre. The Life



Sciences Park is designed to allow companies to commence operations with minimal preparation in order to focus on their core activities as well as to leverage synergies with other companies within the Park as well as with academia.

The proximity to the nearby North African and Middle East markets makes Malta an appealing proposition to health care providers' investment and expansion strategies, serviced from a stable location with a strong healthcare background. Malta's impetus, quest and vision for medical cannabis is driving the industry towards the manufacture of quality products and investment in research excellence.

Another upcoming industry is the manufacturing of medical cannabis products. The Production of Cannabis for Medicinal and Research Purposes Act of 2018 officially allowed entities to cultivate, import, process and produce cannabis intended for medical and research purposes under a controlled and supervised environment. In Q4 2020 the Malta Medicines Authority approved the first licence for the production of medical cannabis. This was an important milestone for the medical cannabis sector in Malta which will now begin to export products of the highest quality.

Why Malta

- Long term economic, political, and social stability
- Strategic location with easy access to nearby markets
- Efficient, competitive, and transparent tax system
- Highly skilled and English-speaking human resources
- Competitive cost structure with low social costs
- Excellent quality of life and safe environment
- An attractive incentives package administered by Malta Enterprise
- Transparent legal and regulatory environment coupled with a sophisticated ecosystem

Growth Sectors

- AI/IoT/Industry 4.0
- Drones/ UAVs
- RDI
- Healthcare services and health-tech
- International educational services
- Green and blue economy
- Logistics and Possibility of Free Trade Status





MARITIME

Malta has today established itself as one of the leading maritime hubs and service centres in the Mediterranean region. The maritime industry in Malta, today includes many varied economic activities including ship design, ship management, shipping line operations, stevedoring, customs brokerage services, maritime environment protection, ship towage, offshore oil exploration servicing, freight forwarding, marine insurance and shipping finance being just a few of these activities. Malta's maritime heritage has also translated in the availability of a skilled and efficient workforce that ensures a fast and efficient service which caters for all types of vessels.

It has developed a very strong regulatory platform that has enabled the Malta Flag to become a reputable and internationally recognised ship register which is now the largest in Europe and one of the largest in the world (6th largest).



The Maltese Ship Register is regulated by a framework of the highest standards based on international and European Union legislation. The Maltese registration system is formulated in such a way as to attract the registration of newer as opposed to older vessels with the aim of reinforcing its safety record (the Maltese Ship Register is on the White List of the Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU). Safe ships and clean seas are matters of priority for the Malta Flag, a policy that is successfully increasing the number of quality ships on its register.

Malta's ship register has grown not only in numbers but also in repute, and today, the country is increasingly adding high-class ships to its fleet. This is also a result of the good quality of service backed by various initiatives and strategies in favour of the industry offering a holistic package, which is recognised by ship owners worldwide. Within this scenario, blue chip companies are increasingly being attracted to the Malta Flag, further validating such flag as a Flag of Confidence.

The opportunities that can be provided by Malta in this sector stem from the Islands' rich maritime heritage with a cultural legacy intimately linked to the sea that is unique in the Mediterranean. This tradition has also transpired through Malta's legal tradition in maritime affairs which contributed to the formulation of the Maltese initiative at the 1967 United Nations General Assembly that culminated in the adoption of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Malta's natural, deep sheltered harbours and position on major shipping routes (indeed its geographical position places it a mere 6 nautical miles off the main Mediterranean sea-route between Gibraltar and the Suez Canal) have been mainly responsible for Malta's development as a maritime centre and established Malta as a major entry port for trade and bunkering stations.

The two main harbours in Malta are complimentary to each other providing a wider variety of maritime related services. The Grand Harbour offers a comprehensive service covering practically all maritime requirements; a service that reflects the knowledge, commitment, and attention that the Maltese maritime community is today well renowned for. The other main Port, Marsaxlokk, consists of the container terminal and industrial storage facilities which are operated by the Malta Freeport

Terminals that, since its establishment in 1988, has registered remarkable growth and is now a leading maritime transshipment logistic hub, the third largest transshipment port in the Mediterranean region, enjoying positive international recognition with global carriers as a reliable and credible port.

Furthermore, Malta's status as an EU Member State since May 2004 has further enhanced the country's attractiveness as a centre for international business in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Internationally Malta is recognised as a safe and secure place to do business, with high economic, legal, and political stability, and low risk. It boasts a highly qualified and flexible workforce and a proactive business environment. All these key factors have made Maritime Malta the ideal location for foreign direct investment and international trade.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH

A growing number of talented researchers are quietly making this world a better place to live in. More often than not, university researchers work behind the scenes, in their laboratories, steadily developing new ideas that improve technology, enhance public policies, nurture a healthier and happier community, and quietly change the world. From time to time, one will make news with the announcement of a major discovery.

The Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT) of the University of Malta was established in 2011 to create a supporting structure that sustains and expands this research, by providing additional funds that supplement the existing modest resources. The future of the University's research activities will rely heavily on funding resources. To date, thanks to the generosity of the Maltese community, the RIDT has raised around €4 million which is financing research projects in all areas of study, projects include PhD scholarships in cancer research, in ALS and in other non-medical areas such as climate change and criminology.



The University of Malta belongs to the whole community, and serves this community. University research helps businesses in their technological advancements and product development; it helps civil society in its pursuit to resolve social, political and environmental issues; it helps government design public policies and improve efficiency and effectiveness. University research helps students by bringing them closer to where innovation is happening. In a world that is constantly changing, university research is becoming even more crucial to so many critical issues.

University researchers are committed to do the work that makes it possible for business, government and community leaders to make smart, informed decisions about the issues that matter in our daily lives.

Any contribution, whether large or small, can make a difference.

TECHNOLOGY

Malta's tech sector displayed strong resilience during 2020, both in infrastructure and in gross value-added terms

Throughout the past years, Malta has successfully diversified its economy with the tech sector not only being a key sector in its own right but, also being a transversal sector supporting the growth of other important sectors. Today, we have a tech sector that is supporting a growing remote gaming industry, a mature financial services sector together with key supporting and development functions in the clusters of aviation, maritime and life sciences. This sector has also displayed very strong resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic given that it still registered positive growth. In addition, it displayed the fastest productivity growth over the past decade.

It is one of the three industries locally that has still experienced growth during the turbulent period caused by COVID-19, given that investment in innovation, research and development did not halt during the pandemic. Undoubtedly, there is hope and expectation that 2021 will be a rebound year. The shift to digital transformation will continue in earnest and Tech. mt remains committed at being proactively engaged in generating the momentum. The productivity of the technology sector in Malta has seen



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the strongest increase over the past decade reflecting the strong basis of the sector as well as Malta's attractiveness including: its skilled workforce; strong educational institutions; robust telecommunications infrastructure and various incentives that continue to bolster Malta's attractiveness.

2020 was a game changing risk, not just for adapting to the pandemic, but also for adapting to a more digital future. An increase in digital literacy amongst society along with continuous developments in the ICT sector have led to significant improvements in the Gross Value Added (GVA). When comparing the GVA for ICT in 2019 with 2020, there has been a rise of 6.5% during the third quarter of 2020. This rise occurred despite facing a global pandemic. The digital transformations of the economic system contributed to the momentum of the system itself improving the quality of life and the value of the goods and services produced. An increasing GVA despite facing new challenges, is proof of the resilience of the tech sector. Productivity in the technological sector including a well-educated and skilled

workforce, contributes to this increase in Gross Value Added where Malta continues to grow stronger against all odds. When comparing the third quarter of 2019 with that of 2020, one should also notice a rise in the Service turnover index with regards to services in Information and Communication by 14.4%.

Since time immemorial, Malta has established itself as a regional hub. From the time of the Phoenicians, where trade was primarily determined by strategic location, in today's digital and global world, investment attractiveness is based primarily on ecosystems and sectoral readiness. The strength of any sector and economy depends on its future-preparedness. It is precisely for this reason that Malta is continuously nurturing this ecosystem.

The primary pillar is undoubtedly regulation. We have continuously built economic sectors on the basis of regulatory and jurisdictional innovation. We are definitely emulating this in the tech sector with legal and regulatory frameworks around blockchain, virtual financial assets



and artificial intelligence. As these technologies continue to mature, Malta will be positioned as having robust legal frameworks.

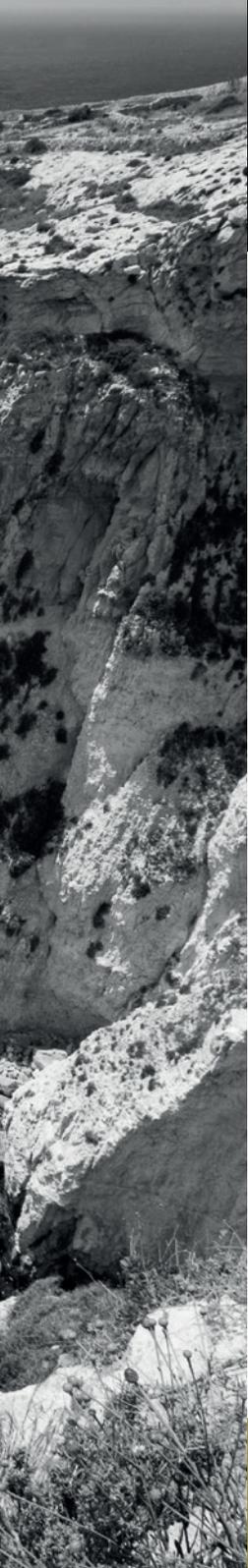
Education remains a key pillar for growth and today we have a number of educational institutions providing a place for talent to flourish and develop. We are introducing coding and AI basics in our primary and secondary schools equipping today's students for tomorrow's industries. In parallel, Government has issued numerous schemes to support companies upskilling their current employees. Our attractiveness is intrinsically linked to our ability to provide trained human resources and Tech.mt remains committed to facilitate this dialogue and collaboration between the industry and educational institutions.

The third pillar is digital infrastructure. Here, Malta continues to build and expand on its already strong digital backbone. Home to a number of data centres; strong and reliable internet bandwidth and connectivity; together with 5G testing underway, Malta continues to position itself as having the capacity to continue attracting tech companies. This has been recognised by international studies including Europe's Digital Economy and Society Index for 2020 which positioned Malta in the 5th position.

Incentives and support measures are also key and various Government entities including Malta Enterprise and MCST have been instrumental in providing tax and non-tax incentives including cash grants to support investments in research, innovation and expansion in new economic sectors including the growing tech sector. Moving forward, Government is committed to continue supporting this sector. The launch of a venture capital stream together with access to finance through Malta Development Bank supported facilities, will continue enhancing Malta's attractiveness.

Throughout the years, Malta proved to be resilient and able to prosper and grow despite facing global issues. There is huge potential for the local Tech sector as there is no doubt that the future is digital. Malta is well-positioned to continue building on the existing strengths and Tech.mt will remain pivotal in making sure technology and digital platforms are used in the best way possible, ensuring an economy which is based on digital resilience and digital innovation. Together with all stakeholders, we are already welcoming tomorrow today.





TOURISM

In Malta you'll explore 7000 years of history yet live passionately in the present. You'll span the millennia with an astonishing array of things to discover. And wherever you go, the Islands' scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop. The colours are striking, honey-coloured stone against the deepest of Mediterranean blues.

The Maltese Islands have been described as one big open-air museum. What makes them unique is that so much of their past is visible today. Delve into the Islands' mysterious prehistory, retrace the footsteps of St. Paul or see where the Knights of St. John defended Christendom.

Malta is holidaying as the mood takes you. And with near year-round sun, you can indulge in outdoor living at its best.



In just 48 hours and a kilometre or two, you can try a new sport, laze on an island cruise and tour the most important historic sites, and still have time to join in the nightlife. That's the real advantage of a stay here.

The Islands offer plenty of specialist holidays for those seeking to learn a new skill, discover history or get fit. If you're interested in sports, we cater as much for the seasoned enthusiast

as the casual first-timer. Malta has wellness and spa facilities at the luxury hotels and club resorts. Sea and land lend themselves to activities from rock-climbing to gentle rambling.

For a tempo and scene change from Malta itself, hop to the sister islands of Gozo and Comino. Here, you'll holiday within a holiday and at the most relaxed of Mediterranean paces.

Community Malta Agency

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