QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland is an independent, State agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland. Established in 2012, their mission is to promote the enhancement of quality in Ireland’s further and higher education and training, and quality assure providers; and to support and promote a qualifications system that benefits learners and other stakeholders.

Microsoft’s licensing plans were further optimised by transferring existing on-premises educational license agreements into the Azure cloud. The ‘Bring Your Own License’ element of the GEANT framework, which Microsoft offers through their Azure Hybrid Benefit programme, helped maximise value from existing server licenses.

Lessons Learned
QQI’s use of the GEANT IaaS framework, with usage discounts, reduction of data traffic costs and transfer of existing on-premise server licenses, brought the actual total costs down by 33%. With the deployment of other services on Azure, the cost savings are probably even higher.

NREN Support
HEAnet played an important role helping QQI maximise the GEANT framework. HEAnet is more than just QQI’s connectivity provider; they are considered a trusted advisor. “Using GEANT’s framework agreement with Microsoft brought QQI significant cost savings,” says Garvan McFeely, HEAnet’s Brokerage Services Manager. “Usage discounts and data traffic arrangements led to a significant reduction in costs.”

Microsoft Azure
Microsoft Azure is the perfect choice for research and education. It allows swift and easy access to very powerful computing environments where complex data can be analysed, stored and shared efficiently and securely. It also gives researchers access to tools which can turn data into insights and enable them to collaborate with others quickly and securely to accelerate discovery.

Coupled with the benefits of the GEANT Framework, Microsoft Azure and Hybrid use benefits along with reserved instances provide education customers with the lowest pricing and cost flexibility when moving mission critical workloads or an entire DataCenter to Microsoft Azure.

About Microsoft Azure
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To contact a Microsoft Approved Partner to find out more about Microsoft Azure on the GEANT Framework, visit the Clouds Catalogue at https://clouds.geant.org/IaaS/Azure

Further Information

“After moving 98% of our infrastructure in Azure, we don’t have to worry about the physical hardware and administrative and contract costs are much lower. Taking all this into consideration, the value of HEAnet facilitating our migration to the cloud is really immeasurable.”

Dr. Ray O’Neill, Head of ICT and Procurement