

# Helping Ireland's polymer industry to grow and compete internationally

First  
Polymer  
Training

Skillnet



Polymer Technology  
Ireland  
Ibec



## About Us

- Set up in 1999 by Ibec and key companies
- Technical Training Centre in Athlone
- Knowledge Centre for industry



# First Polymer Training Skillnet

1999-2024



# MEET OUR TEAM

## Our Team



**Catherine Collins**  
Network Manager



**Alan Harrington**  
Technical Training Specialist



**Christine Harkin**  
Centre Co-ordinator

## What we do

- Provide a broad range of technical training programmes for the polymer sector primarily in
  - Injection Moulding
  - Extrusion
  - Materials
  - Design
  - Automation
- Host technical seminars and open days
- Work with ATU Sligo and TUS on 3<sup>rd</sup> level programmes for industry
- Subsidise all the training we provide with Skillnet Ireland funding
- A key stakeholder for the polymer sector
- Sole QQI validated provider in Polymer FE

## What we do



➤ Over 70 training programmes available

[www.firstpolymerskillnet.com](http://www.firstpolymerskillnet.com)

Injection Moulding

Extrusion

Materials

Design

Automation

Electrical

Customising of programmes

Clear progression paths

Available in-house

E-Learning

## Our Steering Group

1. Sean Nolan (Chairperson) [West Pharmaceutical Services](#)
2. Mark McAuley (Promoter) [Ibec \(Polymer Technology Ireland\)](#)
3. Kenny O'Brien [Applied Polymer Technology Gateway](#)
4. Pat Whyte [Invermed](#)
5. Justin Wallace [Trend Technologies Ltd](#)
6. Kevin Heffernan [Jabil Healthcare](#)
7. John Brennan [Spectrum Plastics Group](#)
8. Kieran Donlon [Medtronic](#)
9. Louis Goor [JL Goor Ltd](#)
10. TJ Hughes [Enterprise Ireland](#)
11. Paul Bryan [P3 Solutions](#)
12. Joanne Fayne [Teleflex Medical](#)
13. Aoife McDonnell [Irish Life Sciences](#)

## Our Centre



# The Education Landscape



## Polymer Career Progression Pathways

LEVEL 10



PhD



LEVEL 9



MSc in Advanced  
Polymer Materials  
Part Time

LEVEL 8



TUS

BEng (Hons)  
in Polymer &  
Mechanical  
Engineering  
Full Time



BEng (Hons) in  
Polymer Process  
Engineering  
Part Time

LEVEL 7



TUS

BEng (Ord)  
in Polymer &  
Mechanical  
Engineering  
Full Time



BEng (Ord) in  
Polymer Process  
Engineering  
Part Time

LEVEL 6



TUS

BSc in Polymer  
Processing Technology  
(Apprenticeship)



SPA in Polymer  
Technology  
Part Time

LEVEL 5



Certificate in  
Plastics Injection  
Moulding

First  
Polymer  
Training  
Skillnet



Bespoke Training  
Programmes

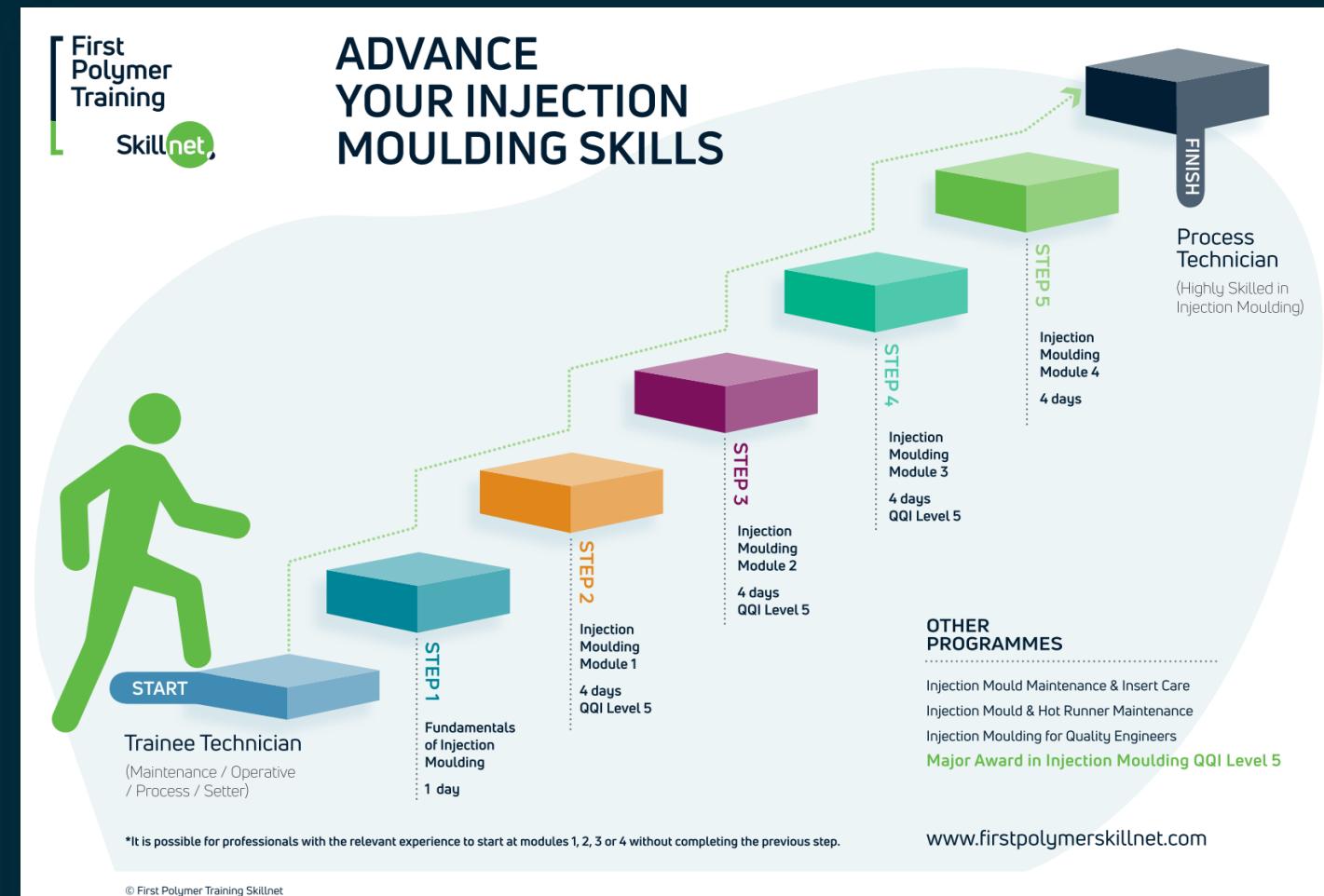
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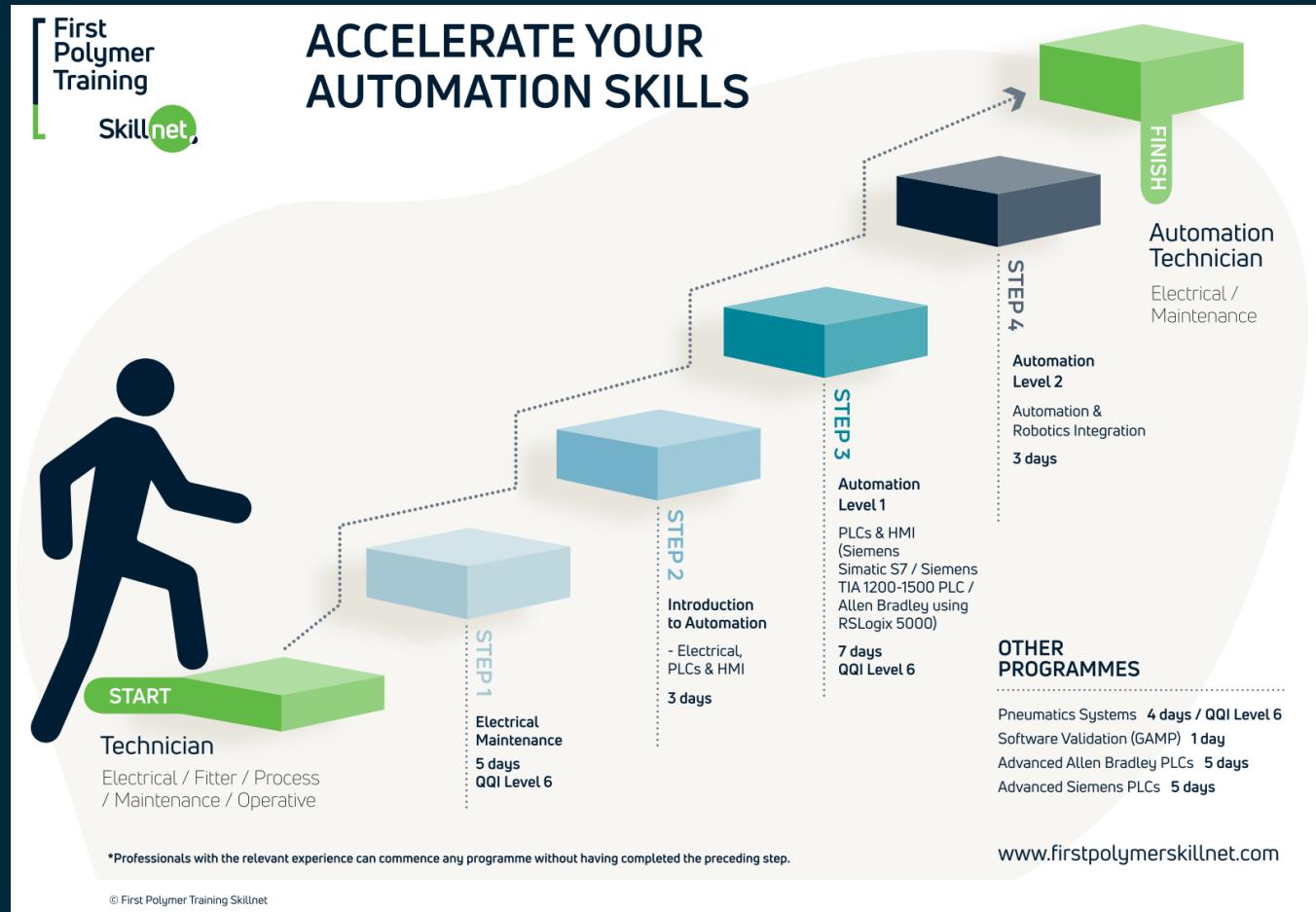
## Our Pathways

### Injection Moulding Pathway

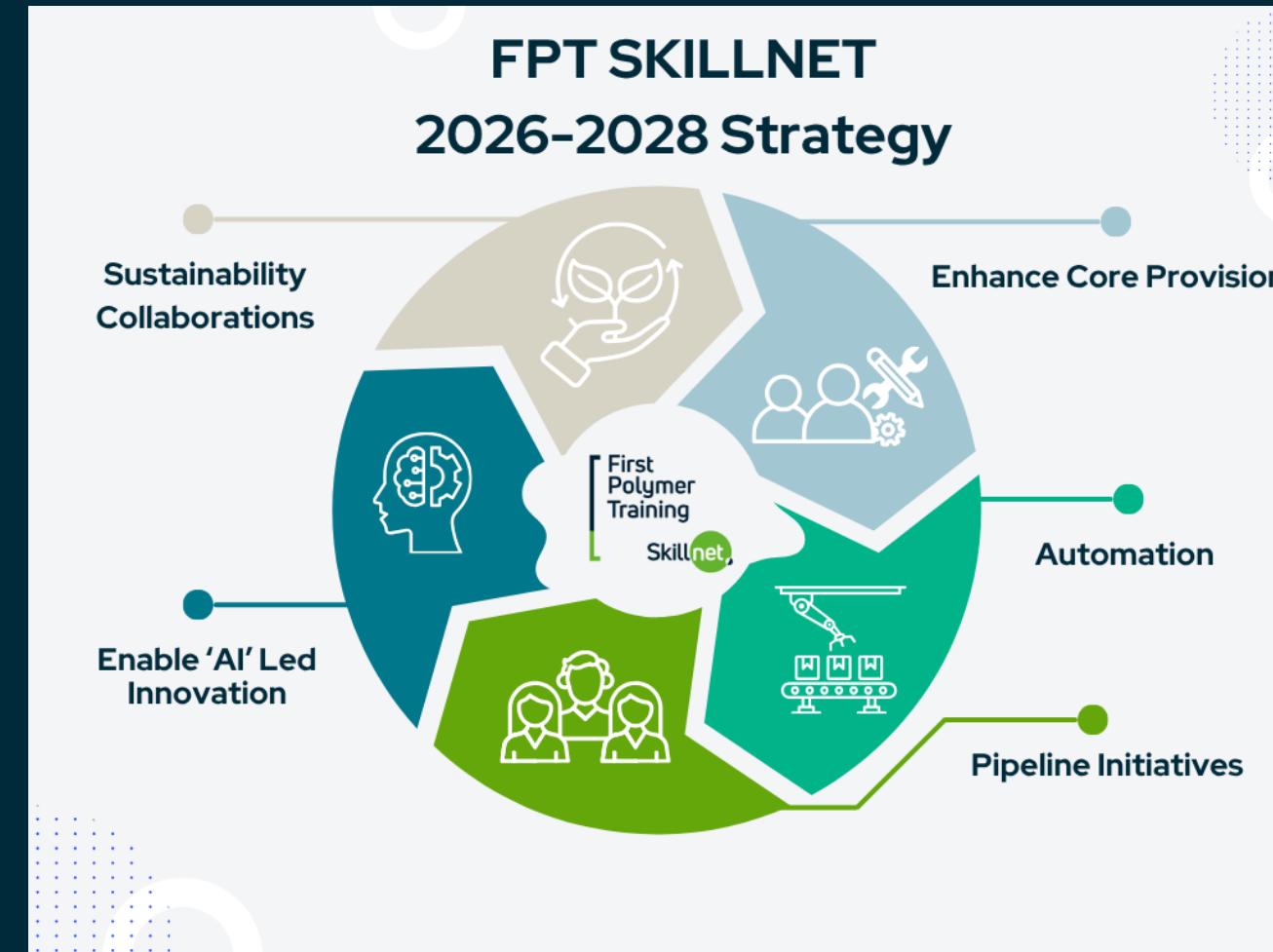


# Our Pathways

## Automation Pathway



# Strategy







# September 2025



Ewikon Open Days 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
September 2025



Skillnet Ireland Roadshow  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# Schools Outreach





## Polymer Study Tours 2024 and 2025



### POLYMER STUDY TOURS

FREE two-day residential course for Technology and Engineering teachers designed to enhance your knowledge of polymers, provide ideas for practical teaching and give an insight into the vibrant plastics industry in Ireland.

- 18 - 19 October 2024
- Learn from Industry Experts
- FPT Centre, Athlone
- Complimentary Hotel & Meals

[REGISTER NOW](http://www.firstpolymerskillnet.com) 





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**REGISTER NOW**



[www.firstpolymerskillnet.com](http://www.firstpolymerskillnet.com)

- 1 ] Funding Secured
- 2 ] Free 2-day Residential Programme
- 3 ] Lesson Plans and Resources to take away
- 4 ] Factory Visits
- 5 ] Polymer Classroom Kits



# Thank you!



## Catherine Collins

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