

NEWS – ECIPE PRESS RELEASE – NEW OCCASIONAL PAPER

Quantum Clusters: Ranking the World's Deep-Tech Epicentre

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Brussels, 9 December 2025 - The newest [ECIPE Occasional Paper](#) identifies key innovation hubs for quantum technology. The study maps 'Quantum Clusters' across major economies and shows how these are crucial for strengthening coordination across industry, research, and government, both locally and globally.

By analysing 45 clusters globally, the paper presents a structured ranking designed not to reinforce supremacy narratives, but instead to shed light on which regions are high performing, where real capabilities lie, and where gaps persist. The paper serves as a benchmark for policymakers to understand the external, institutional, and firm-level factors that shape quantum competitiveness.

To identify these clusters, we relied on three core dimensions: **market orientation, collaboration intensity, and ecosystem maturity**.

Based on these dimensions, **Cambridge (UK) leads the global ranking, followed closely by Greater Helsinki (Finland), Oxford (UK), the San Francisco Bay Area (US), and Greater Glasgow (UK)**.

One of our key findings indicates that a successful quantum cluster is not a self-contained hub, but rather the most effective node in a global and distributed network.

"Clusters with strong connecting roles are thus particularly valuable: they connect otherwise separate communities, bring together complementary capabilities, and help drive the integration needed for scalable quantum technologies", says Fredrik Erixon, Director at ECIPE and co-author of the study.

The study further assesses cluster performance across three specific dimensions, identifying the top 10 performing clusters in each area. This granular detail underscores the need for policy responses to be curated, ensuring they accurately understand each dimension and its results. The objective is to first

determine what drives performance before moving to targeted interventions, and only if they are needed.

Additionally, we identify **86 quantum quasi-clusters**, hubs where quantum activity is taking shape but has not yet attained the capacity of a mature cluster. By examining the success of the established quantum clusters, we suggest that quasi-clusters need to build the beneficial and essential environment required for bringing cutting-edge innovation to market.

In short, no single region can pull ahead in isolation; therefore, **continued collaboration and hinging on comparative advantages will be key to progress** for both quantum moving forward.

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