Quantum Technology: Funding the Future

McKinsey & Co. estimates that combined worldwide spending on nonclassified quantum-technology research amounted to around some €1.5 billion in 2015. Here’s how those numbers were distributed globally—and some highlights of government quantum initiatives since then.

*Sum for all E.U. countries including the U.K. as of 2015.
Sources: European Union; U.K. Government Office for Science; National Research Council Canada; National Photonics Initiative, USA.
Infographic by Stewart Wills and Alessia Kirkland

**Quantum Applications**

**Security**
Quantum communications can increase data security on networks—reducing the theft of sensitive information and promoting trust.

**Communications**
Tiny ultra-precise quantum clocks will allow denser communications traffic, and could reduce risk of transmission failures.

**Information**
It’s believed that quantum computers could ultimately tackle problems out of reach of classical computing algorithms.

**Environment**
Quantum sensors for measuring gravity could aid flood prevention by providing more accurate monitoring of the water table.

**Finance**
Financial markets that depend on split-second decisions could benefit from the increase in accuracy of the new generation of atomic clocks.