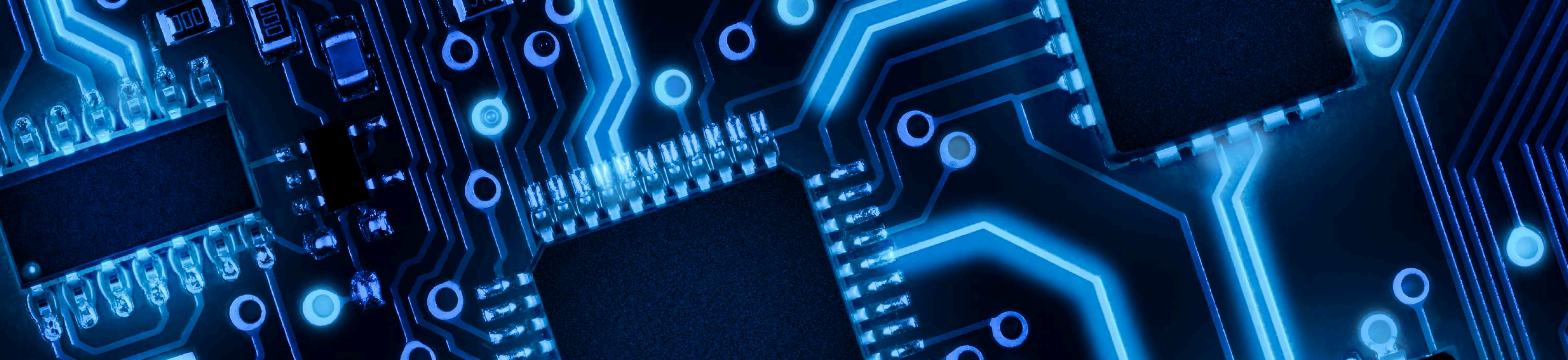


THE NEW GEOGRAPHY OF HIGH-TECH WORK





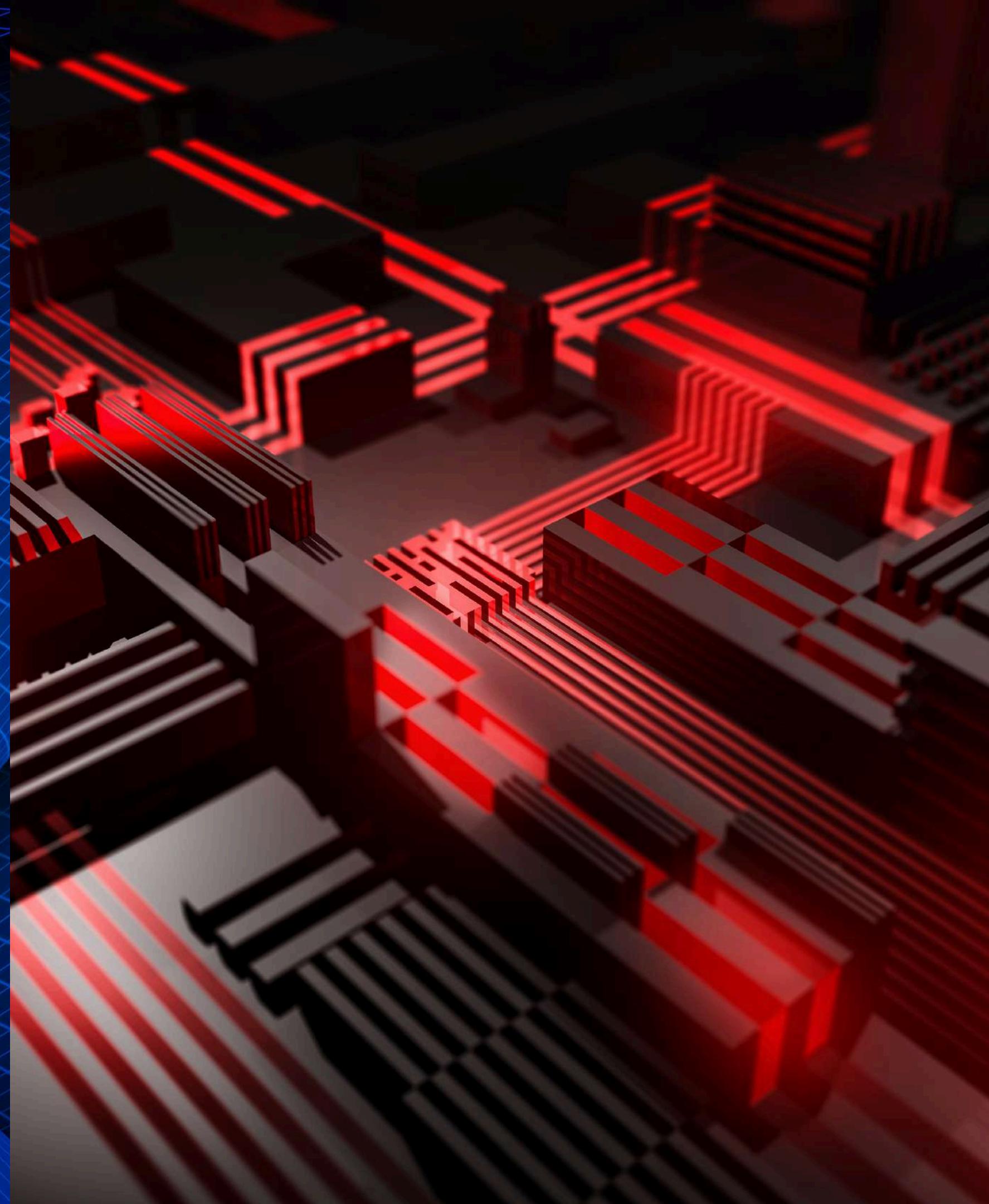
HIGH-TECH WORKERS AND REMOTE WORKING

- Focus on high-tech and knowledge-intensive workers
- Examines how far they have embraced remote working
- Explores the impact on:
 - Local territories
 - Innovation capabilities
 - Economic development

HYBRID WORK SHAPES WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

Remote work does not mean working from anywhere

- Remote working is mainly organised through hybrid arrangements
- Workers still need to return to the office once or twice a week
- This limits how far they can relocate from company headquarters
- Remote work therefore creates a specific geography of workers



THE “DONUT EFFECT”

The areas around major cities benefit most

- Findings are consistent with the so-called “donut effect”
- Remote workers tend to move towards the immediate ring outside city centres
- More distant or marginal areas benefit much less
- Proximity to headquarters remains important because of regular commuting



WHAT HAPPENS IN SECOND-TIER REGIONS?

Remote workers are present beyond major cities
The case study identified remote workers in places such as:

- Laois
- Carlow
- Galway



THESE WORKERS ARE OFTEN EMPLOYED IN KNOWLEDGE-INTENSIVE SECTORS, BUT TYPICALLY WORK FOR LOCAL FIRMS RATHER THAN COMPANIES LOCATED FAR AWAY

POTENTIAL FOR KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Remote workers can connect firms and territories

- Remote workers in second-tier regions can act as channels for knowledge transmission
- Their skills and professional knowledge have the potential to benefit local territories
- However, their current impact on local innovation capabilities remains limited



FROM COWORKING SPACES TO INNOVATION HUBS

**COWORKING SPACES NEED A
BROADER ROLE**



Coworking spaces should be more than places where remote workers simply work individually. They should become innovation hubs where remote workers:

- Connect with each other
- Build professional networks
- Interact with local organisations and activities
- Become more integrated into the economic and innovation ecosystem of second-tier locations



KEY TAKEAWAY

HYBRID WORK CAN
REDISTRIBUTE TALENT —
BUT MOSTLY WITHIN
COMMUTING DISTANCE

Remote working can support second-tier territories, but its territorial impact is constrained by the continued importance of the workplace. The challenge is therefore not only attracting remote workers, but connecting them with local economies and innovation ecosystems.