

Annual Engagement and Impact Report

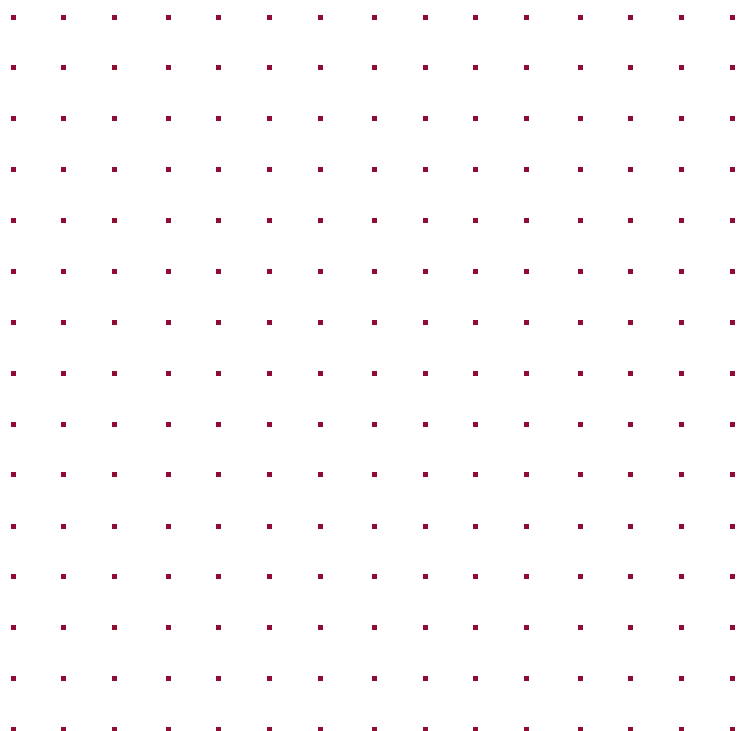
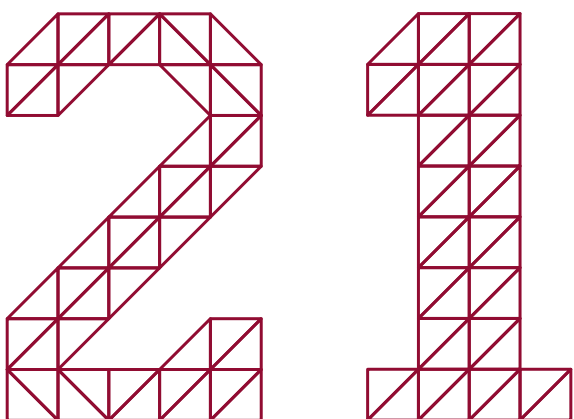
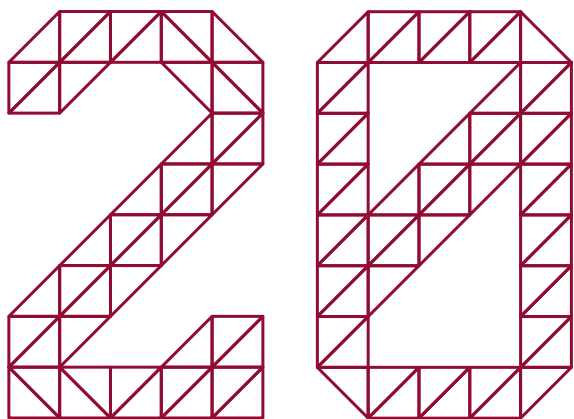
2020-2021

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Digital Catapult is the UK authority on advanced digital technology.



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Digital Catapult is the UK authority on advanced digital technology. Through collaboration and innovation, we accelerate industry adoption to drive growth and opportunity across the economy. Through our specialist programmes and experimental facilities, we make sure that the right solutions make it to the real world.

As digital technologies continue to challenge the boundaries between sectors and enable behaviours up and down value chains, Digital Catapult helps companies deliver the products, services and experiences of the future.

New facilities

We identify the need, design, build and operate open access physical and digital facilities for companies to explore, test and demonstrate how advanced digital technologies work in practice.

Innovation and acceleration programmes

We design and deliver targeted innovation and acceleration programmes to connect the supply and demand of advanced digital technologies, and overcome barriers for scaling. Our ambitious programmes, such as Futurescope, support innovative digital-first businesses with resources, mentorship, collaboration and tools for success at all stages of their growth journey.

Collaborative research and development

We convene and collaborate on research and development to trial and explore the mid-term potential for advanced digital technologies, building confidence, creating demand and opening up new markets for new suppliers.



[Click here to read more about CR&D](#)

Working across the tech ecosystem

We work with early stage technology businesses, corporate adopters and trade bodies, government, universities and other research organisations, and investors across the UK.

What our impact looks like:

- Opening up access to new markets
- Driving private investment
- Digitalisation to reduce carbon emissions
- Developing new scalable products and services
- Developing new disruptive business models
- Pushing regional specialisation
- Solving hard technical challenges
- Creating high value jobs
- Improving workforce inclusion and diversity

We are increasingly seeing early adopters gain market advantage and growth through the blending of technologies. We work where the application of these technologies can make the biggest positive impact:

- Open and interoperable infrastructure
- Digital and resilient supply chains
- Virtualisation and cyber physical systems

Digital Catapult is part of the Catapult Network that supports businesses in transforming great ideas into valuable products and services. We are a network of world-leading technology and innovation centres established by Innovate UK.

Digital Catapult receives £12 million of core funding each year and have leveraged £21.5 million of joint collaborative R&D and commercial revenue into our projects over the past three years. With £25 million of match funding and benefit in kind contributions, we have turned £36 million into £82.5 million.



[Click here to read more about how we help large businesses](#)



[Click here to read more about what we offer](#)

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540

working with
businesses and
entrepreneurs

54

new industrial
collaborations /
partnerships

36

academic
collaborative R&D
engagements

£369.5m

total investment raised
by 189 businesses after
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Digital Catapult exists to ignite the spark of curiosity that unleashes potential. We embed resilience in business and improve productivity to increase the UK's international competitiveness. We ensure ambitious projects have a positive, ethical and sustainable effect on the economy and wider society. We create new bridges between supply-side innovation and demand-side application.

I've frequently commented that I am in awe of the team at Digital Catapult. Not only is it diverse, energetic and entrepreneurial, but the people are committed, tenacious, idealistic and most of all, incredibly talented. It has also grown this year and almost doubled in size to nearly 200 employees.

I'm also in awe of the 540 or so companies we have worked with during the year, many of whom have raised millions in private equity investment, survived the pandemic and grown on the global stage in the most difficult of circumstances.

Like so many other businesses around the world from March 2020, presented by the challenge of COVID-19, the Digital Catapult team became a distributed workforce overnight. The team transitioned over 80 projects online and found new ways to support the businesses that needed it most.

One of our responsibilities during the pandemic was to think ahead and make sure that the good and useful aspects of the accelerated technology adoption of 20/21 would continue post-pandemic to drive new value into our economy and society. Whilst we're not in a post-pandemic world yet, there does at least appear to be light at the end of the tunnel - we're all learning how to turn hybrid working into a successful reality and to take advantage of a new mind-set more open to how radical change can achieve new productivity.

The UK government's recent Innovation Strategy and AI Strategy documents are indicators of a continued national ambition to bring public and private expertise and investment together. That is a role that Catapults play very effectively, in our case to drive more rapid and earlier adoption of next generation technologies and to help achieve mass industrial digitalisation.

We're also leading on several projects supporting government departments, including the DCMS-backed SONIC Labs project with Ofcom to diversify the telecoms supply chain, and our role in helping coordinate the national Industrial 5G Testbeds & Trials programme. We're now also providing important input to BEIS, helping develop a deeper understanding of UK potential capability in digital twinning and wider cyber-physical infrastructure. Our recent [Digital Future Index](#) examined the position of the UK globally in the field of technology adoption. It reveals that the UK fares well in some areas of the

global rankings, but it's clear there is much more that needs to be done to take advantage of the expertise we have on these islands.

Our role in helping to guide policy formation, recognised by the UK Government through our contribution to these major initiatives, is rooted in - and reaffirms - our mission to encourage, stimulate and support early adopters of advanced digital technologies.

Our impact in 2021

Companies come to us with interesting and often complex challenges that an emerging digital technology solution might help to solve, and we are increasingly focused on how this can be achieved through a combination of technologies that constitute the new stack.

Through our work in the Made Smarter Technology Accelerator and the IoT Discovery Programme we are helping major businesses like Sainsbury's, Babcock, Northumbrian Water, Celsa Steel and Yusen Logistics to solve some of the major challenges they face.

In the creative sphere, Digital Catapult's Virtual Production Test Stage, funded by Innovate UK, is one example of how we are creating cutting edge physical facilities to act as centres for research and development and for skills training, whilst also providing access to smaller companies who would otherwise be locked out of digital innovation.

In our centres in Belfast and North East Tees Valley some incredible projects have taken place - and taken off - in the last year. The £42 million investment from the UK government in the Smart Nano NI project will demonstrate cross-sector innovation in nanotechnology manufacturing and photonics, and create a leading edge facility in Northern Ireland. In the North East we have launched a new digital adoption programme with the North of Tyne combined authority called Digital Pathfinders, a fully funded programme to support small businesses, charities and social enterprises to use digital tech to become more successful and resilient.

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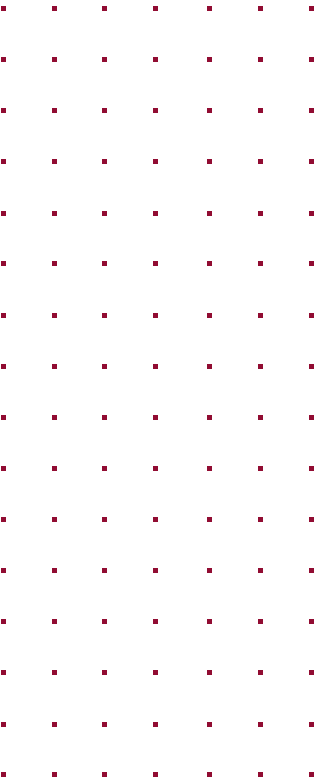
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Our work in the East and West Midlands has grown significantly this year and we are delighted to have opened 5G and IoT testbeds in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, and in Nottingham.

This year we have also began an important new strategic regional collaboration which is centred on a partnership with the University of Bristol. We are excited to be working on a number of projects in the South West including the Digital Engineering Technology Innovation initiative with the National Composites Centre (part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult) and with the West of England Combined Authority, as well as on MyWorld, a major Strength in Places programme to accelerate exploration of new media formats such as VR and AR. We hope that our collaboration will continue to expand into other areas in coming years.

Although it's not been possible to travel, we have been continuing to promote UK expertise on the global stage. A pan-European programme we've been heavily involved in - DLT4EU - has been spearheading efforts to use distributed ledger technology to address social and environmental challenges across territories. We've also developed important relationships with businesses in India, including Tata Steel and Godrej Aerospace, forging new partnerships between these big businesses and innovative UK startups to tackle climate change by pioneering net zero solutions.

When we look to the future, we can see real opportunities for industry to improve and accelerate into new ways of working. We see three key areas of application for industry - in its core digital infrastructure, by digitising its supply chains, and by virtualising the means by which products and services are designed and made.

In these three areas, we will put our focus going forward helping creative and manufacturing industries and other sectors to leap forward through early adoption of advanced digital technologies, boosting domestic businesses and increasing our global competitiveness.

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From the recent UK government innovation strategy, to the urgent need to address major societal issues, such as tackling climate change and ensuring responsible development and adoption of advanced technologies, Digital Catapult is strongly placed to help deliver the UK's ambitions to build back greener, fairer and stronger.

Digital Catapult's central aim is to foster and develop a strong ecosystem of UK tech companies focused on practical use cases, as well as supporting the wider business community adopt advanced digital technologies. We remain committed to harnessing the best academic research in support of this commercial and economic aim.

The UK Innovation Strategy (2021) sets out the vision for the UK as a global hub for innovation. This plan will help to bring together public and private expertise and investment, driving adoption and diffusion of next-generation technologies and industrial digitalisation.

Investing in innovation is how businesses grow, create new jobs, become globally competitive, enrich local communities, and boost the economy across the country. Through our programmes, we have helped over 180 businesses raise over £369 million in funding. Our regional centres are growing at pace and delivering impactful work in their communities, and we're leveraging Digital Catapult's growing international reputation and network to help drive export-led economic growth through digital products and services.

During 2021, we've been developing new digital solutions for manufacturing supply chains that enable greater resilience through transparency and trust in data. We've helped a number of companies to take their immersive experiences all the way from concept to the Oculus Quest Top 10. And our team of experts is working with a diverse range of organisations to address common goals and uncover valuable learnings that can be shared and applied across other sectors.

Importantly, more than ever before Digital Catapult is exploring how multiple technologies can be used in combination to solve problems across the economy. Using advanced digital technology increases the potential to affect change, the possibilities for disruption, and the creation of groundbreaking new business opportunities. Our cross-technology

approach puts Digital Catapult at the intersection of digital initiatives in different sectors and enables us to explore areas of emerging capabilities, such as quantum computing.

In the recently released 'Digital Future Report 2021', the first global trends index produced by Digital Catapult, we highlighted the UK's position relative to our global competitors by providing a barometer for the economic health and potential for innovation and growth by country. It identifies three major trends that will transform businesses across all sectors: digital twinning, the metaverse, and remote and autonomous machines, all of which are explored in this report.

Finally, I extend my personal thanks to Dame Wendy Hall, who stepped down from the Digital Catapult Board this October. Dame Wendy has been a non-executive director since the organisation was founded in 2013, and for the last three years she has been lending world-leading insights on leading edge technologies and the latest research thinking to the AI Ethics Committee - guiding startups on our Machine Intelligence Garage programme on realising responsible artificial intelligence development in the UK.

Digital Catapult is a major player on the UK innovation stage. Our work, both in the UK and internationally, is increasingly recognised as the voice of authority on advanced digital technologies, underpinning sustainable and resilient long-term change across multiple sectors of the economy.



Through collaboration
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Digital Catapult drives regional and national economic growth. Our nationwide network forges partnerships across the UK, and each of our centres - in London, North East Tees Valley, Northern Ireland and Bristol - has a specialised focus that responds to the needs of the local market, boosting opportunities for growth and inward investment.

Digital Catapult is working to level-up the UK in partnership, by building on the unparalleled ingenuity unleashed when industry, academia, local leadership and government working together.

Our centres, partnerships and programmes drive technology growth and the adoption and diffusion of innovation, ensuring businesses and communities across the UK can benefit from advanced digital technologies.

Our interventions fuel the growth businesses need and the jobs our communities deserve. In doing so, we drive productivity in sectors and supply chains that strengthen regional economies and align with wider national and local investments.

£63M

investment into Northern Ireland for the Smart Nano NI project

273

Organisations engaged in the 5spring programme

£1.6M

Total investment into the SWIFT facility at NTU

£130,000

Funding awarded to two startups selected for Sellafeld Ltd DLT challenge

£100,000

Funding for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in the North East

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Redefining the cultural and manufacturing industries in Northern Ireland

In July 2021, the Smart Nano NI project was launched, marking a considerable opportunity for Digital Catapult Northern Ireland to scale and increase its impact across the region. A cutting edge, five year project funded by UKRI's Strength in Places Fund, the [Smart Nano NI](#) consortium will collaborate to develop game-changing advanced prototyping and smart manufacturing methods.

The £63 million project is led by Seagate Technology, and includes Analytics Engines, Causeway Sensors, Cirdan Imaging, North West Regional College, Queen's University, Ulster University and Yelo. Northern Ireland is well-positioned with its expert capability in nano-manufacturing and world-leading knowledge in photonics, to take advantage of a globally expanding industry. The collaboration between organisations located along the Derry-Belfast corridor will enable the creation of a Centre of Excellence for these industries. As part of the project, Digital Catapult is running an advanced digital accelerator programme to engage with 75 small businesses from across Northern Ireland - and the wider UK - from sectors as diverse as agritech, construction, aerospace and maritime.

We have also continued our engagement with the Northern Irish small business community and collaboration with major industry partners. We worked with HP's VR Technology Team to provide access for VR innovators to engage with projects in healthcare and trauma care, enabling these small innovative businesses in the region to engage in early stage beta testing of the hardware and software. In partnership with Arts Council NI and FSNi, we collaborated on the launch of a new creative seed fund opportunity to offer £250,000 to creative industry SMEs and individuals for the development of ideas for using immersive technologies. We supported many of these innovators with their submissions, and realising the XR elements of their projects to gain access to the funding. Tapping into our wider industry contacts - including VR 3D artist Rosie Summers, who we met at the recent SXSW trade mission - and providing technical advice and virtual reality hardware, we worked closely with the project team and subsequently trained Northern Irish artists in the VR authoring tool Tilt Brush. Despite

COVID-19 restrictions, the culmination of the project saw a spectacular final live performance, set to music, in sync with the 'new' VR artists' creations, at Belfast's Riddell Warehouse.

Entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit of the North East

Digital Catapult North East Tees Valley helped to deliver a new open innovation programme to help solve some of the region's biggest COVID-19 related problems. Delivered by the NETV team and Innovation Supernet, and launched by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Challenge NE asked the regional business community to develop innovative solutions for hosting safe and engaging in-person events (indoors and outdoors) and safely adapting in-home services to help the North East adjust to post-COVID life. One of the winners of the challenge, [Southpaw Dance Company](#), received funding to boost its digital dance innovation journey by experimenting with a new volumetric capture rig. Challenge NE was supported by a range of organisations, including the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Beamish Museum, Sage Gateshead and Newcastle United Foundation.

The North East Social Tech Fund provides voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSE) in the area with support and funding to help them adopt advanced digital technologies. A key innovation for this pilot project was use of the challenge-led approach, designed to initially focus on the problem rather than the potential technological solution. The project ran throughout the pandemic period, supporting eight VCSE organisations with support from tech companies and funding from Comic Relief, Community Foundation Durham, Newcastle Building Society and North Star Foundation. For example, Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust worked with NETV and a Middlesbrough based startup Animmersion to develop a prototype digital experience to enhance visitors' knowledge and understanding of Kielder's precious ospreys. This gives visitors a virtual, osprey's eye view of flights over the park to help them better engage with the wildlife and natural environment.

We are working with the North of Tyne Combined Authority on the Inspire North of Tyne project to support the region's STEM

talent pipeline. The project is helping to create awareness of opportunities for young people in the tech sector and provides career planning sessions to manage the growing skills demand as the North East tech sector grows.

Providing specialised events and expert one-to-one support, NETV's new digital adoption programme, [Digital Pathfinders](#), demonstrates how adopting new technology can drive productivity and performance in an organisation. Funded by the national Digital Catapult network and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, Digital Pathfinders helps small businesses, charities and social enterprises across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland become more successful and resilient by adopting digital technology. Collaboration lies at the heart of the programme, which is delivered in partnership with Generator, VONNE and Steam Digital.



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Building on the proud innovation heritage of Bristol

In May 2021, we launched our newest centre, Digital Catapult South West, in partnership with the University of Bristol. Cementing the status of Bristol as one of the most innovative places in the UK, Digital Catapult South West will build on multiple ongoing projects between the two partners, providing a boost to national capability and strengthening innovation in Bristol and the wider region. Digital Catapult South West will help to scale industrial activities through a combination of advanced engineering, digital expertise and leveraging the University's research base in areas such as data science, digital infrastructure, creative and sustainability technologies. It provides the opportunity to translate academic R&D excellence into practical industrial adoption, connecting industry players with startups to solve real-world challenges, and further establishing the South West as a world-leading centre of new and innovative methods of translational research.

Boosting 5G business across the West Midlands

Digital Catapult is part of the **SPRING** consortium with Telefonica UK (O2), Wayra, and Deloitte, helping businesses across the West Midlands to develop ambitious solutions using 5G to address specific industry needs, and to deliver growth and innovation throughout the West Midlands and beyond. In addition to building and operating 5G testbed facilities in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, the Digital Catapult 5G team is contributing deep technical knowledge and innovation to support the cohort companies, as well as validating business propositions and providing the technical underpinning for the entire programme. We've worked alongside large organisations, including Ferrovial, BAM Nuttall and HS2, to address specific challenges focused on manufacturing, the future of construction, the future of transportation, and the development of smart cities. These innovation challenges shared the aim of finding small businesses that were using 5G, as well as leveraging augmented reality, IoT, artificial intelligence and other complementary technologies, to create solutions that have long term and wide reaching impacts across the target sectors.

Building a smart campus in Nottingham

Digital Catapult worked with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and D2N2 (the Local Enterprise Partnership for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire) to create a new state-of-the-art Smart Wireless Innovation Facility (SWiFT), at the university's Clifton Campus. The smart campus features advanced digital technology infrastructure designed by Digital Catapult. The 5G and IoT testbed enables users of the facility to test and develop 5G-enabled solutions and access a state-of-the-art LoRaWAN network. SWiFT is providing a vital stimulus to the local business and academic community: it's a 'living lab' for researchers and businesses, and the opportunity for NTU students to develop and demonstrate how connected technologies can be translated into everyday life.



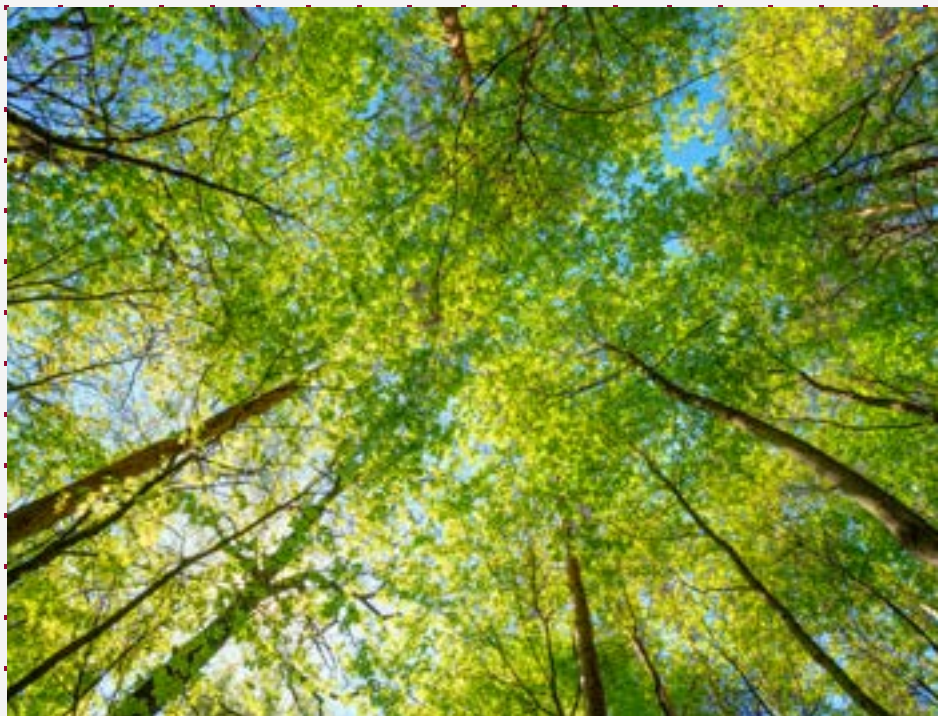
[Click here to read more about SWiFT](#)

Pioneering distributed ledger technologies in Cumbria

We worked in partnership with Sellafield Ltd and two innovative startups, Condatis and Jitsuin, as part of our Field Labs programme to implement advanced digital technology solutions that will support the nuclear industry to continue to monitor skills, and to provide a trusted and secure record for tracking hazardous waste and materials. This work uses distributed ledger technologies to help maintain Sellafield Ltd's highest safety and security standards, demonstrating both the value of DLT and the commercial impact advanced digital technology can make to the real-world challenges faced by one of the UK's largest nuclear facilities.



[Click here to read more about DLT Field Labs](#)



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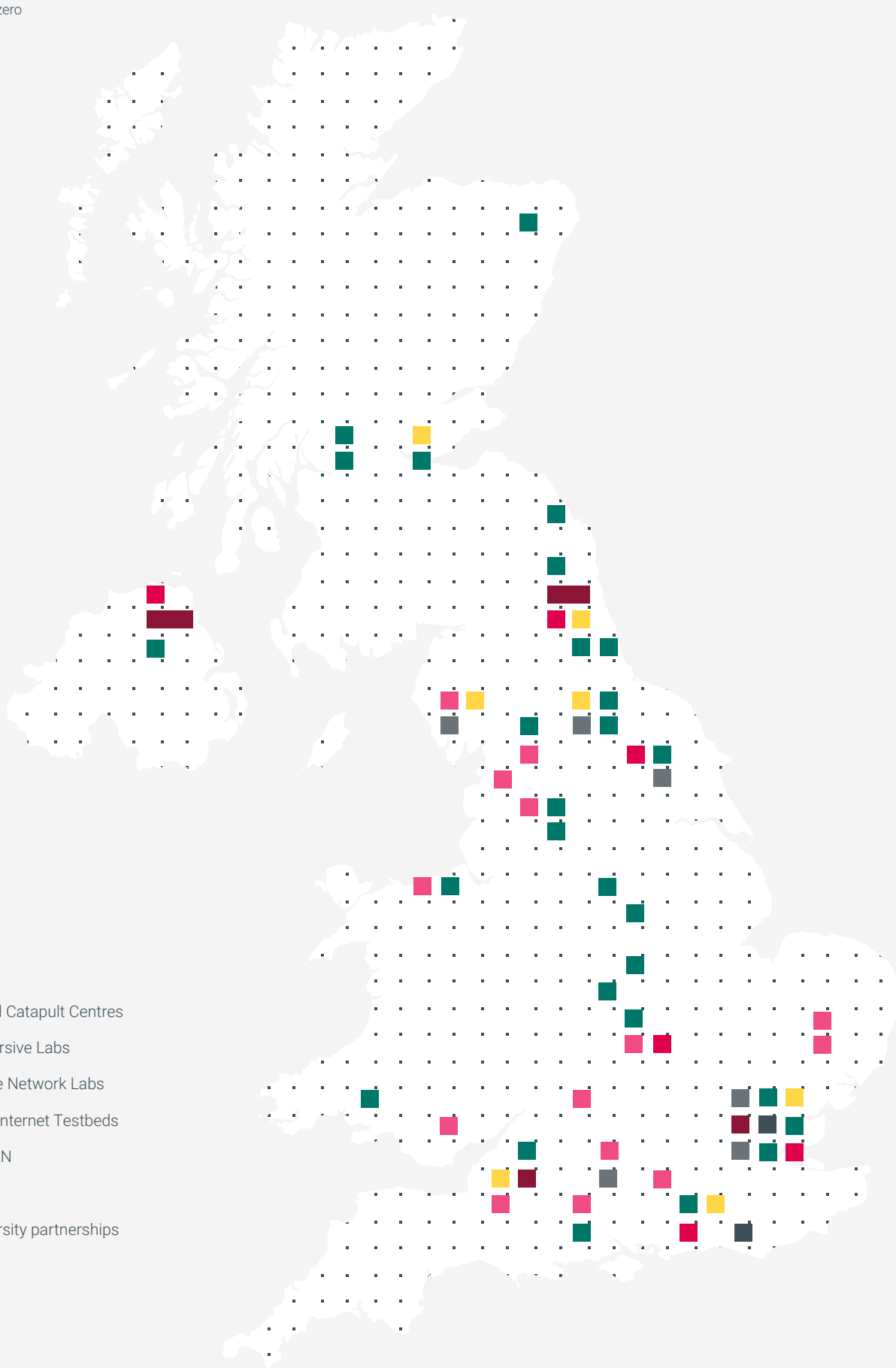
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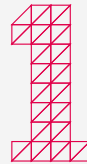
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Digital Catapult's international work continues to grow, encompassing a wide range of industry-leading projects that are championing the potential of advanced digital technologies - and the UK-based businesses using them - to make a tangible difference.



Expressionist art meets augmented reality in Norway.



Supporting UK and European startups to reach new markets.



Working with MUNCH and immersive technology specialists Arcade, we have developed a prototype AR experience - the MunchMunch app - for students in Norway to engage with and understand the work of Edvard Munch and his unique way of thinking and creating. This pioneering national pilot, delivered through the Cultural Rucksack programme, will allow students to create their own works inspired by Munch and upload them into a searchable geo-located map creating an interactive augmented reality, crowd-sourced, nationwide piece of art.



[Click here to watch the MUNCH Video](#)

DigiFed is a network of innovation hubs across Europe: Digital Catapult is the UK hub. The project - part of the Smart Anything Everywhere project funded by Horizon 2020 - creates sustainable cross-border services and partnerships between small and large businesses, universities, public bodies, and research and technology organisations to boost adoption of advanced digital technologies by European startups and scaleups. Digital Catapult is supporting UK and European startups to reach new markets and digitise their solutions, products and operations by providing access to 5G and IoT testbeds, IoT benchmarking services, access to compute power, machine learning and AI ethics capabilities and product development coaching, to establish pan-European supplier and customer relationships, and access further funding.

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Using distributed ledger technology to address social and environmental challenges across the European Union.

DLT4EU was the first pan-European accelerator programme for public sector bodies to experiment with distributed ledger technologies (DLT). A collaboration between Digital Catapult, Metabolic (Netherlands) and Ideas for Change (Spain) with direct support and advice of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, DLT4EU sought innovative practical business solutions to urgent challenges focused on two areas: the circular economy (supply chain traceability, ownership transfers in secondary markets, end of life compliance, tracking and tracing) and digital citizenship (aid traceability, data management, and systems for digital identification, inclusion and community participation). The project connected the expertise and resources of leading DLT entrepreneurs and developers with challenges from public and private sector organisations. The accelerator part of the programme was designed to be scalable and replicable for other govtech or 'tech for good' solutions, so that future initiatives can adopt and repeat it successfully to support positive social and environmental impacts through the use of DLT.



Unveiling UK virtual reality trailblazers at international festivals.

Two UK projects inspiring and educating audiences using virtual reality appeared at the world-leading Tribeca film festival in New York in 2021. Supported by CreativeXR, a Digital Catapult and Arts Council England programme, Madrid Noir and Goliath both make use of VR and interactivity in new ways to transform the audience experience. These exciting projects are co-productions with France, receiving match funding from French cinematic production agency CNC, and showcase the potential for international collaboration. For the first time, two CreativeXR alumni companies are available to download on the Oculus store for consumers to experience at home. Goliath by Anagram demonstrated further success this summer picking up the Grand Jury Prize for Best Virtual Reality Immersive Work at the Venice International Film Festival, VR Expanded.



[Click here to watch the CreativeXR showreel](#)



Enriching user centric entertainment with one of Malaysia's biggest brands.

Digital Catapult North East Tees Valley collaborated with Maxis (the leading converged solutions provider and biggest video entertainment provider in Malaysia), the Department for International Trade, and the UK Tech Cluster Group to provide a market expansion opportunity for small and medium UK tech businesses. The Maxis Business Challenge sought out proposals for using data analytics, machine learning or artificial intelligence to create a more personalised and user-centric Maxis TV product. This challenge is the first of a range of international opportunities that will enable UK tech suppliers to access the South East Asian market, as part of the UK-ASEAN Digital Business Challenge pilot.



Driving collaboration between the UK and India to boost sustainable innovation.

The Digital Manufacturing Global Scale Up Programme: UK & India is a partnership between Digital Catapult, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN), and UKRI, that forges international collaboration and boosts innovation efforts between the UK and India. We are working with large Indian corporations Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Godrej Aerospace and Johnson Matthey, and UK-based startups to develop cross-technology prototypes focused on digital manufacturing and net zero solutions to help solve business challenges in an environmentally conscious way.

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Towards net zero

The only way to truly get to net zero is through innovating in existing industries, creating new business models and considering the environment as a business stakeholder. Recovery from the pandemic presents a renewed opportunity for the UK to become the global hub for sustainable technologies, founded on advanced digital solutions.

Advanced digital technologies can deliver numerous benefits for organisations' green credentials, helping businesses to measure environmental impact, reduce waste, reduce costs, and increase productivity and optimisation. It's critical that the UK's manufacturing and creative industries become familiar with solutions that will accelerate their journey to net zero, exploring, testing and deploying green, digital solutions as permanent solutions for their business.

Many businesses are serious about investment in sustainability, but becoming more sustainable requires an understanding of environmental impact that is not ingrained across industry today.

Accelerating industrial net zero

Digital Catapult is working with the manufacturing and creative industries to reduce their negative environmental impacts and reach net zero emissions. With TWI Limited, we have established the Industrial Net Zero Innovation Centre (INZIC) in Cambridge, to find ways of using advanced digital technologies to measure environmental impact, reduce waste, optimise use and extend asset life, and improve end-of-life recyclability in the aerospace, utilities and energy sectors. Digital Catapult's Field Labs provide organisations with an environment in which to deploy and test the latest distributed ledger technologies (DLT) in real-world (and close to real-world) conditions, demonstrating the impact DLT can have on business processes.

The Ecometer

As part of the Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation (DETI) project, in partnership with the National Composites Centre (NCC), we developed the Ecometer, a new tool to monitor and analyse data from energy usage and convert it into a carbon footprint. This tool gives engineers granular insights into the energy consumption of their machines and processes in real time. Currently using data generated from an automated fibre processing facility in Bristol, the Ecometer supports real-time decisions on the carbon intensity of industrial processes. In the future, there will be a fully commercial product which can be used to understand the carbon emissions from across multiple sites - not just for the specific product, but for the entire supply chain.



[Click here to watch the Deti Ecometer video](#)

Greening supply chains

Current supply chains are disparate and fragmented, with sporadic data-sharing and poor information flow, leading to materials and energy being wasted at every stage. Digital Catapult is involved in a number of projects that are using increased business interest in emerging technologies to help align supply chain knowledge, particularly in the food and drink, and additive manufacturing sectors.

The Digital Sandwich project will deliver an open, national demonstrator of a digitalised food supply chain, using sandwich manufacturing as the use case, and aims to reduce waste and costs and increase productivity. Digital Catapult's role in the AIEVO consortium is about optimising data-sharing in the supply chain and delivering cost savings, while reducing carbon emissions and significantly reducing waste. We're also collaborating with the Catapult Network to deliver insights to the UK business community, including research conducted with Energy Systems Catapult into total carbon traceability, and a report examining a potential 'hydrogen economy' and the role of hydrogen in meeting net zero targets.



[Click here to read more about the Industrial Net Zero Innovation Centre \(INZIC\)](#)

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Developing an environmentally positive digital ecosystem

Digital Catapult is helping make the UK a hub of environmentally positive digital technology by offering support to small businesses and entrepreneurs in four areas: onsite energy efficiency, optimised operations, sustainable supply chains, and zero waste manufacturing that supports a circular economy. The launch cohort of our Futurescope programme is focused on sustainability and net zero products, applications and solutions and the 5PRING programme's Green Innovation Challenge, in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), challenged startups to help WMCA deliver on its WM2041 strategy, covering use and access to green spaces, sustainable transport solutions, low carbon power systems, and energy efficiency in the built environment.

Digital Catapult North East Tees Valley has worked closely with Sunderland City Council and the UK startup community to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions across the Council's real estate, and to use data to understand how the Council can shape sustainable transport methods. Our support has extended into mentoring young entrepreneurs with Samsung on its Gen Z tech competition 'Solve for Tomorrow'. We worked closely with young entrepreneurs who were developing practical technology solutions to help tackle key challenges faced by society.

Advanced digital solutions for the energy and utilities industries

Resilient energy networks are the key to transition to a carbon free energy system. We're working with companies in the energy sector to implement solutions using internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence, and distributed ledger technologies that help to balance consumer and business demand for energy with an increasingly varied mix of energy generation sources. We are working with National Grid to deliver the UK's first feasibility report to assess the opportunity for adoption of 5G within the electricity and gas transmission networks. We're also working with Northern Gas Networks - one of the UK's biggest gas distribution networks, which has taken part in the inaugural IoT Discovery programme - to understand how it can deploy scalable proof-of-concept IoT projects with a view to scaling sustainably. Our work is branching out into other parts of the utilities sector that are keen to understand how digitalisation can help. Northumbrian Water, the world's most ethical water company, was one of the seven challenge owners on the Made Smarter Technology Accelerator programme seeking innovative solutions for fixing sewer blockages, as well as for monitoring and real-time analysis of water quality within the distribution network.

Our commitment to the UN Global Compact

Digital Catapult has signed up to the United Nations Global Compact, one of the Race to Zero pledges and the world's largest sustainability initiative, with more than 17,000 member organisations. The Global Compact provides Digital Catapult with a well-defined framework to work within and an annual opportunity to assess the progress we've made in environmental and social sustainability. In addition to the commitment to sustainable business practices, the Global Compact allows us to join the UK network of over 600 companies that have committed to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17 principles that provide a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all, where advanced digital technologies have a key role to play.

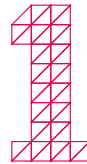
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Open and interoperable digital infrastructure is the framework for connecting the digital and physical worlds. Digital Catapult is driving the adoption of open and interoperable technologies and of open standards for advanced digital infrastructure, systems and platforms, and is supporting new and innovative vendors to become part of the UK digital fabric.



Building the 5G Factory of the Future

Efficiency, productivity, and sustainability are essential in manufacturing. From advanced product and machine tracking to autonomous warehouse transportation and remote assistance for operators, technology can help industry to drive down production costs while driving up market productivity levels and competitiveness. The £9.5 million 5G Factory of the Future project, led by the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) in partnership with Digital Catapult, aql, BAE Systems, IBM, Miralis and MTT, is developing an open access industrial 5G testbed to encourage adoption of 5G in manufacturing. The project will enable real-time feedback and closed loop control of manufacturing systems, line-side support through augmented and virtual reality devices, and efficient integration and exploitation of mobile IoT technology for digital manufacturing, thanks to 5G's low latency and increased bandwidth. Digital Catapult is the technical authority lead for the project, bringing our deep technical expertise in 5G to the consortium and coordinating the integration of 5G, Operational Technology (OT) and edge computing, to help manufacturers drive up productivity, boost efficiency, improve safety and cut waste.



[Click here to watch the Deti Ecometer video](#)



Accelerating telecoms innovation with SONIC Labs

Early in 2021, Digital Catapult began work with Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator, on the SONIC Labs project to provide a commercially neutral collaborative environment for testing interoperability and integration. The SmartRAN Open Network Interoperability Centre (SONIC Labs) is part of the DCMS 5G Diversification Strategy and will use Digital Catapult's existing 5G testbeds to enable organisations to rapidly learn and understand the issues, opportunities and best practices relating to OpenRAN based products and services. SONIC Labs is an important step in building the UK's advanced digital infrastructure because it facilitates exploration of interoperability in mobile networks, identifying and sharing issues, opportunities and best practices. SONIC Labs is also encouraging innovative vendors to join the UK ecosystem, creating growth and developing investment in the UK telecoms sector for the long term.

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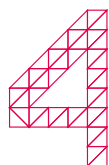
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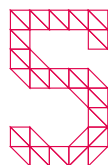
Bringing new consumer retail experiences to life

The pandemic has accelerated the growth in consumer use of technology. Rather than simply using touchscreens, people will interact with data, information and content as it is layered over the physical world, making it digitally interactive and immersive. This new way of interacting with brands will be done anywhere. Our partnership with Verizon Business has created a retail accelerator programme to develop the next generation of immersive retail experiences. Working with some of the world's leading brands - Burberry, Diageo and L'Oreal UK & Ireland - and some of the UK's most innovative startups, we are exploring what 5G can do for customer engagement and the customer experience when blended with immersive technology. This project is one of the first for Digital Catapult in the retail sector, designed to test the boundaries of connected experiences in creative, forward-thinking ways and will conclude in 2022.



Using emerging technology to support the construction of HS2

Innovation with emerging technologies is playing an increasingly large role in the success of significant national infrastructure projects like HS2. Digital Catapult signed a three-year framework agreement with HS2 to assess the feasibility of using advanced digital technologies - such as 5G and machine learning - to manage assets during the construction and maintenance of Britain's high-speed rail network, to help predict maintenance requirements during its operation, and create a long-lasting innovation legacy. The first project is exploring how 5G technology could be used to help monitor HS2 infrastructure, such as bridges and tunnels. Replacing fixed cabled equipment could potentially enable flexible, easy and fast deployment of monitoring systems anywhere along the route.



Developing national cyber physical infrastructure

We're working with the UK Government and industry to understand the potential for current and future UK capabilities in digital twinning and cyber-physical infrastructure. Alongside the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and in support of the consultation around digital twins and cyber-physical infrastructure in the UK Government's Innovation Strategy, we are engaging with a wide range of industry stakeholders about the opportunities, benefits and challenges for multiple sectors: manufacturing, aerospace and defence, energy and utilities, entertainment and the experience economy, healthcare, construction and the built environment, national infrastructure, and the natural environment. The aim is to identify options for the UK to develop a truly national capability in this area. While many digital twin technologies already exist, it is the combination of tools, capabilities, infrastructure and applications for specific use cases that will enable them to be exploited more quickly by industry. There is also an opportunity for the UK to gain more valuable insights about complex systems if digital twins and other complex cyber-physical systems are developed to be interoperable, secure and connected.

£9.5m

funding for 5G Factory of the Future

3 years

framework agreement with HS2

£34.7bn

projected size of digital twin market by 2026 (Markets & Markets)

16th

UK global rank in digital infrastructure (Digital Future Index 2021)

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Digital Catapult is driving the positive impact of the digitalisation of industrial supply chains through optimised flows of goods, finance and information to enable resilient and sustainable industry, and creating opportunity for new data driven economies.

Leading the charge to fortify global manufacturing supply chains

Digital Catapult is leading a new £20 million UK-wide initiative to tackle challenges faced by the UK's manufacturing supply chains in the wake of the pandemic. Funded by UKRI and the Made Smarter Innovation programme, the Digital Supply Chain Innovation Hub will accelerate commercial integration of advanced and emerging digital technologies across aerospace and defence, pharmaceutical, fabrication, and logistics supply chains. The Digital Supply Chain Innovation Hub, a collaboration with the High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult, National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and TWI Ltd, aims to accelerate commercial integration of advanced digital technologies to improve data sharing and enable more informed analysis, helping manufacturers to spot logjams in supply chains, reduce waste and boost efficiencies.

Digital Sandwich: an intelligent and resilient supply chain, from farm to factory to fork

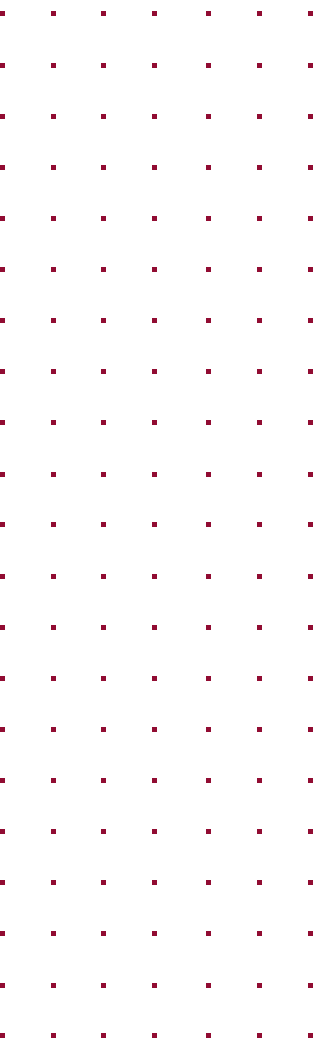
Led by Raynor Foods, a leading UK sandwich maker, the Digital Sandwich project is developing a modular platform that uses distributed ledger technologies, IoT and artificial intelligence to encourage a step-change in ready-made food manufacturing processes. It's a world first cross-sector collaboration of manufacturers, food industry partners, industrial digital technology suppliers, universities, and trade and governmental organisations. To demonstrate the value and benefits of technology to the food supply chain, Digital Sandwich is focused on sharing information to reduce the negative impact of supply chain shocks and strengthen supply chain adaptability and flexibility. This will be achieved through a new approach to certification and audit - a complete replacement of the current paper-based audit system - that will increase transparency and visibility to monitor the flow of products, money and information across the supply chain network, while optimising supply chain inventory, improving services and reducing waste.



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Trusted and secure data, and the impact of Materials 4.0, in aerospace & defence

Additive manufacturing (AM) - more commonly known as 3D printing - is the production of parts and systems from layers of materials. It's a transformative process for a range of manufacturing industries and is a natural choice for integrating advanced digital technologies to improve flexibility and efficiency. The VitalAM project, in partnership with Valuechain and funded by the UK's Aerospace Technology Institute, examined how distributed ledger technologies (DLT) can be used to securely and accurately share data between additive manufacturing companies in the aerospace sector, aiming to revolutionise how data is securely captured and shared between digital aerospace factories along the supply chain, accelerating AM uptake in the UK.

Elsewhere in the manufacturing sector, the Intelli project - a partnership with BAE Systems and Accenture - will use DLT to optimise decision-making in real time, and provide end-to-end visibility and analysis of supply chains. Digital Catapult also worked with The Henry Royce Institute to examine the role of advanced materials research to help drive the transition to net zero, sustainable manufacturing, digital and communications, the circular economy and health and wellbeing.



[Click here to read more the **Materials 4.0** paper](#)

Unlocking savings across the food & drink supply chain

Within the food and drink industry, logistics and online channel costs are rapidly rising, in part because of the significant growth of online shopping during the pandemic. Funded by Made Smarter, the AIEVO project is exploring the role of artificial intelligence in optimising the end-to-end process of procurement and logistics cost management. Bringing together a complete supply chain of partners, including Spar, CHEP, Blakemore Logistics, Henderson Group, Incept and Miralis, AIEVO will test how AI can make logistics more efficient (for example on how to load a lorry in the most efficient way, or optimise a delivery route), as well as understanding the lowest cost options and most environmentally friendly way of strengthening the business models for all stakeholders in the face of a rapidly shifting retail landscape.

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Reducing risk through real-time supply chain monitoring

In a globalised economy, supply chains are highly complex. A problem in one part of the network can impact a multitude of businesses resulting in risks that are highly fluid and dynamic. There is often little visibility about risk with no holistic view of the flow of goods and services across the end-to-end supply chain. The KnowRisk project uses artificial intelligence, internet of things, distributed ledger technologies and geospatial intelligence to solve this problem, helping to manage risk, reduce the frequency and impact of problems, and mitigate against large scale disruptions through real-time monitoring of supply chains in various industries including construction, and food and drink. A partnership between SweetBridge, Engine B, Cystellar, Digital Catapult, Industrial Tech and Intelligent AI, KnowRisk is adopting a practical approach to the ethical use of technology and shared data from multiple stakeholders.

Maximising data as fuel for green growth

Digital Catapult Northern Ireland worked with the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) to explore and understand the data across the AFBI, identifying projects that may be suitable to apply machine learning or artificial intelligence techniques, as well as assessing the availability and suitability of data. The agri-sector has been highlighted in the Department for the Economy's (DfE) 10X Economy paper as a priority sector for the application of innovative technologies to build competitive advantage and target net-zero ambitions. With the Northern Ireland food and drink sector growing by 7% in 2018 to over £5 billion, agri-food remains a key catalyst for other sectors of the economy, and this project has led to additional engagement with the agri-sector by organisations such as the Alan Turing Institute, InvestNI, ISRAF, the Satellite Applications Catapult, and Dell.



[Click here to read more about the 10X Economy paper](#)





10-30%

cost savings across
the end to end supply
chain AIEVO

5-20%

reduction in carbon
footprint AIEVO

10%

reduction in waste
across the supply
chain AIEVO

£20m

investment in Made
Smarter Digital Supply
Chain Innovation Hub

10%

reduction in food
waste Digital
Sandwich

10%

increase in
productivity Digital
Sandwich

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Digital Catapult is driving a positive hybrid of digital and physical world, through content production and consumption, interconnecting physical and digital activities near and far in work and the experience economy.

Imagining the festival of the future

5G Festival is part of efforts to create innovative platforms for musicians and artists to write, rehearse and produce music unconstrained by geographical barriers and deliver new, engaging ways for audiences to interact with live performances.

A collaboration between Digital Catapult, Audiotonix, Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival, LiveFrom, Mativision, Metropolis Studios, Sonosphere, Virgin Media O2 and Warner Music Group, the project is using 5G's ability to transmit with low latency and in ultra-high bandwidth to allow physically separate artists to produce, collaborative performances across multiple venues within a live and remote immersive environment. In practice, this means musicians can perform together from different venues at the same time, completely in sync with one another, and audiences can have a wider choice of where and how they can experience live music.

The legacy of the 5G Festival project is just as important as the trials and testing of the technology, from the commercialisation of the platform that's been developed as part of the programme to exploring the potential carbon reduction impact from bands touring virtually. Two of the consortium partners, Sonosphere and Metropolis Studios, have spun out a new state of the art facility as a result of working together on the project, and there has been interest in the results from several companies, including Amazon, Dolby, and NREAL.



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Reimagining experiences
for a broader audience

Digital Catapult is involved in a range of projects and programmes championing the UK’s creative pedigree. Through advanced digital technologies, innovators, creatives and artists are reimagining traditional audience experiences in new ways.

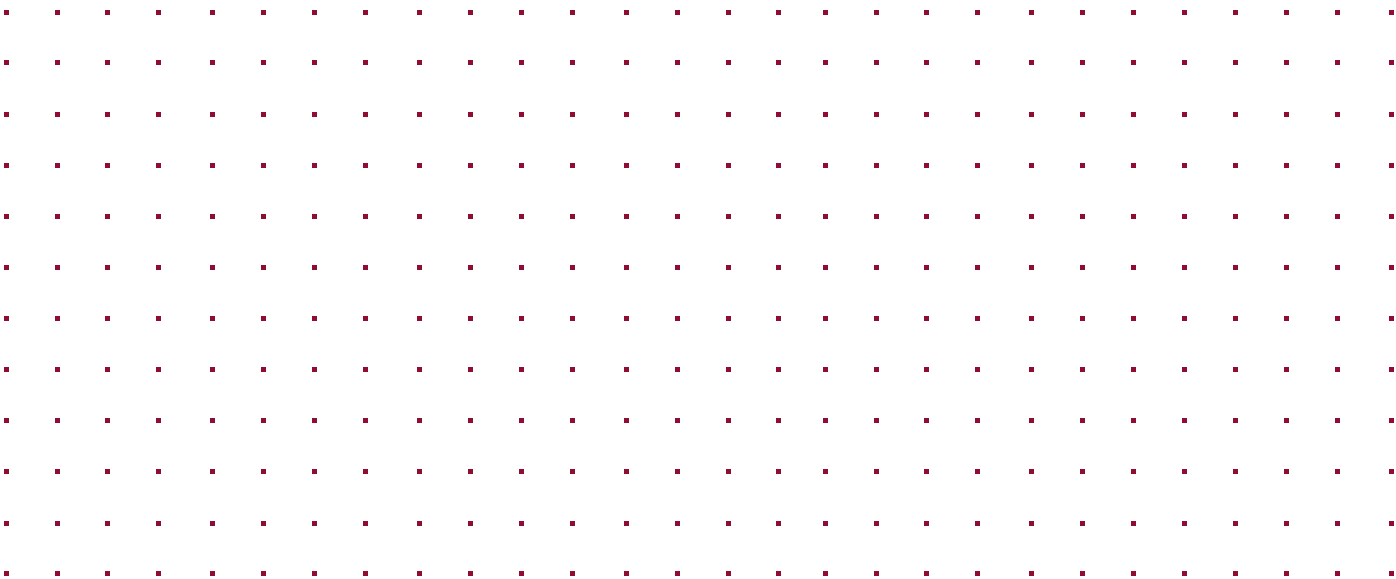
In 2021, Digital Catapult’s CreativeXR programme, developed in partnership with Arts Council England, supported UK pioneers pushing the boundaries of storytelling by using immersive technology to radically re-envision classic forms of storytelling, including a feminist reinvention of the superhero origin story, a contemporary reimagining of gothic horror, and a fresh take on the art documentary. As the cultural sector begins to re-open, following a period of unprecedented digital engagement, the funding will enable UK-based creators and organisations to continue realising the potential of immersive experiences.

Immersive Arcade, part of UKRI’s Audience of the Future challenge, provides access to the most influential UK immersive productions of the last twenty years, including an interactive timeline of some of the United Kingdom’s most genre-defying experiential accomplishments. It culminated in a nationwide showcase of 12 of the best examples of virtual reality and 360-degree experiences created in the UK between 2000 and 2020.



[Click here to watch the VPTS Video](#)

We are also leveraging our investment in volumetric capture and motion capture facilities to increase much-needed access for independent production companies to ensure the capability of UK companies keeps pace with global development in virtual production techniques. The new Virtual Production Test Stage (VPTS), developed in collaboration with motion capture experts Target3D and backed by Innovate UK, lays the groundwork for an ambitious future project called StudioUK. The first of its kind in the UK, the VPTS in Guildford will allow companies in the media and creative industries to develop new tools and applications, boost hands-on experimentation, and enable training and skills development to address industry talent gaps. Independent production companies that perhaps cannot access larger commercial facilities or afford to travel to exotic locations for filming, for example, will be able to film in high-resolution virtual settings.



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The rise of the metaverse

As virtual, augmented, mixed reality and haptics grow in maturity, they are combining with advanced technologies such as 5G and AI for spatial computing. As a consequence, we are beginning to see terms such as 'the metaverse' or 'AR cloud' becoming the biggest trends of the next decade. This may be visual, through headsets or mobile devices, or could be built around spatial audio. The metaverse is billed as the successor to the internet, with many technology companies exploring and developing business capabilities in this space. This includes experimenting to determine which experiences have the most meaningful impact for audiences and businesses, such as digital events in the game Fortnite, or entirely new metaverse-related platforms. New advanced digital technology enabled content and media, such as combining LED screens, games engines and other deep technologies, are in the early stages of creating new forms of entertainment through virtual production, as well as new business models that enable remote collaboration, training and operations.



[Click here to view more on Digital Future Index 2021](#)

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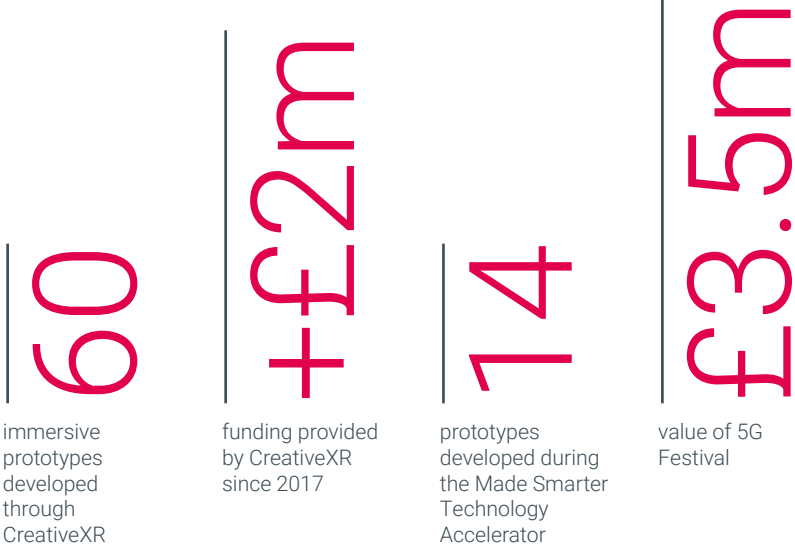
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Building solutions to major manufacturing challenges

Research from Digital Catapult in January 2021 showed that COVID-19 had made manufacturers more open to change and more innovative. The Made Smarter Technology Accelerator empowers established manufacturers to join forces with innovative technology startups and scaleups to develop technology prototypes and minimum viable products in order to drive productivity, digitalisation and innovation - and ultimately push forward the fourth industrial revolution for the UK manufacturing sector. Fourteen startups joined seven industry challenge owners - Babcock International Group, BAE Systems, GAF, Northumbrian Water, O’Neills, Safran Landing Systems and Sainsbury’s - to develop solutions to address some of the UK’s most prevalent manufacturing challenges. These included using tech from the gaming and music sectors to support engineers in real-time design collaboration, and using existing equipment and data to create an automatic 3D dataset to ease the hull inspection process. The solutions were applied to solve multiple challenges and used other cross-technology approaches outside of virtual production.



[Click here to view more on Madesmatertech UK](#)



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Digital Catapult's team is its greatest asset and we are proud of our open, diverse and agile community.

We place great value on the diverse range of voices working at Digital Catapult. It's key to bringing out the best ideas and innovation, and forging a culture that works for everyone. We're building a team that is representative of society, and in addition to making sure our team reflects the communities we serve, we are working to ensure that our projects and programmes are as diverse and inclusive as possible to guarantee their continued success.

Gender pay gap reporting

Digital Catapult employs 180 people (as of November 2021) and, therefore, it is not obliged by law to publish its gender pay gap (GPG). However, as we strive to ensure we build an inclusive organisation, and for transparency, we have made the decision to begin some reporting.

We have taken the approach, this year, of counting all employees, including part-time workers and apprentices, and looking at our overall gender pay gap at this point. Our median gender pay, as of September 2021, shows a gap in favour of men of 24%.

The UK's median GPG for all employees is 15.5% (ONS 2020). A July 2021 Pinsent Masons report focused on GPG in the UK tech sector, and based on a sample of tech companies that have reported their GPG, states: "Our sampling found that, on average, women are paid approximately 18% less per hour than men".

At a company level, we have a well-balanced gender diverse team, with 44% of our team being women, 1% self-describing and 55% men. Of our top 20 highest earners 11 are men, 9 are women. We have some technology teams which are heavily dominated by men and this is where we are focusing efforts to bring greater gender balance. Equally, we have some teams, such as our Marketing and Human Resources teams, with higher percentages of women. More of our lower paid roles are taken up by women than men and it should also be noted that 80% of our apprentices are women which impacts our GPG, while at the same time being a positive approach to giving young women the opportunity to join our business and enter the tech sector. We are continuing to hire a high number of people so we have opportunities to continue to build on our gender diversity and improve our gender pay gap position over the coming year.

We are making efforts to broadcast our job opportunities across a variety of channels, including diversity focused job boards, to ensure we are attracting talent from different sections of society. Equally, we work with diversity experts, such as Inclusive Employers, and we are establishing an EDI Advisory Board to form programmes of work that will continue to build on equality, diversity and inclusion in our organisation.

We believe that it's important to be transparent about the challenges in the industries we serve, and how we can help solve them. We are proud to be an accredited Living Wage employer, joining around 8,000 other organisations that have made the pledge to pay all employees and third party employees a wage that will support the cost of living today where the national minimum wage does not.

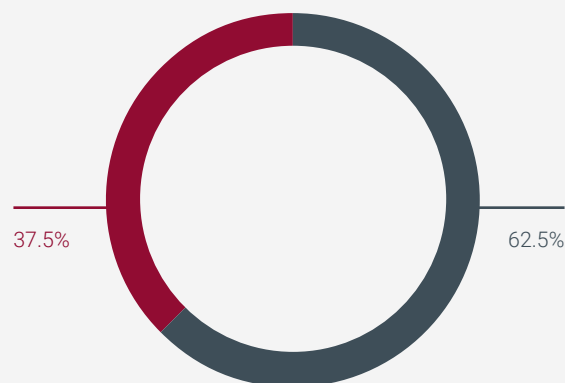
Our approach to creating a positive culture has been harnessed to form the values we all share, that are reflected in all we do at work, and in the relationships we have with our partners.

Committed
Member of

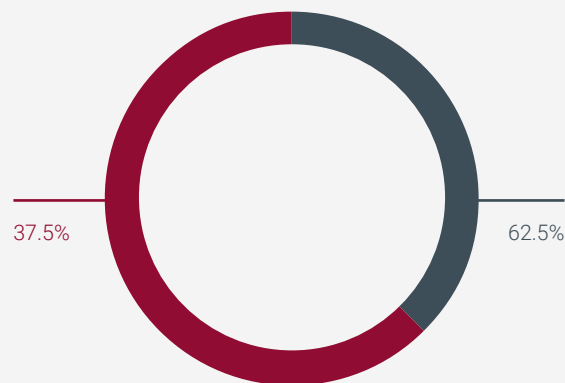
**Inclusive
Employers**



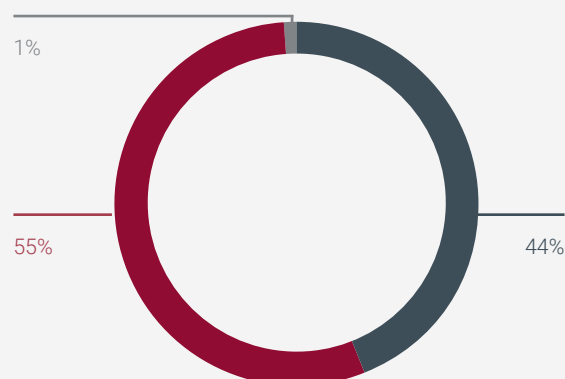
Digital Catapult management team



Digital Catapult Board



Digital Catapult team



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67%

growth in 5G team (Sept 20 - Sept 21)

30

Nationalities

250%

growth in CTO team (Sept 20 - Sept 21)

26%

people growth year on year (Sept 20 - Sept 21)

ambition

What are we capable of together?

We value people's ambitions for their own careers, for the development of advanced digital technology and for the startups, corporates and other organisations with whom we partner. We help channel the ambition of UK startups into traditional industries and focus the growth of exciting new products and services.

curiosity

Working at the forefront of advanced digital technology often means taking a leap of faith.

Alongside many of the UK's leading universities and research organisations, we're working with a range of people who are truly curious, who take risks and push boundaries to see what's possible and how to drive it towards commercial reality.

openness

True inspiration comes from collaboration.

Working on the biggest challenges and juggling multiple projects, we take on work that pushes the boundaries of technology. We know that only by promoting and embracing diversity and inclusion in all we do can we truly inspire success in ourselves and in others.

optimism

We strive to make a positive impact.

Whether it's unlocking the potential of the technologies we work with, understanding what traditional businesses and industries are capable of and are willing to change, or developing our personal potential, we'll always take an optimistic approach to the challenges we take on.

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Ruby Mould, Innovation Coordinator



How did you become an apprentice at Digital Catapult?

My apprenticeship provider (Multiverse) suggested the role would be a good fit for me. As I already had office experience, I was looking for a new challenge to broaden my knowledge on a new topic. When I saw the role of an innovation coordinator, I put myself forward.

Have you felt supported?

I have very much felt supported throughout my apprenticeship. My line manager and I have two weekly catch-ups to ensure that I am getting on well and I have enough to do for the week. The innovation team has been a great help - if I'm ever stuck or want to chat anything over my team is always happy to support me.

What have you learned and what skills have you gained?

Throughout my apprenticeship, I have learnt a variety of different methodologies and theories that I had never even heard of! Before I started my apprenticeship, I had never heard of innovation and did not really understand what it meant and how it could help different companies. I now have a broad knowledge of the startup and scaleup technology ecosystem and how to build and run an acceleration programme and engage with different companies. One skill I have developed is my public speaking. Digital Catapult has given me the opportunity to present at large corporate events (including the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow programme final) and build presentations from scratch.

What's the best thing about being an apprentice?

The opportunity to learn. At Digital Catapult there is a great culture of learning from others, and even though I am an apprentice everyone is still willing to give me the same opportunities to help me develop.

What was the best thing about doing an apprenticeship?

Having the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the industry: there is no chance that I would have the experience to work in this industry if I wasn't doing an apprenticeship. It is a good way to give me an opportunity that I would not have got if I did not go to university.

What would you say to anyone thinking of doing an apprenticeship?

Everybody has different styles of learning, so if you think you are more of a hands-on learner then an apprenticeship would be a great option for you. Not only do you get paid to do your qualification you also gain a year or more experience in the industry you would like to kick start your career in. It's not an easy option though, you need to try and juggle a full-time career whilst doing your qualification.

What are your aspirations over the next 1-2 years?

A. Digital Catapult is giving me the opportunity to complete a Level 4 Project Management apprenticeship to broaden my knowledge further and explore whether that is something I would like to take as my next career path.

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How did you become an apprentice at Digital Catapult?

Before becoming an apprentice I was studying Games Development at university. But I was not enjoying the course and was not sure what I wanted to do in the future. I left university, spent a few months job searching and decided to look for an apprenticeship as I wanted to gain some qualifications alongside actual work experience. I came across the job position on Google via LDN Apprenticeships. I ended up having a few meetings and workshops prior to the interview process and the work trial. Fast forward a week or so and I was starting my first day at Digital Catapult as an Immersive Lab Tech Apprentice!

Have you felt supported?

I have been supported by many colleagues - the immersive tech team made sure I always had time to study and work on my apprenticeship projects, and the IT team gave me hands-on work directly related to the syllabus I was studying when we went into lockdown and I wasn't able to do much lab orientated work. Every member of staff I have had the pleasure to interact with has given me a positive word or a bit of encouragement, and the IT and immersive teams have always been a safe place where I could relay any issues I had.

What have you learned, what skills have you gained etc?

I have learnt to handle a wide range of people as my role requires me to interact with many people - both at Digital Catapult and outside such as contractors or potential demonstrators. I have learned a lot about the immersive industry through research and being part of different programmes such as CreativeXR. I feel more comfortable in my role and my ability to explain what we do, as well as the benefits and usage of the technologies that we work with.

What's the best thing about being an apprentice?

Meeting new people! I have had amazing conversations with people that I would not normally talk to if it was not for the fact that we are now colleagues. Being an apprentice opens you up to the world of work and there are many people out there with lots of experience willing to share their wisdom with you. I feel as if being an apprentice makes people more willing to talk and give advice to you.

What was the best thing about doing an apprenticeship?

Speaking plainly: being paid to learn. The benefit of being an apprentice is that you are learning whilst working. Gaining knowledge and then applying it in a real environment was extremely beneficial for me. Moreover, you are a benefit to the company you are working for and rewarded accordingly.

What would you say to anyone thinking of doing an apprenticeship?

To go for it. Find an apprenticeship that is right for you, research the company and the atmosphere you are potentially going into to find a good fit. Make sure that once you are on your apprenticeship, you work hard, as you never know you could have a job at the end of it.

What are your aspirations over the next 1-2 years?

To keep working at Digital Catapult, learning new things and gaining more experience. I would like to travel a lot more and as the world has been opening back up again since the pandemic I have had the chance to travel around thanks to work. Currently, I'm in Cardiff to demonstrate the Immersive Arcade as I write this!

Kerwyn Dyte, Immersive Lab Technician

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Turnover

	2020 £'000's	2019 £'000's
Innovate UK core revenue grant funding	12,706	12,401
Collaborative research and development and other grant income	5,332	3,020
Scaling up activities	332	
Commercial Income	3,350	2,995
	21,720	18,416

Consolidated balance sheet

	2020 £'000's	2019 £'000's
Fixed assets	3,625	3,722
Net current assets	3,539	3,556
Creditors amounts falling due greater than one year	6,536	6,684
Net Assets	628	594
Capital and reserves	628	594

* Draft accounts.



Digital Catapult
brings out the
best in business
by accelerating
new possibilities
with advanced
digital technology.



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