CATAPULT Digital

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2024

Digital Catapult is a **deep tech innovation organisation**.

Digital Catapult helps business grow through innovation and the adoption of deep tech. We partner with government, industry and academia to find solutions that benefit the UK.

We are 300 innovators strong with nationwide reach. Our regional hubs focus on the West of England and South Wales, London, the North East of England, the Midlands, and Northern Ireland. As a part of the Innovate UK Catapult Network we show what is possible, positive and productive with deep tech.

Our capabilities and expertise are focused around significant challenges and opportunities facing the UK's economy, where technology can play a major role in providing solutions.

£545 million

investment raised by 254 startups after engaging with Digital Catapult since 2018

89

academic collaborative R&D engagements in FY 23/24

59

active projects as at November 2024

£41 million

raised by startups in FY 23/24 after engaging with Digital Catapult

117

new industrial collaborations in FY 23/24

317

digital-first company engagements in the year from November 2023 to November 2024

2,832

active company engagements since 2019

*FY - Financial Year

What we offer

Bespoke software and data services

Developing proof-of-concept demonstrators to showcase the viability and benefit of deep tech solutions.

Platform engineering facilities and services

Designing, building and operating physical and digital facilities. Providing testbeds for deep tech discovery and experimentation.

Technology and innovation consultancy

Consultancy services helping organisations address market preparedness gaps, evaluate financial viability and navigate technology change management.

Acceleration and innovation programmes

Creating acceleration programmes to support businesses, helping them grow through mentorship, technology support, networking and investment opportunities.

Facilitate and convene capabilities

Bringing together and developing ecosystems of companies to explore, test and demonstrate how deep tech works in practice.

What is deep tech?

Deep technologies are emerging capabilities that are built on longer-term science and engineering advances and innovation. Example areas of deep tech that are of particular interest to Digital Catapult include spatial computing, advanced sensors, future networks, extended reality, blockchain technologies, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and digital twins.

"Digital Catapult is well placed at the forefront of advances in deep tech, to help shape a better UK, fostering an inclusive economy and society. By working closely with businesses of all sizes, government, academia and civil society, we leverage our unique position within the UK research and development sector to drive significant impact. Our growth journey continues at pace as we embark with renewed clarity into the next half of this decade, laser focused on four primary interventions: enabling deep tech companies to scale; improving supply chains; driving industrial decarbonisation; and advancing open and interoperable future networks."

Susan Bowen
CEO of Digital Catapult

"Digital Catapult is a force for sustainable, resilient and long-term impact across the UK economy. The diversity, energy and ingenuity of the team is an impressive and inspiring reminder that our people are one of the main reasons that organisations from around the UK want to work with us. Our culture – and deep technical expertise – support the practical application of deep tech into critical areas of the UK economy. Digital Catapult's work is recognised by government and industry as critical to underpinning long-term sustainable change for the UK's key sectors, in addition to providing a critical backbone for brand new ones. With a long-term commitment to Industrial Strategy outlined by the government, Digital Catapult is well positioned to continue its important role in accelerating the net zero transition, embedding innovation into critical supply chains, and supporting entrepreneurial talent to succeed."

Juergen Maier
Chair of Digital Catapult

CEO, Chair and Non-Executive Directors - left to right: Valerie Todd, Damien Buie, Yvonne Rogers, Belinda Howell, Susan Bowen (CEO), William Priest, Juergen Maier (Chair), Priya Guha, Jessica Cecil, Keith Underwood, Perdita Fraser.

Our ambition

Our ambition is to accelerate the practical application of deep tech to realise a better future for the UK.

We lead the way, shaping and de-risking early adoption of deep tech solutions

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We empower UK Government, industry and academia to deliver transformational solutions and to thrive

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We push new deep tech frontiers inclusively, responsibly and sustainably

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To achieve our ambition, we focus on four primary interventions:

Enabling UK deep tech companies to scale

Improving UK industrial supply chain resilience

Driving industrial decarbonisation

Advancing UK development and use of data driven and open future networks

Enabling deep tech companies to scale

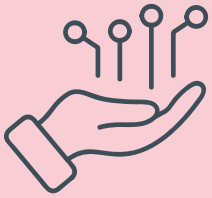
Accelerating early-stage deep tech investment and enabling access to advanced facilities, research and development capabilities, and innovation programmes to help businesses grow and to take the products, services and experiences of the future to market

The UK is home to one of the world's most vibrant and dynamic startup communities. Our work helps maintain the UK's position as a global competitor in deep tech, in addition to increasing investor knowledge about advanced technologies and confidence to invest in entrepreneurs and startups, which are helping create new products and services that address imbalances between supply and demand.

We offer tailored activities for entrepreneurs and small businesses to support their growth journeys:

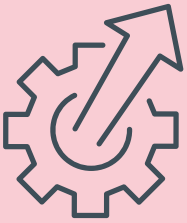
Business growth accelerators

Investment readiness support



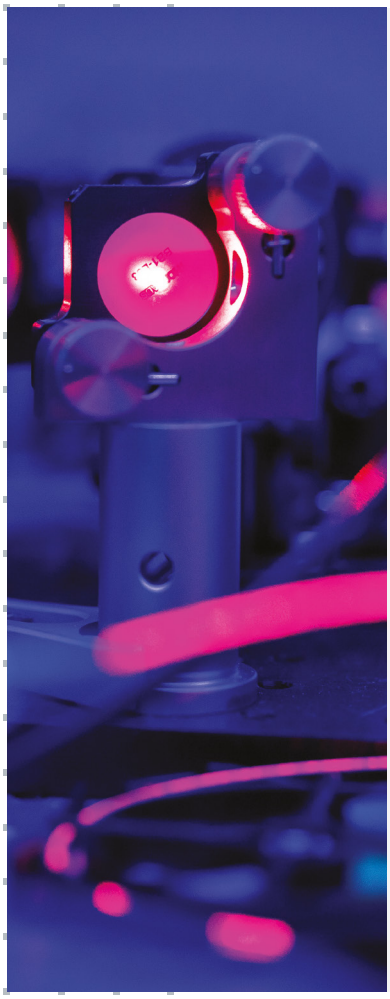
Accelerating industry partnerships

Access to R&D capabilities



Taking products to commercialisation

> Our acceleration programmes have laid the groundwork for supporting startups and SMEs that otherwise might not get the opportunity. We create programmes that focus on industry demands whilst ensuring we're listening to what entrepreneurs need and value from these kinds of interventions. We're helping create the right environment for these businesses to flourish – from developing a network of mentors, investment and industry contacts, to access to tools and facilities, and practical deep tech support that might not be available to these small businesses without our help.
>
> **Jessica Rushworth**
> **Chief Strategy Officer**



Exploring practical applications of deep tech

The breakthrough **High Growth AI Accelerator** targets industries where the potential for greater adoption of artificial intelligence to boost productivity is highest - agriculture, construction, transport and the creative sector. With partners **Merlin Entertainment**, **LADbible**, **Bauer Media**, **Transport for London (TfL)**, **Port of Tyne**, and **RailX**, and support from **AWS, Graphcore** and **NVIDIA**, our cohorts have achieved 25 per cent efficiency savings and improved their AI models' accuracy by 20 per cent.

Our work with quantum technologies targets businesses in the energy, infrastructure and engineering sectors to extend beyond the theoretical understanding of quantum to investigate how the technology could be practically applied to a range of real-world business applications - from optimising the UK energy network, to predicting shipments at risk of late arrival, and from designing bridges, to investigating the feasibility of placing a small modular nuclear reactor on the Moon.

We're working to break down barriers to successful scaling and commercialisation for underrepresented founders by providing mentorship and support to increase investment readiness. Our collaboration with **Sony Music UK** is helping Black founders in the creative industries build novel solutions in storytelling, gaming, music production, and education. Companies in the first cohort have since formed partnerships with large corporates, received interest from angel investors and 80 per cent reported increased investment readiness as a direct result of working with us.

Improving UK industrial supply chain resilience

Increasing supply chain resilience to grow inward investment, create new supply chain ecosystems that deliver export growth, and support the green transition of supply chains in critical sectors

Our work in this area includes international initiatives to transform global import and export processes, and industry-led programmes to address critical minerals shortages and build a sustainable circular economy for waste textiles. By creating these new supply chain ecosystems, we're helping to forge deeper and closer partnerships between traditional industries and disruptive startups and SMEs. Our focus is on growing this community, helping boost inward investment in supply chain innovation, and giving new businesses the support they need to launch and grow.

- Creating new UK-based supply chain ecosystems that deliver export growth;
- Inward investment into the UK supply chain; and
- Innovative new digital supply chain businesses launched and scaled.

> "We've engaged hundreds of organisations across more than a dozen sectors to demonstrate not just the potential of deep tech to solve pressing global supply chain challenges, but measurable outcomes that are already generating tangible business benefits. The culmination of this work has created a community of organisations and individuals across the UK, and internationally, to forge better connected, more transparent, and circular supply chains that provide value for all involved."
>
> **Tim Lawrence**
> **Director Digital Supply Chain Hub**

Exploring practical applications of deep tech

Our work to boost supply chain resilience is tackling major challenges faced by UK manufacturing head on, accelerating commercial integration of deep tech in critical sectors. In partnership with **Made Smarter**, **the High Value Manufacturing Catapult**, **National Physical Laboratory** and **TWI Ltd** we have supported the development of competitive, resilient, sustainable and digitally enabled manufacturing supply chains, advocating for increased transparency of data and further integration of deep tech to spot bottlenecks, reduce waste and boost efficiencies.

A well-established hydrogen supply chain ensures reliable production, distribution and utilisation of hydrogen, facilitating the transition to a low-carbon economy. We worked with the **Catapult Network** to explore how deep tech could address pressing energy and environmental challenges in the transition to a hydrogen-based economy, accelerating market readiness for over 30 organisations involved in a future UK-based hydrogen supply chain.

Since August 2022...

37
Digital Supply Chain Hub projects delivered

91
manufacturing and tech SME engagements

Technology companies on the Digital Supply Chain Hub programme have secured over
£2m
of further contracts and funding

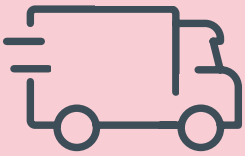
267
businesses engaged across all Digital Supply Chain Hub projects

109
industry collaborations across innovation projects

Driving industrial decarbonisation

Supporting the removal of 10,000,000 tCO_2e from industry by 2030 to help reach the UK's net zero commitments by demonstrating leadership in sustainability through deep tech innovation

Deep tech can play an important role in decarbonisation across UK industry. We create products, services and proofs-of-concept such as the **Ecometer** and our **Green Hydrogen Certifier**, to monitor, evaluate and action solutions to reduce carbon emissions in industry, as well as working with startups and large businesses to develop climate tech solutions that tackle inefficiencies and reduce waste to improve environmental performance.



Enabling carbon visibility and awareness across industry and supply chains

Supporting the journey to net zero through sustainable infrastructure

Fostering a UK community of sustainable innovators

Enabling green digital technologies

> Supporting the transition to decarbonisation presents a huge opportunity for the practical application of deep tech. As international focus shifts towards electrification, a whole range of deep technologies - from AI and remote sensing, to quantum and networks - will be instrumental in enabling more efficient and flexible supply-demand and storage solutions for intermittent, distributed renewable energy.
>
> **Belinda Howell**
> **Non-Executive Director of Digital Catapult**

Exploring practical applications of deep tech

Our work is supporting major sectors of the UK economy, from energy to traditional manufacturing, in decarbonisation efforts on the journey to net zero. We are working with stakeholders from the UK Government to industry partners and academia, including the **Department for Energy Security & Net Zero**, **HS2**, **Encirc**, **Northern Ireland's Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs**, **The Alan Turing Institute**, and **BAE Systems**, to ensure a balance in this journey that benefits the economy, society and the environment. As part of this work, we have established the first centre of excellence dedicated to promoting the adoption of artificial intelligence enabled decarbonisation solutions for industry.

Our recent work on supporting developments around the potential of hydrogen as a future fuel to replace existing fossil fuels includes our **Green Hydrogen Certifier** and efforts to support digitalising energy flexibility. These initiatives are enabling critical industries to enhance trust, transparency and provenance in future supply chains. The **Green Hydrogen Certifier** is an end-to-end demonstration of a potential, working digital certification solution for hydrogen production in the UK that functions without a central controller, yet still results in verifiable provenance of low carbon hydrogen.

Advancing UK development and use of data driven and open future networks

Increase diversity, investment and deployment of industrial research and development for future UK communications systems, and enable more resilient, secure connectivity

Future digital connectivity is underpinned by data, networks and artificial intelligence and is essential for the adoption of deep tech. Our work at the forefront of future networks technologies like 5G, 6G and Open RAN, coupled with our expertise in applied artificial intelligence, is supporting increased investment in industrial research and development for future communications systems, boosting open, multi-vendor, resilient and secure networks, which are key to critical national infrastructure, and creating sovereign capabilities and opportunities for growth in deep tech.

Our interventions are helping to:

- Support national security;
- Develop a community of commercial partners, adoption partners and specific industry partners; and
- Develop UK future telecoms global leadership.

> Our productive working relationships with organisations like ITRI in Taiwan and i14y in Germany are showing the true international impact of the work we are undertaking on behalf of government and industry. And, our longstanding domestic partnerships – in particular, with the University of Bristol – demonstrate how the impact of our interventions are deeply felt throughout the UK, through the practical approach of applying deep tech solutions to solve big network challenges.
>
> **Dritan Kaleshi**
> **Director of 5G Technology**

Exploring practical applications of deep tech

We're delivering deep tech research and development in co-operation with multiple partners to develop a roadmap for interconnected and interoperable networks and facilities fit for the future. With leading academic, innovator, industry, government and technical partners, these facilities are opening up new routes for investment, co-operation and commercialisation.

Our **world-leading programmes and research and development facilities** drive our vision to transform the UK's telecommunications industry. In partnership with government and industry, we are leading global technology developments to create a more open, competitive and diverse telecoms supply market in the UK and internationally, delivering long-term industry adoption of 5G, 6G and Open RAN.

Our own network of interconnected, 5G-enabled facilities is providing skills and training support, nationwide access to technical equipment that would otherwise be unavailable to small and medium-sized businesses, and opportunities to test new products and services before they are commercially released. In addition to indoor and outdoor testbeds that replicate real-world conditions for product testing, our new centre of excellence in Belfast has been established to drive awareness and application of industrial digital twins with the maritime, aerospace, and defence sectors as the first set of adoption partners.

71

Open RAN products tested

11

countries represented in the Open RAN cohorts

8

5G-enabled facilities & testbeds including a 5G standalone outdoor field testing environment for Open RAN technology

Our work with Innovate UK and the Catapult Network

The Innovate UK Catapult Network is made up of nine Catapults including Digital Catapult, forming a nationwide network of world-leading technology and innovation centres. We work collaboratively with other Catapults on initiatives where deep tech can play an important role in helping solve specific sector challenges.

"Cross-Catapult collaboration is vital for accelerating decarbonisation. By bringing together diverse capabilities and knowledge, and fostering innovative solutions, we can address the complex challenges of reducing carbon emissions more effectively. The ADViCE initiative exemplifies this collaborative spirit, combining Digital Catapult's digital capabilities with Energy Systems Catapult's expertise. This integrated approach ensures that new technologies and processes are developed, tested, and implemented to maximise their impact on decarbonisation. Collaborating across Catapults enhances our support for industry and policymakers, driving significant progress toward Net Zero."

Guy Newey
CEO of Energy Systems Catapult

CATAPULT Energy Systems

"Cross-collaboration allows us to identify innovative solutions to industry-spanning problems by bringing each Catapult's unique knowledge and expertise together. The Design to Deliver programme is an example of three Catapults collaborating with SMEs around the theme of nature. Bringing Catapults together in this way, we can identify new cross-industry ideas and solutions, support SME growth and drive innovation."

John Abbott
CEO, Satellite Applications Catapult

CATAPULT Satellite Applications

"Working together, Digital Catapult and the High Value Manufacturing Catapult are deploying next generation technologies that will enable us to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing UK industry. Through the Made Smarter Innovation Challenge we have demonstrated how we can accelerate the adoption of digital solutions to improve sustainability and through the National Cyber-Physical Infrastructure initiative, alongside Connected Places Catapult, we are unlocking innovation by connecting advanced cyber-physical systems. Together, we are not just solving problems, we are shaping the future of UK manufacturing and ensuring its competitiveness on the global stage."

Katherine Bennett CBE
CEO, High Value Manufacturing Catapult

CATAPULT High Value Manufacturing

"The Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult and Digital Catapult have an ongoing collaboration looking at strengthening the UK integrated photonics ecosystem by leveraging our respective strengths and building partnerships with academia and industry to identify and address gaps in capability within the UK supply chain. Crucially, this will help link regional clusters within Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, and thus facilitate photonic integrated circuit development within the UK, building on the wealth of expertise in photonics, compound semiconductors, advanced packaging and design."

Mark Goossens
Compound Semiconductor Catapult

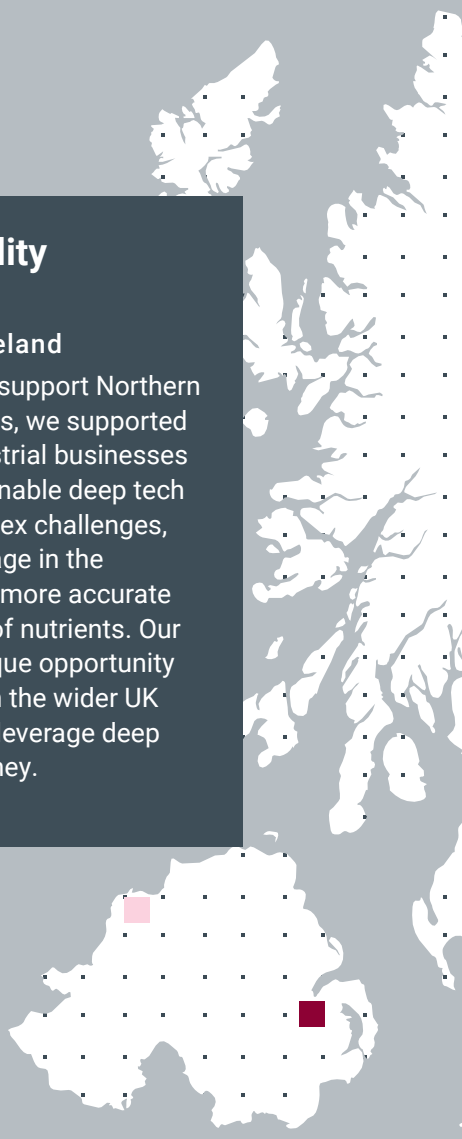
CATAPULT Compound Semiconductor Applications

"The Made Smarter programme plays a pivotal role in driving the adoption of deep tech, robotics and automation, and advanced applications like additive and laser manufacturing — empowering businesses to unlock innovation and productivity. Collaboration is central to Made Smarter's success, convening industry, technology providers and innovation leaders to drive transformative change. At MTC, we've witnessed how this united approach helps businesses embrace innovation, boosting productivity, sustainability and competitiveness. Together, we're building a future-ready manufacturing sector that thrives on innovation and collaborative progress."

Dr Graham Hoare OB
Chief Executive Officer, MTC

mtc where progress happens

Our impact across the UK



Supporting high-growth SMEs

Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland

We're equipping Northern Ireland's manufacturing community to lead the way in developing deep tech solutions that strengthen supply chain resilience and drive industrial decarbonisation, by connecting businesses to state-of-the-art photonics and future network technologies. Newly developed solutions are driving more efficient manufacturing processes and potential commercial applications, helping expedite production, enable real-time quality control, and improve precision and automation, in addition to reducing energy consumption and cutting costs.

Solving sustainability challenges

Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

Partnering with **DAERA** to support Northern Ireland's net zero ambitions, we supported startups and leading industrial businesses to drive adoption of sustainable deep tech solutions that solve complex challenges, from reducing glass wastage in the manufacturing process to more accurate measurement and usage of nutrients. Our intervention created a unique opportunity for industry to partner with the wider UK technology community to leverage deep tech on their net zero journey.

Removing barriers to digital twin adoption

Belfast, Northern Ireland

The UK Digital Twin Centre will make digital twins more accessible and meaningful, actively enabling industry to embrace, explore and realise the dynamic power of this emerging deep tech. Operating from the heart of Northern Ireland, it will help drive global competitive advantage for businesses across the UK, creating the conditions for businesses to make smarter decisions and achieve better outcomes. Funded by **Belfast Region City Deal** and **Innovate UK**, the Centre launched with co-investment from major industry partners **Artemis Technologies**, **Thales UK**, and **Spirit AeroSystems** to deliver initial use cases that demonstrate the potential of digital twins in transforming the maritime, aerospace and defence sectors.

A centre of excellence for deep tech

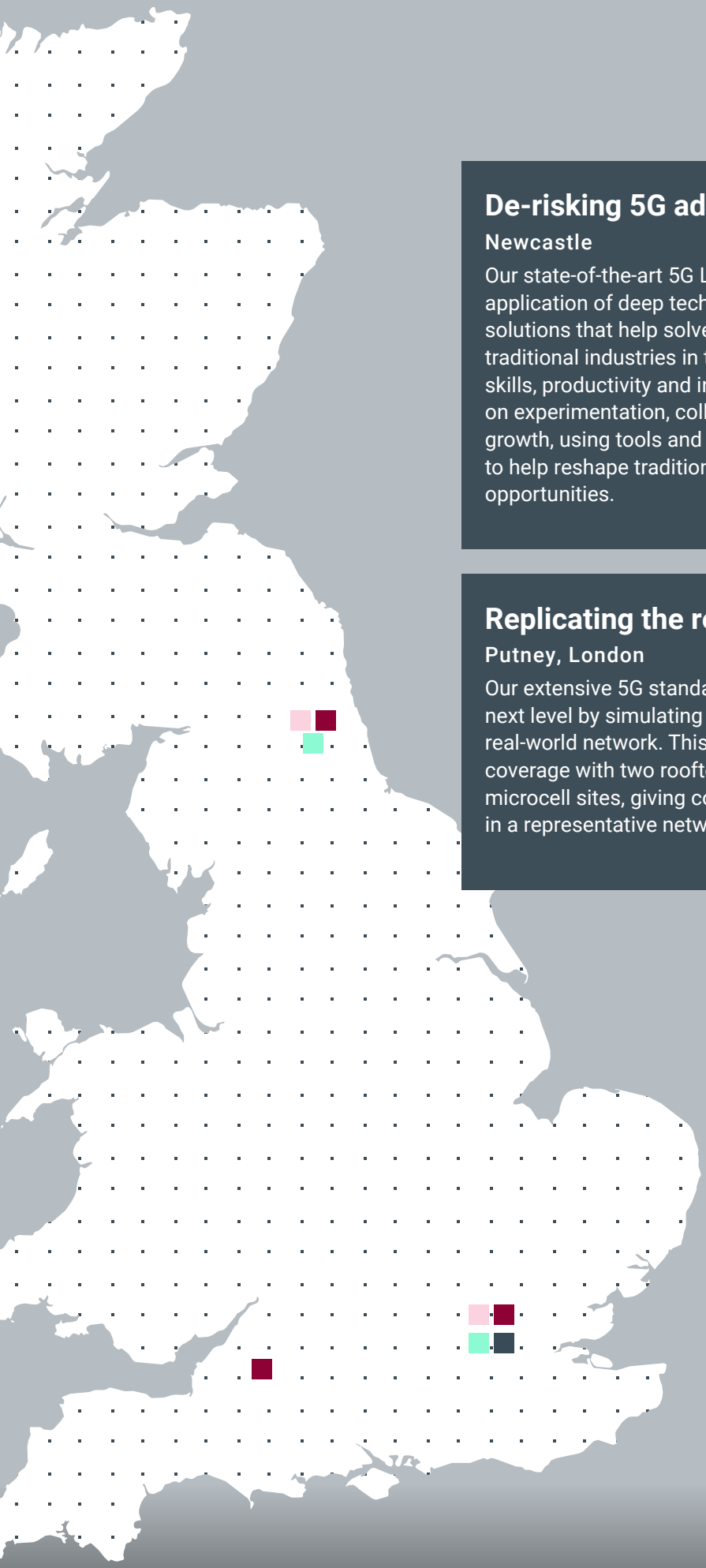
Bristol

From our home in Temple Quay, our team is working with local stakeholders in Bristol – and across the West of England – to provide support to the agile and dynamic academic and industry environment. We're working with organisations to develop new ideas, attract new talent and provide access to facilities to help the region firmly establish itself as a centre of excellence for deep tech.

Unleashing the UK's creative potential

Bristol

Exploring emerging technology innovations, including AI, haptics, and immersive animation, and how these technologies are transforming the UK's creative industries, the flagship **MyWorld** programme supports a range of innovations from companies in and around Bristol and Bath. Supported by our team of experts, startups on the programme have pioneered groundbreaking solutions that push at the boundaries of what's possible in the creative industries.



De-risking 5G adoption

Newcastle

Our state-of-the-art 5G Lab in Eldon Square is de-risking practical application of deep tech and supporting the development of solutions that help solve complex business challenges faced by traditional industries in the North East. Aiming to boost digital skills, productivity and innovation, the Lab is a hub for hands-on experimentation, collaboration and acceleration to drive growth, using tools and processes from the creative industries to help reshape traditional industry and unlock new economic opportunities.

Replicating the real world for Open RAN testing

Putney, London

Our extensive 5G standalone outdoor site takes testing to the next level by simulating the typical challenges encountered in a real-world network. This unique site provides over 1.5km of urban coverage with two rooftop macro sites and seven street-level microcell sites, giving companies the chance to test their products in a representative network deployment scenario.

- Digital Catapult
- Advanced Media Production Studios
- 5G-enabled facilities
- Open RAN facilities

Our work with investors

Digital Catapult helps the investment community connect with high growth potential startups and scaleups with the latest ideas, products and solutions in deep tech.

We understand the problems faced by small innovative businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as investors – we also understand how to solve them. From angel syndicates to corporate venture capital, we help the investment community discover more about the innovator ecosystem for mutual benefit, to improve their pipelines, increase their visibility of the wider innovator ecosystem, and raise their profiles with sought-after businesses.

We support investors in a number of ways:

1. Connecting the investment community to high calibre startups and scaleups – all companies go through a competitive process as part of cohort selection including technical, commercial reviews.

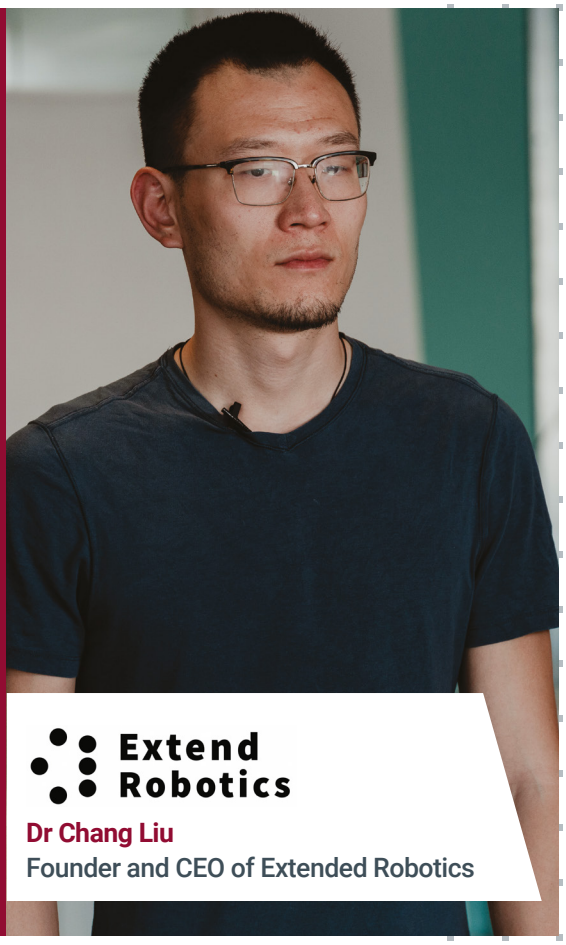
2. Helping investors increase their understanding of the investment and scaling potential of the digital technologies we work with – our insight reports summarise and analyse the activities of businesses participating in our programmes and we provide valuable contextual information on the investment landscape, and market and tech trends.

3. Regular opportunities enable interested investors to scout the most promising startups, as well as meet other investors focused on the same technologies.

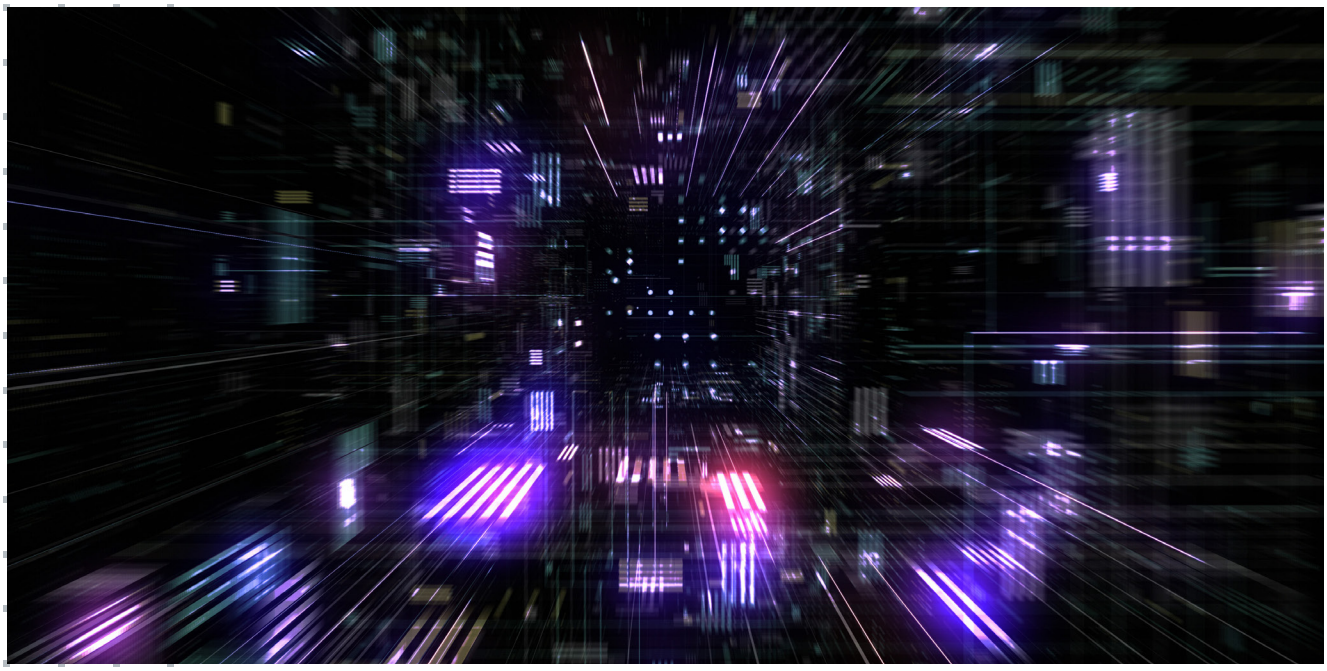
4. Our knowledge of the UK, EU and international collaborative research and development helps to de-risk innovation for our investor partners.

> We support investors to navigate the dynamic UK startup market with a particular focus on deep tech including software and hardware. Deep tech is a broad investment theme requiring not only sector but technical expertise. We leverage our unique skills, experience and market position to highlight relevant startups in these areas who are trying to commercialise their IP. Additionally, funding opportunities like the Cross Catapult Investment Fund allow us to make a direct impact on high-growth potential, early-stage businesses, such as our first investment in Extend Robotics in 2024. This new capital deployment strategy enables us to further support innovative startups with disruptive technology on their growth journeys whilst deepening our collaborations with these exciting businesses.

David Bletso
Chief Financial Officer of Digital Catapult



Dr Chang Liu
Founder and CEO of Extended Robotics



Our work with the public sector

Digital Catapult works with the UK Government and regional, national and international technology, research and innovation organisations to drive the adoption of advanced digital technologies and boost the national economy.

We inform and advise on key initiatives to drive innovation across the UK economy, helping unlock and deliver targeted government interventions to enable growth, overcome market barriers and capability failures, in addition to partnering with trade and industry bodies to match the needs of their sectors with the work of innovative companies.

We advise and support Devolved and Local Governments to achieve growth ambitions, supporting regional technology ecosystems to engage with the broader national innovation landscape by delivering specialised interventions and state-of-the-art facilities for local organisations.

1

We are a trusted partner for the UK Government delivering innovation programmes on behalf of **the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT)**, **the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)**, **the Department for Business & Trade (DBT)**, and **the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)**.

2

We work alongside major partners in the research and innovation landscape such as **the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)** and **the Engineering and Physical Sciences Council (EPSRC)**, as well as regulators like **the Digital Regulation Co-operation Forum (DRCF)** with whom we examined priorities for the future of spatial computing in the creative industries, and the application and regulation of artificial intelligence.

3

Other partners include **The Alan Turing Institute**, **Made Smarter**, **the North East Combined Authority (NECA)**, and **the West of England Combined Authority (WECA)**.

4

Our four areas of focus align with the key priorities of the **Northern Ireland Department for the Economy** on good jobs, productivity, regional balance, and net zero.

"The Tenfold Net Zero Accelerator Programme has achieved so much in a short period of time and is testament to what can be achieved through a forward thinking collaboration between the public and private sector."

Ciara Reynolds
Deputy Director for Innovation and Change, Innovation & Science Transformation, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Our international work

Digital Catapult's work encompasses a range of industry-leading initiatives that have an impact outside the UK. We're collaborating with partners around the world to promote UK industrial innovation and research and development excellence to an international audience.

We have been involved in more than 20 **Horizon Europe** projects in the last decade, demonstrating our extensive experience in turning cross-border cooperation into real world capability and impact, and driving collaborative research and development efforts on work ranging from orchestrating large scale, cross vertical 5G trials across Europe, to supporting European SMEs to work with large multinational companies to develop custom solutions for challenges in the utilities sector.

We play a major role in the international Open RAN community working with vendors and organisations from around the world. Our MOU with the **Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)**, a world-leading applied and advanced technology research institute, in Taiwan focuses on the development of test plans for regional Open RAN use cases, including indoor small cells. The partnership aims to support a reliable, consistent testing environment that will accelerate the development of Open RAN solutions globally. We collaborate with **i14y** in Germany focusing on the need for recognition of independent, consistent and repeatable testing approaches, and attended the NTIA International Open RAN Symposium to discuss the importance of public and private sector collaboration to unlock vendor diversity, drive down costs, and create a resilient and secure network.

Our international supply chain accelerator programme focused on challenges around cross-border trade to improve global supply chain resilience and carbon footprint measurement to advance international industrial sustainability. Working with **Leonardo UK, BAE Systems, the International Chamber of Commerce and BT** to streamline import/export process, this initiative supports the UK Government's Electronic Trade Documents Act, which could unlock £25 billion in economic growth, and comes as over 60 per cent of international trade transactions are expected to be digitalised within the next five years. With the **Partnership for Carbon Transparency (PACT), Unilever, GS1 UK** and **Defra**, our carbon footprint measurement project will drive the adoption of global carbon footprint measurement standards using AI, distributed ledger technology and advanced identification systems to improve reporting on Scope 3 emissions, showcasing the commercial value of carbon accounting solutions to global businesses as they grapple with new legislation and regulatory hurdles.

We have been successful in joining multinational consortiums as part of two major new projects to examine the potential of 6G in industry. **The Horizon Europe 6G LEADER project**, under **the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS-JU)**, and **the guarDian, part of the CelticNext SUSTAINET flagship programme**, will advance the next generation of communications networks and services through innovation, new experimental platforms, and large-scale trials which will drive world-class research, demonstrating Digital Catapult's credentials in (a) data-driven open networking with the development, testing and demonstration of AI-driven dApps for OpenRAN functionality control and (b) intelligent network and service management with the evolution of our Autonomous Network Service Management and Orchestration System (ANEMOS) platform for 6G resilient networks.

Digital Catapult's centre in London has welcomed international delegations including the German Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, as well as representatives from government and industry from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Japan and the USA, to tour our facilities, highlight the strengths of UK innovation in deep tech, and showcase the impact of our interventions as a centre of excellence for the UK digital economy.

Our people and culture

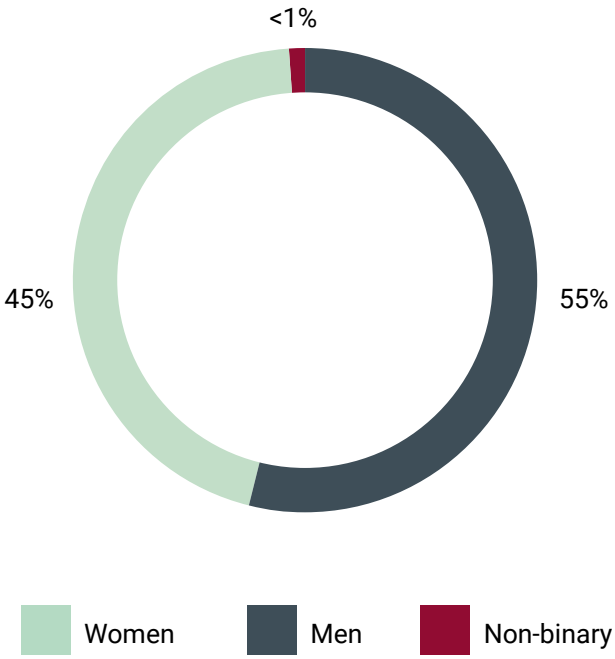
We are an organisation made up of almost 300 innovators.

We pride ourselves on the skilled and talented people from varied backgrounds that make up our team – we harness the expertise, perspectives and connections of people of more than 40 nationalities, thereby bringing together a diversity of skills, experience and backgrounds.

Our Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) plan outlines our progress and sets milestones to guide our future efforts in achieving our goals for equity, diversity and inclusion. Our ambitions to address and understand issues around gender, equity, diversity and inclusion are embedded in the actions of the plan.

Our ambition is to ensure a gender balance within our organisation and promote its importance through our work. Whilst there is still progress to be made, we are committed to embedding equity, diversity and inclusion in everything we do. In November 2024, our gender balance was 55 per cent men and 45 per cent women in 2024, with fewer than 1 per cent of people who identify as non-binary. 60 per cent of our Board of Directors and 50 per cent of our Senior Leadership Team are women.

Gender split across the organisation



40

nationalities

4%

of the team undertaking an apprenticeship

Great Place To Work. Certified JUL 2024-JUL 2025 UK

Certified as a "Great Place to Work" 2024

Best Workplaces in Tech Great Place To Work. UK 2024

Best Workplace in Tech (Large Category) 2024

Best Workplaces for Wellbeing Great Place To Work. UK 2024

Best Workplace for Wellbeing Category (2024)

Best Workplaces in Charity & Not-for-profit Great Place To Work. UK 2024

Best Workplace in the Charity and Not-for-profit (2024)

disability confident COMMITTED

Disability Confident Committed status

Gold Member of The 5% Club Apprentices and Graduates Investing in a generation 2024/25

5% Club - 4.5% in earn and learn roles

Financial highlights

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Turnover

	2024 £	2023 £
Core grant	**16,610,987**	15,789,057
Collaborative R&D and other income	**22,328,249**	14,186,757
Digital Catapult services fees receivable	**3,187,195**	2,474,604
	42,126,431	**32,450,418**

Consolidated balance sheet

	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets	**5,412,272**	6,999,167
Net current (liabilities)/assets	**2,022,165**	(5,189)
Creditors' amounts falling greater than one year	**(6,379,882)**	(5,849,096)
Net assets	**1,054,555**	1,144,882
Capital and reserves	**1,054,555**	**1,144,882**

> The Innovate UK Catapult Network is critical to driving business innovation around the UK and realising the significant potential of new innovative technologies and capabilities that will transform the economy, environment and society. Digital Catapult is a key strategic partner in our Digital and Technologies Domain, enabling emerging deep tech markets such as AI and Quantum to scale faster, and providing key enabling technology and expertise across the rest of the Catapult Network.

Dr Stella Peace
Interim Executive Chair at Innovate UK

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Digital Catapult
101 Euston Road
London
NW1 2RA

www.digicatapult.org.uk

@digicatapult