

Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator 2026 programme FAQs

About the Programme

What is the Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator Programme?

Delivered by Digital Catapult, the Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator programme will support partnerships between tech SMEs and industry, to fast-track digital twin adoption in the Automotive, Agri-tech, Maritime, Aerospace, Space, Defence, Clean Energy, Creative, Life Sciences sectors.

The programme aims to enhance technology integration, increase readiness levels and facilitate collaboration between technology innovators and industry leaders.

Digital Twin Centre is inviting tech SMEs, working in the six enabling technology areas that underpin digital twins, to take part in the nine-month programme, alongside an industry partner who is seeking to adopt digital twins, to develop a solution that solves one of their adoption challenges.

What are the benefits of the Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator Programme?

Alongside funding of up to £100,000 from Innovate UK, participants will gain access to mentorship, workshops, and specialist support to develop a proof-of-concept and help bring the solution closer to real-world deployment.

During the nine-month programme, participants will be supported by Digital Catapult and the UK Digital Twin Centre partners through:

- Expertise from Digital Catapult's innovation and technology teams to refine their digital twin solutions.
- Access to real-world environments to develop their solutions.
- Access to 1-2-1 mentoring.
- Support in developing more robust use cases and market fit for their technology products or services.
- Mentorship from the UK Digital Twin Centre industry partners.

- An end of programme showcase event to demonstrate their solutions to an audience of industry, government and investors.

What are the key dates for this programme?

The proposed key dates for this programme includes the following:

- Open call- Applications open 8th July 2026 at 9:00 AM
- Open call- Applications Deadline 6th September 2026 at 23:59 PM
- Selected applicants informed: 12th October 2026
- Intended public announcement of successful participants: 16th November 2026
- Kick-off event and onboarding (in person): 18th November 2026
- Demo Day (in-person): June 2027
- End Date: 31st July 2027

Please note that dates are subject to change

Who will own the intellectual property of the solutions/PoC?

The participants will have full ownership of their intellectual property created. For full details, please refer to the programme terms and conditions.

Who can apply to the programme?

The Digital Twin Adoption Accelerator programme has been designed for pre-formed teams of a digital twin SME industry adopter and a digital twin SME technology vendor in Automotive, Agri-tech, Maritime, Aerospace, Space, Defence, Clean Energy, Creative, Life Sciences sectors. The lead applicant and co-applicant of the programme may be a representative from either the industry adopter or technology supplier.

Will the Digital Twin Centre help with partner matchmaking for the programme?

The Digital Twin Centre does not directly match partners for the programme. However, we facilitate networking opportunities and provide access to the wider ecosystem, enabling participants to identify and connect with potential collaborators and partners independently.

Is the programme expected to be in-person, or remote?

We expect to organise a small number of in-person events at the UK Digital Twin Centre in Belfast, such activities may include programme kick-off and showcase events. Participants

will be informed with plenty of notice. Participants may use part of their grant funding for travel to attend in-person activities and use of the facilities at the Centre.

What are the six enabling technology areas that underpin digital twins?

- Cyber physical systems - (Sensors and connected devices, edge computing, sensor networks, real-time monitoring)
- Data services - (Data platforms and databases, big data processing, predictive analytics, interoperability)
- Security and trustworthiness - (Systems for sharing data or automating decisions Cyber resilience, data integrity, secure architectures)
- Immersive and UX - (Simulation interfaces, immersive environments, and dashboards)
- Intelligence - (Simulation and Modelling, AI-driven decision-making, machine learning, autonomy)
- Integration and interoperability

How is data related to my Proof-of-Concept solution treated?

It is the partner companies' responsibility to have the necessary data ready or a plan to obtain the data required by your use-case or solution and share between the relevant parties as needed. Digital Catapult may not ask you to share your data but if access is necessary and given, these will be regarded as confidential information.

What is the outline of the nine-month programme?

Month 1: Orientation and Challenge Framing

Objective: Introduce participants to the program and begin framing addressable challenges within the digital twin industry.

Month 2-3: Industry Deep Dive

Objective: Deepen participants' understanding of the industry and how their technologies fit into existing systems.

Month 3&4&5: Solution Development

Objective: Development and refinement of Digital Twin PoC with support from UK Digital Twin Centre

Month 6: Solution Positioning

Objective: Development and refinement of Digital Twin PoC solution with expert insights of market positioning

Month 7: Final Preparation for Demo/Showcase Day

Objective: Prepare for the final demonstration and showcase of technologies.

Month 8&9: Demo/Showcase Day

Objective: Demonstrate technologies to potential buyers from industry, investors and partners, and facilitate further engagements that could lead to integration into the digital twin technology stack.

How is the grant funding cascaded to successful applicants?

Successful applicants will receive funding of up to £100,000 to develop their use case PoC within the programme timeline. This funding can be allocated flexibly between the Technology Vendor and Industry Adopter based on project needs as stated on the proposed delivery plan as part of the application process. Funding will be cascaded from Digital Catapult to the companies through completion of milestones across the programme duration.

Application Process

Will I be able to save my application form?

Yes, you will be able to save it during the application process, so that you can complete it in more than one session if you need to

What is the selection and scoring criteria used for applications to this programme?

Applications will be assessed and scored against five criteria. All application must have a digital twin use case to take part in the programme

1. **Problem and Solution (30%):** The consortium should demonstrate that their us-case is addressing a clear problem, as well as applying at least one and preferably a combination of the Digital Twin core underpinning technologies to tackle the challenges in their selected focus areas.
2. **Delivery, Team and Resource (20%):** The consortium should be capable delivering the solution within the programme timeframe of 9 months. They should demonstrate team

expertise and resources capable to consistently deliver their use case within 9 months.

3. **Financials (20%):** The consortium should be able to articulate the proposed budget to develop a Proof of Concept within the program timeline. The consortium should describe how funds will be allocated between the companies, how the funds were estimated and a detailed breakdown of fund allocation per quarter per milestone deliverable.
4. **Added Value and Scalability (20%):** The consortium should describe a clear strategy for follow-on funding. They should articulate a clear and feasible strategy for scaling the use-case after the programme.
5. **Governance (10%):** The consortium should have a clear plan for collaboration between them i.e Industry Adopter and Tech Vendor including a clear description of responsibilities and decision-making process between partners.

Note: Successful applicants will undergo financial due diligence to confirm that the partner companies have the capacity to effectively utilize the fund offered by the program

Can I speak to someone from the Digital Twins Adoption Accelerator team?

Yes. You can book a 30-minute office-hours slot to speak with a member of the programme team. These informal sessions are open and accessible to all applicants and won't affect the outcome of your application. For help with the Simply Do platform or accessibility needs, email: ukdigitaltwincentreteam@digicatapult.org.uk.

Will I receive feedback on my application?

Because of the number of applications we receive, we cannot provide feedback on applications that are not successful.

Applicant Company Requirements

Does my organisation need to be UK based?

Yes, both companies in the consortium must be registered in United Kingdom including Northern Ireland and Great Britain

What are the minimum requirements for this programme?

As well as meeting the selection criteria for this programme, consortium must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the Terms and Conditions:

Digital Twins Demonstrate Accelerator Glossary

1. **Technology Vendor:** A company that provides the digital twin tools, platforms, or technical expertise required to develop the proposed solution.
2. **Industry Adopter:** An organisation from a relevant sector (Automotive, Agri-tech, Maritime, Aerospace, Space, Defence, Clean Energy, Creative, Life Sciences) seeking to address a specific operational or user challenge by implementing a digital twin solution. The organisation is the end-user or implementer of the digital twin solution.
3. **End Users:** The individuals or organisations who ultimately benefit from the digital twin solution, such as customers, operators, or internal teams.
4. **Proof of Concept (PoC):** An early-stage model or prototype that demonstrates the technical and commercial feasibility and potential of the proposed digital twin solution.